

Concession comments: Herbert Evatt, Opposition Leader (ALP)

November 22, 1958

“It looks as though the position of the Government in the House of Representatives and the Senate cannot possibly be determined until later and fuller figures are available for almost every State.

In some States we have no effective or significant figures in relation to the crucial Senate position.

It is only right to admit that the extent of the percentage of anti-Government votes in relation to the House of Representatives has not been as great as many anticipated.

None the less, tremendous contests are still raging, and the Senate position, especially in N.S.W., may well turn out to be of very special importance.

I will make a further comment when more complete returns are available.”

Source: Compiled from the Sun Herald, November 23rd 1958, page 3 and original documents.

Concession Speech: Herbert Evatt, Opposition Leader (ALP)

November 23, 1958

“It was widely believed in Sydney some days before Dr. Mannix’s letter, that some bombshell was to be perpetrated on the lines of the Zinoviev letter.

It was largely inspired by the desperate political situation of Mr. Menzies and the Liberal Party, in the face of an unfavourable Gallup Poll,” Dr. Evatt said.

The publication of Dr. Mannix’s letter can fairly be regarded as an illustration of the Menzies-Mannix-Axis in operation.

For a long time, Mr. Menzies has tried to create a force in Australian politics on the pattern of European totalitarian parties.

The electoral results generally revealed a refusal of large sections of the Australian people to be intimidated by such methods.

The D.L.P. did not poll in N.S.W., South Australia or Western Australia the number of votes normally polled by the Communist Party.

In Victoria, the D.L.P. preferences might mean that the Government will be saved from defeat in at least five seats and in Queensland in three seats.

In N.S.W., their preferences could deprive Labour of two of the seats.

Every Democratic Labour Party candidate in N.S.W., South Australia and Tasmania, lost his deposit by not gaining sufficient primary votes.

However, in Victoria, only five of the D.L.P. candidates forfeited their deposit.”

Source: Compiled from The Canberra Times, November 24th 1958, page 1, The Age and The Sydney Morning Herald.