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employees of the federal government affiliated with (CAGEO), recently lodged an application to affiliate. This means that university academic staff are the only group of employees in the education sector not represented in the ACTU. These changes in the membership structure of the ACTU represent a move away from a predominantly blue collar membership and the ACTU Executive to reflect this change in composition of membership is currently under consideration and will be debated at the 1981 Congress.

The Case for Affiliation

It has been pointed out in the preceding discussion that current proposals for FAUSA to affiliate with the ACTU have been the result of changes both in the attitudes of academic staff towards unionisation and the membership structure of the ACTU. For member associations of FAUSA to be convinced that affiliation is a positive step, sound arguments need to be advanced in favour of such a move. Such arguments have not hitherto been presented in any detail except for a few paragraphs in the FAUSA Newsletter.

For FAUSA to take steps to affiliate it will be necessary for a majority of member associations to support such a move. The issues involved have not, at this stage, been widely canvassed among academic staff. At the 1980 Annual General Meeting of FAUSA some delegates reported that the issue had been voted on by little more than a handful of members. Although no reliable information has been gathered on the support for affiliation among academic staff, such support in other unions not affiliated with the ACTU is quite high. Rawson found 41% of unionists whose union was not currently affiliated thought that it should be, with a further 12% undecided. He found also that one explanation of opposition to ACTU affiliation was that the ACTU was seen as being associated with the ALP. This misconception is also probably quite common among academic staff. There are no formal ties between the two bodies although individual unions are affiliated to both and the fact that R. J. Hawke was president of both bodies although many unions are affiliated to both Australian Unions and professional associations have an emotional grounds.

It is argued, then, that if it is in the long-term interest of FAUSA to affiliate with the ACTU and to gain representation on the various relevant policy-making committees. Experience in New South Wales suggests that the input from FAUSA to policy could make a significant impact on future government decision making in relation to education.

ACADEMICS' REAL SALARIES IN AUSTRALIA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM: A NEW COMPARISON

Introduction

In 1976 we made use of the opportunity provided by a year's visit by one of us (R. J.) to an Australian university to make a comparison of the real value of university teachers' salaries in Australia and the United Kingdom. The results, published in this journal, indicated that on the basis of June 1976 data, the average Australian academic was about 40% better