

Some random internet post by Adam Bandt

Below is part of a post made by Adam Bandt 1995 on a marxist list. Bandt is now the first Greens lower-house member of Federal Parliament as of the 2010. The full post can be seen here:

http://www.drifftline.org/cgi-bin/archive/archive_msg.cgi?file=spoon-archives/marxism.archive/marxism_1995/95-03-31.000&msgnum=45&start=3474 [Accessed 24/11/2010]

(5) ELECTORAL INVOLVEMENT The parliamentary road to socialism is non-existent. Electoral Politics, however, can be a useful vehicle for furthering campaigns and resourcing activism. As someone who is involved in the student sector in Australia, and with a Federal Election coming sometime this year, these issues have been at the forefront of my mind. We have a Labor Government which is almost as right-wing as the US Democrats. Recently, they have been cracking down on immigration, by refusing to consider repeat applications from people who have tried for asylum/refugee status in Australia but have already been refused. Under the Guise of 'protecting the country's interests', UN requirements have been suspended and the White Australia Policy, a creature of the same government 70-odd years ago, is reemerging. And this is supposedly the 'left' party in Australia (ie Labor is to Liberal what the Democrats are to the Republicans). Amidst all this, the Greens and the Democrats (a wishy-washy small 'l' liberal party) hold the balance of power in the Federal Senate (upper house). This has meant that some regressive legislation has been blocked. They may lose their seats at the upcoming election.

Supporting the Greens would perhaps be the most effective strategy at the next election. The Greens are in many ways bourgeois, but they have been able to exert influence over the Government's agenda. They are all we have at the moment, as unlike Bernie Sanders, they haven't voted for racism or more cops. Let's ditch this 'third party' stuff: communists can't fetishise alternative political parties, but should always make some kind of materially based assessment about the effectiveness of any given strategy come election time. Abstaining is irresponsible; supporting social democratic parties is unjustifiable; building a 'new' party simply to get votes can be absurd; supporting progressives who then send people to jail is twisted.

I'd be interested in getting some responses.

Towards an anti-capitalist, anti-social democratic, internationalist movement,
Adam Bandt