

B. S. L. NOTES

For the Friends of the Brotherhood of St. Laurence

*The Brotherhood helps those in need and endeavours
to arouse thought and action on social questions.*

B.S.L. Headquarters,
67 Brunswick St., Fitzroy, N.6. Phone JA 7055

OCTOBER, 1961

No. 150



FATHER G. K. TUCKER

"On Benefit"

A STUDY OF UNEMPLOYMENT & UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS IN AUSTRALIA

The latest booklet issued by the Brotherhood is entitled "On Benefit". It deals with the effects of unemployment and discusses ways in which our social services should be improved to relieve pressures on those who are unemployed.

It analyses the present rates of unemployment benefits and shows how inadequate they are.

It makes proposals for a new scale of rates which would be adequate and goes into the cost which is estimated at £11 million. The country could afford this sum, it contends, seeing that the Budget assumes an increase in revenue of £96 million.

The booklet describes what happens to people when they have lost their jobs and makes a survey of the effects on families. It contains detailed information (no names given, of course) about families receiving assistance from the Brotherhood.

"On Benefit" is available from Brotherhood Centres, price 2/-.

The Superior writes on . . .

THE B.S.L. AND FOOD FOR PEACE

Dear B.S.L. Friends,

Ever since the Food for Peace Campaign was founded in 1952 the Brotherhood has allowed me to devote as much time as possible to furthering the work of the Campaign and I have been able to use the Brotherhood car for F.F.P.C. purposes. Without this practical help and without my connection with the Brotherhood of St. Laurence, which I think I can say is held in high repute by most, the F.F.P.C. might never have grown into a movement of no little importance, not only here in Australia, but to an extent overseas.

Up to recently all that has been done by the Brotherhood has been, what I might term, of an unofficial nature. At a recent meeting of the Board of the Brotherhood it became official in-as-much as we have undertaken to "adopt" a F.F.P.C. project. This means that we will sponsor one of the many urgent "Causes" in India.

STUDENTS TO GO TO INDIA

Before we decide what our project is to be, we are enabling two Ormond college students, Messrs. John Millard and David Paul, to go to India in order to give us first-hand information concerning certain projects there, in which we are specially interested. It will be by no means a tourist trip in the ordinary sense of the term for the young men concerned, for they are to do manual labour in one of the several F.F.P.C. projects where Indians are being helped to help themselves.

The policy of enabling young men and women to go to South East Asia to see and work is part of the policy of F.F.P.C. What they see while away will be of great assistance to the Campaign in its aims to alert Australia as to its duty towards our Northern neighbours.

HELP THOSE ABROAD

With Mr. Neville Brooke (the Administrator of St. Laurence Park, Lara) I have just returned from a six-day visit to Colac where between us we addressed some 30 gatherings. The resolution passed by the Shire

of Colac is the resolution I would like all Australia to pass. It is—**This Council believing that the aim of the Food for Peace Campaign, which is to build a bridge of friendship between Australia and South East Asia, is of vital importance to the welfare of Australia and the peace of the world, pledges itself to do all in its power to further the aims of the Campaign.**

I know that you, our Friends, will back us up in this most important work we have ever put our hands to. We want you, as we want all Australia, to do **just something** in this vital matter. If, for instance, every Australian gave even a 1d. per week, that would mean an income of £2 million. It is true that whatever Australia gave would be a mere "drop in the bucket", but it would be the means of strengthening that **bridge of friendship** which might well mean all the difference between world peace and world chaos.

BUT DON'T FAIL THOSE AT HOME

As I have said, I know you will back up the Brotherhood with its work with F.F.P.C. I know, too, that you will not allow the Brotherhood to suffer in consequence. It very much distresses me to know that the Fitzroy staff in their endeavour to assist the many who seek assistance is facing something of the tragic conditions as were so prominent during the depression years in

(Continued on page Two)

The Superior writes on . . .

(from page One)

the early days of the Brotherhood. In helping those abroad we must not fail those at home. If you should send anything for our F.F.P.C. Project, may it be marked "over and above" your support for Brotherhood social service work. This should be, I think, the attitude of all in respect to good causes. The objective of the F.F.P.C. can only be reached by real self-denial on the part of all.

If you should want to know more about the F.F.P.C. please let me know for I want every B.S.L. Friend to become "Campaign Minded". Between us all we can do much to enable all Australia to know that the present is our "hour of peril and our hour of Opportunity". So many do not seem even yet to realise this fact.

