

Conference of the Left

ALR is pleased to publish the initial announcement by sponsors of a conference of left and anti-establishment forces.

ALR was one of a number of journals invited to express opinions on this project. The Editorial Board expresses support and will be undertaking a number of projects through its pages which it believes will stimulate discussion on important issues for the left to consider.

Many Australians are discontented with the condition of society today, and their number is growing. This discontent is wide-ranging and deep. Its range includes

- The economic set-up with its inequalities, injustices, and the uncontrolled power over people's lives centred in the controllers of private corporations and government bureaucracies.
- Encroachments upon civil liberties inherent in the existing political structure and control.
- The quality of life in a society manipulated by private and government controllers whose values are essentially commercialised and profit-directed.
- A false order of national priorities, which is alienating national resources to foreign and Australian monopoly corporations, and subordinating education, cultural standards, health and other services to the interests of investors and to ever-increasing military spending.
- Foreign and defence policies that have already embroiled Australia in the unjust war of aggression against the Vietnamese people and will continue the nation on a collision course with the forces of national liberation in Asia and elsewhere.
- The condition of the oppressed Aboriginal minority, the conservative policies towards New Guinea's independence, and the depressed status of many immigrants in our society.

- The great and growing gap between the Establishment's expressed ideals and moral values, on the one hand, and the realities of society on the other.

These and other issues confronting Australians find expression in many movements of action and protest, including the continuing struggle of industrial and white collar workers and unions; defence of civil liberties; the peace movement in opposition to the Vietnam war; the fight of Aborigines and their supporters for land, equal wages and rights; the actions of teachers and students for education reform, and many others. Activists in these movements are realising that radical social change is essential.

Believing this, the undersigned have agreed jointly to sponsor a conference of left and anti-establishment forces in Australia in the first half of 1969. Our purpose is to provide a forum for an exchange between all the different views opposed to the existing social system and establishment policies in Australia.

The conference would aim to provide a platform for all parties, organisations, trends and individuals opposed to the structure, policies and values of our society, challenging them all to move from generalities to propose concepts of how to effect radical social change.

We believe that such a conference can be both dialogue and preparation for more effective counter-action by the left. We would hope that all concerned with these issues would participate.

We will meet before the end of the year to consider the conference in detail—its date, venue, structure and preparation. In the meantime, we invite all interested political parties, trade unions, organisations, groups and individuals to express their opinions to the sponsors. All interested people should either write to the Conference Committee, C/- Box A247, Sydney South Post Office, 2000, or contact any individual sponsor whose name appears over the page:

QUEENSLAND:

- Mrs. Norma Chalmers, 390 Manly Road, Manly, 4179.
Dave Guthrie, Box 90, University of Queensland, 4067.
Alice Hughes, 15 Meecham Street, Grange, 4051.
Brian Laver, 124 Whitmore Street, Taringa, 4066.
Alec Macdonald, Trades Hall, Brisbane, 4000.
Frank Nolan, Trades Hall, Brisbane, 4000.
Dan O'Neill, Box 90, University of Queensland, 4067.
Mitch Thomson, 124 Whitmore Street, Taringa, 4066.
Peter Wertheim, Philosophy Dept., University of Q'land, 4067.

NEW SOUTH WALES AND A.C.T.:

- Laurie Aarons, 168 Day Street, Sydney, 2000.
John Benson, 289 Sussex Street, Sydney, 2000.
Tassie Bull, 33 Grosvenor Street, Woollahra, 2025.
Rowan Cahill, 36 Wangoola Street, Gordon, 2072.
Norm Docker, 52 Phillip Street, Sydney, 2000.
Miss Flo Davis, 25 West Street, Petersham, 2049.
Robin Gollan, 10 Pelsart Street, Red Hill, A.C.T., 2603.
Ray Miller, C/- Trades Hall, Newcastle, 2300.
R. Rhimes, Machine Shop Office, Eveleigh Loco Works, Redfern, 2016.
Dick Scott, 126 Chalmers Street, Surry Hills, 2010.
Dick Thompson, 64 Cliff Road, Epping, 2121.
Andrew Watson, 34A Miriam Road, Denistone, 2114.

VICTORIA:

- John Arrowsmith, Box 135, 141 Nicholson Street, Carlton, 3053.
Laurie Carmichael, 174 Victoria Pde., East Melbourne, 3002.
Alastair Davidson, Dept. of Politics, Monash University, 3168.
Doug Kirsner, 28 Spray Street, Elwood, 3184.
John Playford, Dept. of Politics, Monash University, 3168.
Ian Turner, 205 Lennox Street, Richmond, 3121.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA:

- Peter O'Brien, C/- The Union, University of Adelaide, 5000.
Howard O'Neill, 15 Flinders Street, Adelaide, 5000.
Mick Tsounis, 39 Malpas Street, Rostrevor, 5073.