

The PREMIER: I stated to a Toowoomba audience that it was a very fine illustration of the intelligence of our opponents when they asked the Toowoomba people under which flag they were going to live, when the leader of the Opposition was standing on the same platform as a man who was interned during the war for the safety of our country. That is the illogical position hon. members find themselves in when they abuse the national emblem. No party has any monopoly of loyalty.

Mr. KING: You wanted peace at any price.

The PREMIER: Well, you want German votes at any price.

An OPPOSITION MEMBER: You people wanted Italian votes.

The PREMIER: I do not know Mr. Ruhno personally at all. He may be quite as good a citizen as I, and I would never have mentioned his name in the campaign if hon. members opposite had not suggested that the Labour party was disloyal. If any political party claims a monopoly of loyalty or a right to abuse the national emblem for political purposes, then I say that political party deserves the annihilation that came the way of the Opposition.

The SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE: Justified retribution.

The PREMIER: Yes, justified retribution. I am not blaming the hon. gentleman for these things—I am sympathising with him because the people who managed the election probably forced him into the position.

Mr. KING: Are you going through the same experience yourself?

The PREMIER: No, I am not. My sympathy is simply for the individual, not for the politician. I have no sympathy for Mr. Moore as a politician, but I have great sympathy with him as an individual in finding one member of his party using the Union Jack for political purposes, and he himself appearing on a platform with a man who was interned by his own party for the safety of this country. It is a very interesting position.

I want to say a word in regard to the question raised by the hon. gentleman dealing with Italians at Mackay.

Mr. KING: Bill Cooper will have a bad time next election.

The PREMIER: No German in the Rosewood district was gulled into believing his vote could be secured by running a German candidate. He wanted politics and not nationality; and only on politics should elections be decided and not on nationality. You have your answer from the German people themselves.

The leader of the Opposition raised the question that is exercising our minds over Italians purchasing farms in the Mackay district and the members of Labour organisations refusing to handle the cane from those farms. I want to say right at the outset that my attitude and the attitude of the Government towards the A.W.U. members has been that they have no right to do what they are doing. They have been ordered to

desist, as all citizens—British-born as well as naturalised British subjects—are equal in the eyes of the law, and no section of the community has a right to take action which is unjust and unfair to some other citizen. That, so far, is the attitude of the Government on the question.

It would be well to trace the history of this case, as it is rather interesting.