With our thanks for all you enable us to do, for all I know you will enable us to do during the days that lie ahead.

With greetings to you all,

Yours sincerely,

G. Kennedy Tucker
Secretary B.S.L.

Schoolboys work on Brotherhood Projects

Boys from Caulfield Grammar, Haileybury College, Melbourne Grammar and Wesley College worked many hundreds of hours with the Brotherhood recently.

There were teams of them at Carum Downs, at the Children's Centre and Coolibah Club, Fitzroy, at East Preston Youth and Community Centre, at our holiday home in Mornington and at the Salvage Division.

One particularly effective job done was the repair of many radios as a result of which over thirty pensioners benefitted.

SALVAGE DIVISION

Voluntary helpers are urgently needed to sort clothing at 75 Westgarth Street, Fitzroy. If you can help please contact Miss Rawlins at Brotherhood Headquarters (41-7055).

The new Fitzroy Opportunity Shop, at the corner of Fitzroy and Westgarth Streets, has been finished and opened for business on 25th September.

♦ MISS NANCY HILLAS SPEAKS ON . . .

UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE SOCIAL SERVICE BUREAU

At the last meeting of the Heads of Brotherhood Departments Miss Nancy Hillas, Senior Social Worker in the Social Service Bureau, Fitzroy, spoke to us. We feel that we should share with Brotherhood Friends her words on UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE SOCIAL SERVICE BUREAU.

The Credit Squeeze brought about an influx of clients requiring financial aid. The requests were mostly from families of unskilled men, but there was a proportion of skilled workers who tended to have more resources and had not previously found it necessary to come to a Social Agency. Previously these people had obtained work easily and had not applied for Government benefits in the early stages, either because of ignorance or faith in their ability to obtain new employment. The clients were encouraged to apply and cash aid was given during the waiting period.

Straight-forward relief giving absorbed most of the Social Worker's time and thus reduced the amount of time which could be put into families requiring intensive and skilled help. To overcome this a case-aide has been appointed and she will learn to be able to recognize where a problem exists other than the need for relief, and will transfer the client to a social worker.

The increase of clients brought about a number of problems. It was necessary to keep within the monthly limit of £200 and it was difficult to fulfil the promises that the clients would be given a set weekly sum until benefits were paid. In the fourth week of the month new clients were not accepted and efforts were made to refer them to another source. Other agencies were faced with the same dilemma and this required co-operation and explanation between the agencies in order to work out a plan so that the clients could be helped as adequately as possible by one agency. Sometimes two or more agencies would share the allowances made to a particular family with particular needs. Clients already known to the agency were accepted and it was necessary to increase the total monthly allowance—in July the amount spent was £312 and in August it was £346.

The social workers themselves were anxious about the situation. All other agencies in the community were pushed to their limits and some had run out of funds. Frequent discussions were held and each client could only be given a minimal amount—often this would not cover food needs for the family for the week, and yet

efforts were made to induce the client to attend only one agency. In actual fact we were presenting to the client the same sort of worry he was presenting to us, that is, how to make do on an inadequate budget. This, of course, must greatly increase the client's insecurity in an already insecure situation. Giving of limited help is in direct contradiction to the usual procedure of helping the client with his total needs and problems and this interfered with the Social Worker-Client relationship which is necessary in our work.

How were the clients managing? Food needs came first, the rent was not met and many were faced with eviction. Clients who were not in homes owned by the Housing Commission were in a predicament. Housing Commission tenants are eligible for a rebated rent when there is sickness and unemployment, but others were quite unable to meet their rent costs. In turn many landlords were dependent on such rents for their own needs.

Possessions were sold and pawned—one client sold a good refrigerator for £15. Others wished to place their children, many lost goods which were bought under hire-purchase. Many clients did not know of voluntary agencies and only came when things were at a desperate state and it was difficult to help sort out the debt position. Young people living in lodgings and who were not eligible for full unemployment benefits were not able to pay board. Until the new rates are proclaimed, a person under 17 years receives only 35/-; under 18 years 47/6, and full benefit for an adult is 65/-. A man and wife with children receives £6/2/6.

The voluntary agencies have been expected to provide relief and people have been referred by Government bodies on the assumption that the agency will fill in adequately. Present increase in unemployment has led to questioning about the validity of this idea, and whether the Government should provide adequate relief quickly, leaving the voluntary agencies to develop the services which they are competent and best able to provide, namely, counselling with individuals and families.

