



## THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

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| <b>NAME OF COLLECTION</b>  | COMBINED UNIONS COMMITTEE, VICTORIA  |
| <b>ACCESSION NO</b>        | A.1979.0161  |
| <b>CATEGORY</b>            | Labour, organisations  |
| <b>ACTIVITY</b>            | Trade Unions   |
| <b>DATE RANGE</b>          | 1948-1952  |
| <b>SIZE OF COLLECTION</b>  | 12 cm. (1 archives box)  |
| <b>HISTORICAL NOTE</b>     | The C.U.C. was established in 1948 by left-wing trade unions affiliated to the Melbourne Trades Hall Council, in order to consolidate their position during the post-war years of increasing anti-communism and anti-trade union sentiment. The C.U.C. later became the Trade Union Defence Committee. |
| <b>DATE OF TRANSFER</b>    | 1979   |
| <b>ACCESS CONDITIONS</b>   | Access: Open   |
| <b>DESCRIPTION</b>         |  |
| <b>NOTE ON COLLECTIONS</b> |  |
| <b>NOTE ON LISTING</b>     |  |
| <b>LISTED BY</b>           | Andrew Reeves  |
| <b>DATE</b>                | July 1979  |

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

RECORDS RECEIVED INTO CUSTODY

NAME:

COMBINED UNIONS COMMITTEE (VICTORIAN)

(later developed into the Trade Union Defence Committee)

ADDRESS:

Defunct

TRANSFEROR:

through George Seelaf

DATE OF TRANSFER:

February 1979

GENERAL NOTE:

The Combined Unions' Committee developed as the organized and public voice of left-wing opposition within the Victorian union movement to the controlling, conservative Stout-Jordan leadership after 1948. Certainly Communist-influenced, and reflecting their post-war stance, the C.U.C. emerged from conflict over the conduct of the 1948 Tramways strike, to develop a platform for the removal of Stout. The C.U.C. later gained a more permanent existence as a representative of militant unionism, and after 1950 developed into the Trade Union Defence Committee.

PAMPHLETS

Combined Unions' Committee, Stop Union Splitting, Melb., n.d. (1948)  
In attack upon Stout, Jordan, etc on their actions around the  
Essential Services Act

Police Spies Used to Attack 30/- Wage Increase Campaign, Melb.,  
n.d. (1948)

18 Victorian Unions Say: "Hands Off the Trade Unions!" Melb.,  
n.d. (1948). An Attack on the Chifley Government plan to establish  
State-controlled union ballots

Australian Tramways and Motor Omnibus Assoc.; Tramway Union Ballot -  
A Personal Explanation, Melb., February 1949. Pamphlet written  
by O'Shea regarding the union's support for the Combined Unions  
Committee

Proposed Formula for Settlement of Dispute between Trades Hall  
Council and Several Unions concerned with publication of "Trade  
Union News" typescript, Jan/Feb 1949. Copies of letters between  
the Combined Unions and the T.H.C., accompanied by a T.H.C.  
resolution (Dec 1948) condemning Trade Union News and moving for  
suspension of unions supporting it.

Trade Union Defence Committee, Defeat Menzies' Union - Smashing Act,  
Melb, 1951. An attack on Menzies efforts to amend the Arbitration  
and Conciliation Act

Building Trades Federation, Defeat Workers' Enemies and Union  
Splitters, Melb., n.d. (c.1948) A defence of militant trade  
union policy

Seamens' Union - Vic. Branch, Stop Stout-Jordan Police Threats,  
Melb, 1948. Pamphlet in support of the Combined Unions

1949 May Day Committee, Nazi Police Methods in Australia, Melb, 1949

A Posttest Meeting of Ex-Servicemen and Women, Melb., 1949: Posttest  
against exclusion from the R.S.L. of left-wingers

Melbourne Trades Hall Council, The True Facts of the Attacks on the  
Trade Union Movement, Melb., March 1949: Stouts' version of the  
right-left split in the T.H.C. and the development of the  
Combined Unions

PAPERS

T.H.C. News (Combined Unions' Committee) No. 1, August 1948

Trade Union News ( a group of Victorian Trade Unions i.e.

Combined Unions' Committee)

22 November 1948 (extra special issue)

27 November 1948

9 December 1948

9 April 1949

7 June 1949

25 February 1950

18 March 1950

Facts on Trade Union News and the Trades Hall Council (A group of Victorian Unions)

12 February 1949

Basic Wage News (N.S.W. Branch, Metal Trades Federation and Federal Unions' Basic Wage Committee)

n.d. (April/May 1949)

Union News (successor to Basic Wage News) (Federal Unions Basic Wage Committee)

June 1949

The Unionist (successor to Trade Union News ?) (Trade Union Defence Committee)

3 July 1950

September 1950 (No.2)

8 March 1951 (No.5)

August 1952 (note: "Issued by a Group of Victorian Trade Unions")