

Comrades,

There have been a number of key developments over the last few days regarding the Party in Victoria.

Yesterday, former parts of the SL (now calling themselves the 'industrial left') and parts of Centre Unity sought to form an agreement to carve up seats within the Victorian ALP.

Despite misleading reports in the media, this meeting resulted in an agreement being reached with less than half of the right with most not supportive of it, or not turning up.

Two thirds of the Party are opposed to this so called 'agreement' and the accompanying destabilisation this creates at a critical time for the working people who rely on the elections of Labor governments.

They claim the following have signed the agreement (conveniently the signature section and subsequent pages of the agreement have been kept secret):

AWU: 7%

Mods: 10%

TWU: 2.5%

Plumbers: 2.5%

Industrial Left: 10%

Total: 32% of ALP

Importantly, this is a smaller group than the current SL on its own, with the Industrial Left representing one third of the SL Unions group.

While it's claimed that this is about policy, those leaving the left have not raised any concerns with policy issues advanced by the SL.

It is clear that this is in fact an attempt by a small group of individuals seeking power and positions in their own

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interests.

It does not mean that others might not sign onto the agreement, or that there will not be difficult times ahead within the ALP. But it is important to keep our eyes on the main game - making sure that the ALP can form progressive Governments which represent the interests of working people and the vulnerable.

Many of you will be campaigning this weekend to reelect a Labor Government in Victoria, the most progressive in the country, and preparing to campaign to retain the seat of Batman, which will represent a midway point of the term of this Federal Government. This is the work that will sustain and build our movement.

I will continue to update you on these matters, in solidarity, Mathew
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