B. S. L. DIARY

ST. LAURENCE PARK, LARA

There will be a street naming ceremony at St. Laurence Park, Lara, on Sunday, 8th October, at 3 p.m. The names will commemorate pioneers of the district.

There will also be a Dedication Service at Lara on Saturday, 28th October. Time: 10 a.m.

CARRUM DOWN VILLAGE FAIR

As reported in the last issue of the "Notes" the St. Laurence Village Fair, organised by the residents at Carrum Downs, will be held on Saturday, 7th October.

We hope to see many Brotherhood Friends there and that all will join to make the function a great success both socially and financially.

Afternoon tea will be served as in previous years.

ALL SOULS DAY

Thursday, 2nd November

There will be a Service of Holy Communion at Carrum Downs at 9.30 a.m. on Thursday, 2nd November.

The preacher will be the Vicar of St. James, Dandenong, the Reverend E. M. Eggleston.

We invite all Brotherhood Friends to join us in this Commemoration.

OFFICIAL OPENING KEBLE COURT

The Official Opening of Keble Court will take place on Sunday, 3rd December, at 2.45 p.m.

These flats for the aged are on the site of Keble House at 261 Glenlyon Road, East Brunswick, which for many years was the home of the Brotherhood.

We have been able to build them through the efforts of the Camberwell Voluntary Helpers' Shop.

We hope many Friends will be present on 3rd December to witness the beginning of another step forward in the Brotherhood's work.

31st FOUNDATION FESTIVAL

The 31st Foundation Festival of the Brotherhood of St. Laurence will be held at Christ Church, South Yarra at 7 p.m. on 10th December.

While at Keble Court we shall have been looking forward; at Christ Church we shall also be looking back over the years and giving thanks.

We hope that you, our Friends who have helped and supported us so much, will join us in this.

EAST PRESTON YOUTH CENTRE

This year for the first time the East Preston Youth and Community Centre entered a team in the Melbourne Junior Football League. They came sixth on the ladder.

An end of season presentation night was held. Seventy-five teenagers were present at this social and dance.

They will also be fielding a team with the Melbourne Junior Cricket Association in the coming season.

Ten youth leaders attended a very successful week-end conference at Mornington. The future of the Centre was discussed and also the role of youth clubs in Victoria.

WORDS COMPETITION

The Brotherhood is running a word-building competition. The winner will be the person who can make the greatest number of words from the letters in **THE BROTHERHOOD**.

First prize will be a return sea-voyage to Greece, three days sight-seeing in Athens and a return rail trip to London. These have been given by the Greek Australian Shipping Line, S.A.

Each entry costs 2/6. Details are available at all Brotherhood Centres.

ANNUAL B. S. L.

MARKET FAIR

in the

LOWER MELBOURNE TOWN HALL

on

(Please note change of date)

MONDAY, 20th NOVEMBER, 1961

DOORS OPEN AT 10.30 A.M.

FAIR FEATURES INCLUDE:

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| • Jewellery | • Toys | • Books |
| • Plants | • Sweets | • Aprons |
| • Home Made | • Produce | • Hats |
| • Cakes and Jams | • Ornaments | • Good Cleaned Clothing |
| • Knitted Garments | • Vases | • Light Luncheon |

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS AT THE FAIR
Contributions for the Fair will be welcomed at 67 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy
(JA 7055) — especially plants and cakes.

Country Friends could help by sending produce to Flinders or Spencer Street
Stations. We can collect from there if you notify us.

MR. LARRY NIXON ("LADY FOR A DAY") WILL BE THERE TO MEET HIS FANS.

NEWS FROM B. S. L. AUXILIARIES

CAMBERWELL AUXILIARY. The final luncheon for the year will be held at the home of Mrs. E. H. Hudson, Christowel Street, Camberwell, on 16th October. Mrs. K. P. Rees will lecture on flower arrangements. Members are reminded that their "Direct Giving" donations should be handed in on that day.

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THE PRESTON AUXILIARY SHOP at 284 High Street, Preston, is anxious for more helpers for its shop. If anyone could help, please telephone the Secretary, Mrs. Grindrod, at JU 3220.

