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Left lines up 'Nazi' New Right for attack

By LOUISE BOYLEN

THE left-wing of the NSW Labor Party yesterday moved to combat the growing influence of the New Right by launching a manifesto attacking the conservative movement.

Likening the emergence of the New Right to the rise of Nazism in Germany in the 1930s and Fascism in Italy in the previous decade, the NSW Minister for Housing, Mr Walker, said the booklet, entitled *The New Right - A Threat to Democracy*, was intended to inspire a grassroots backlash against the New Right.

The 44-page booklet has been produced by the Steering Committee - the organising committee of the Left in NSW - and 5000 copies are to be distributed through unions and Labor Party sub-branches for \$3 each.

Mr Walker said the publication was designed as a resource manual to give unionists and rank-and-file ALP members ammunition to spread the word against the New Right, wherever the opportunity occurred in the workplace, community organisations and everyday social dealing with others.

The final chapter, entitled *A Plan For Action*, sets out sample motions that ALP and union branches could pass to register opposition to the New Right.

Among the motions are two the booklet advises be sent to the Federal Government, the ACTU and the national leadership of the Labor Party, calling for extensive publicity campaigns attacking the New Right, and government-funded campaigns to publicise the amount of money being spent by the New Right to promote its ideals.

Mr Walker, who was launching the booklet in his capacity as one of the leaders of the Left, said it was the first printed response to the New Right by the ALP.

"We, the Left, sensed the

threat earlier than some other people in the Labor Party."

The launching of an organised attack on the New Right was considered necessary by the Steering Committee because the New Right was already having an impact on the political agenda.

Chapter 2 of the booklet begins: "The policies and attitudes of the New Right, which appear to be so offensive, so radical, as to make them unacceptable to the Australian community, have already had a major impact on the political agenda."

Later the booklet's unidentified authors warn: "The New Right is a cunning, manipulative force that has been able to shift the policy agenda in Australia to suit its own ends. Its influence by far outweighs its numerical strength or public support, but accepting that it is not publicly popular will not make it go away."

Nightmare

Listed among the changes in the federal sphere to which the New Right has contributed are the failure of the campaign for national legislation on Aboriginal land rights, the withdrawal of the Bill of Rights and the introduction of university charges.

Within the Liberal Party, the New Right had influenced policies on industrial relations, privatisation and scaling-down of social welfare spending, the booklet claims.

"So, far from being a bunch of loony political fringe-dwellers, the New Right has managed to change the nature and content of political discussion in Australia," it says.

The booklet warns that under a conservative federal government that adopted the philosophies of the New Right, the workers' right to strike would disappear.

"Getting work and keeping a job will be a nightmare. With no awards to establish wage levels and conditions, hiring workers will become a job option," it says.