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FITZROY SHOP AUXILIARY have moved into their new shop at 75 Westgarth Street, Fitzroy. The shop is open every day, including Saturday morning.

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DANDENONG AUXILIARY. This group has taken a large number of Associate membership books and hopes to interest many people in this way in the work of the Brotherhood of St. Laurence. It meets at St. James Hall, Dandenong, on the fourth Wednesday of the month.

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FORTUNAS GROUP. Forward dates: 12th October, Demonstration of Cake Decorating; 24th October, Hairdressing Demonstration at Mr. Jack Henley's Salon, Box Hill; 2nd November, Morning Coffee and "Bring a gift" auction; 12th November, Family Picnic at Heaney Park; 13th December, Special break-up Fancy Dress, "Come in Bad Taste".

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SUNSHINE AUXILIARY will hold a luncheon at the home of its President, Mrs. Doak, 35 Glengala Road, Sunshine, on Tuesday, 10th October,

at 12.30 p.m. Mrs. Larry Nixon will be the Guest Speaker. Telephone Mrs. E. Parsons (311-1494) if you would like to come.

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CHELTENHAM - MORDIALLOC AUXILIARY. This group will hold its annual fete at 16 Warrigal Road, by courtesy of Mrs. Brett, on Saturday, 25th November. The Auxiliary is again holding a "Popular Baby" competition which will be judged on that day.

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BRIGHTON AUXILIARY will have Morning Coffee and an opportunity stall at Mrs. Haughton's home, 5 Cole Street, Brighton, on 2nd November. It will also hold a Christmas gift stall at Church Street, Brighton, on 8th December.

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CITY OF HEIDELBERG AUXILIARY. This Auxiliary is having a "theatre night" at a play being put on by the Heidelberg Repertory at the Rechabite Hall on Friday, 6th October. It has been given permission to sell sweets during the first interval on this night. On the 12th October there will be a "Golden Rule" Dressmaking Demonstration at the home of Mrs. Hall, 29 Silverdale Road. It will be holding a Street Stall on 20th October in The Mall, Heidelberg. The Auxiliary has several other plans for the future.

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BOX HILL AUXILIARY. The Auxiliary will hold a luncheon at the President's home, Mrs. Henry, 51 Combarton Street, Box Hill, on Monday, 23rd October. Members and friends of the Brotherhood who would care to be present are invited to telephone 89-9889. There will be a speaker on the work of the Brotherhood.

MELBOURNE YOUNGER SET - COMMUNITY SERVICE GROUP. The Group has reconditioned the books and painted the library in the Children's Department. Its next project will be to organise the theatrical department at Salvage.

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THE SEWING AUXILIARY is in need of more helpers. It meets at the sewing rooms over our Opportunity shop in Glenferrie Road. Telephone 50-2443 if you could help.

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WANGARATTA AUXILIARY. continues to help our social service work by sending parcels to Salvage. They are much appreciated.

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CAULFIELD ARMADALE AUXILIARY is anxious to take orders for jams, pickles, etc. Telephone Mrs. Smith at LF 2356, if you would like to order.

THE ANNUAL "AUXILIARIES' DAY" will be held at Carrum Downs on Monday, 27th November, commencing at 11.45 a.m. Please let your Auxiliary Secretary know if you are able to be present and also if you want transport by Tuesday, 10th November.

ORMOND AUXILIARY is hoping to be able to give a record donation to the Brotherhood this year. It wants dolls to dress for its Christmas selling at its shop in Katandra Road (LW 1912). Mrs. Ryde is holding a "Tupper Party" at her home, 618 North Road, Ormond, on 16th October.

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THE GLEN IRIS GROUP will provide afternoon tea and tea for the Ashburton Horticultural Show on 21st October at the Methodist Church Hall, Ashburton. It will hold its annual fete at Mrs. Smart's home, 181 Glen Iris Road, on 18th November.

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HUGHESDALE-MURRUMBEENA. The next meeting will be held on Monday, 23rd October, at the Malvern Opportunity Shop. Father Tucker will be the Guest Speaker. Members are busy making saleable gifts with which to decorate the windows for Christmas display.

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THE MELBOURNE YOUNGER SET will hold "Capers at Capers" on 3rd October.

DONATION SLIP

THE SUPERIOR,
BROTHERHOOD OF ST. LAURENCE,
51 ROYAL ARCADE,
MELBOURNE, C.1. MF 3011

Please find my donation £ :

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me"