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The Price of Freedom is Eternal Vigilance

Print Post Publication Number 10000815

Vol. 52 No. 42

21st October 2016

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: One Nation Senator calls for a new 'patriotic broadcasting corporation'

- Senator Brian Burston said in his maiden speech to the Senate: "A new "Patriotic Broadcasting Corporation" could better represent the identity of mainstream Australians and fight bias within the ABC...The ABC long ago abandoned any semblance of patriotism, or even balance. Other taxpayer-funded media – SBS and NITV – serve immigrants and indigenous Australians...All three broadcasters are biased against mainstream Australia. They distort Australian political culture and support aggressive political multiculturalism" he said.

Ref: <http://blog.alor.org/index.php/one-nation-senator-brian-burston-maiden-speech>

THESE TYPES ARE 'FAITHLESS' by Betty Luks

"Faith is Fragile" wrote South Australian Senator Cori Bernardi and he says he wasn't referring to a 'religious' faith. He continued: "Faith is fragile. Once it is lost, it is very hard to see it restored."

"To many, the sentence above will be seen through the lens of religious faith alone, but the fragility of faith extends far beyond that realm. Our society depends on faith; faith in our institutions and in others is the single most important ingredient that unites our society.

If we believe that our highly evolved system of interaction, discipline and ethics is working for our betterment then we are more likely to respect it. In short, we have faith in it. But when we lose confidence in the system, the system itself starts to break down. For many, that seems to be happening now..."

Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton has provided the whole world with a clear example of why people are losing 'faith' in their nation's politicians, politics, systems and institutions – they are no longer credible! These types are faithless to their own people, their own nation.

Leaked emails show Clinton professing different messages

www.businessinsider.com/leaked-emails-clinton-private-speech-trade-2016-10

"... In private speeches she gave to banks, Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton seems to have expressed a stance on trade that differs from what she's said publicly during the campaign cycle.

Emails posted by WikiLeaks on Friday include partial transcripts from speeches that the Clinton campaign has previously refused to release. In one speech she gave to a Brazilian bank in 2013, she advocated for "open trade and open borders."

"My dream is a hemispheric common market, with open trade and open borders, some time in the future with energy that is as green and sustainable as we can get it, powering growth and opportunity for every person in the hemisphere," Clinton said.

In the same speech, she also said the US needs "a concerted plan to increase trade already under the current circumstances."

The Clinton campaign has not confirmed the authenticity of the emails...

In another private speech mentioned in the Carrk email, Clinton said it's important to have both a "public" and "private" position on certain issues.

"If everybody's watching, you know, all of the back room discussions and the deals, you know, then people get a little nervous, to say the least," she said. "So, you need both a public and a private position..."

Ref: www.businessinsider.com/leaked-emails-clinton-private-speech-trade-2016-10

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But, They Do “Bind Back” to What They Believe!

I agree with the good senator’s expressed concerns, but I don’t agree that he is not referring to a ‘religious’ faith. It all depends on one’s definition of the word ‘religion’. As Geoffrey Dobbs challenges us all in his paper “Religion” (Found here: <https://www.alor.org/Library/Dobbs%20G%20-%20Religion.pdf>)

“If the word ‘religion’ is restricted, as it usually is, to the organised Religions, or to a belief in God, or in the supernatural, those who reject these conceptions and adhere to atheistic, humanist, or materialist beliefs are never challenged to formulate their ideas and to relate them to policy, but are allowed to adopt the pose of persons with no commitment to faith or policy, who claim merely to be pursuing the path of reason.

In fact, the policies which most of these people openly pursue are based upon assumptions about the universe and about man’s place in it which are every whit as much based upon faith as are the more precise statements formulated in the Creeds, and unless the nature of this

faith is revealed or exposed, its realization in the world of today cannot be followed or ascertained, its ideas and policies cannot be related, and we cannot even start to escape from our present confusion, or to develop, in the Baconian phrase: “a just familiarity between the mind and things”....”

How can we live in any sort of peace or comfort if we cannot trust our neighbours? How could we use the roads if we could not trust others to observe the rule of the road? (And what happens when they don’t!) What would be the use of growing anything in gardens, farms or nurseries if other people would grab it? How could any economic activity go forward - whether producing, selling or buying - if people cannot, in general, rely upon honesty and fair dealing? And what happens when the concept of the Christian marriage, and the Christian family and upbringing, is abandoned?...”

Continue reading here...

<https://alor.org/Library/Dobbs%20G%20-%20What%20is%20Social%20Credit.html> ***

FIRST HEARTBEAT OF BABIES AS EARLY AS 16 DAYS AFTER CONCEPTION - STUDY

Ref: <https://www.rt.com/uk/362556-first-heartbeat-of-babies/>

The first tick of a baby’s heart happens as early as 16 days after conception, according to a new study by researchers at the University of Oxford. Initially, analysts said the heart muscle contracted to beat eight days after conception in mice, roughly equating to 21 days in a human pregnancy. However, Oxford University teamed up with the British Heart Foundation (BHF) and found that the first heartbeat in babies happens much sooner.

BHF Professor Paul Riley, a leading researcher at the university said the team wanted to better understand how the heart develops.

“We are trying to better understand how the heart develops and ultimately what causes the heart defects that develop in the womb before birth and to extrapolate to adult heart repair,” Riley said.

“By finding out how the heart first starts to beat and how problems can arise in heart development, we are one step closer to being able to prevent heart conditions from arising during pregnancy,” he added.

Professor Riley also said that his team hoped the findings could bring them closer to being able to mend damaged muscle following a heart attack.

“We also hope that this new research will help us to learn how the beating of new heart muscle cells might be triggered in replaced muscle after a heart attack,” he said.

The researchers demonstrated earlier beating of the heart in the embryos of mice that if extrapolated to a human’s heart, results in a beat as early as 16 days.

The team studied the developing mouse heart and found that the muscle began to contract as soon as it formed the cardiac crescent, which is an early stage in heart development. This crescent forms 7.5 days after conception, becoming the equivalent of 16 days in the human embryo.

Congenital heart disease is found in around 1 in 180 births, which is around 4,000 each year or in 12 babies per day in the UK.

With the latest findings, researchers want to understand more about how the heart forms while in the womb (to) hopefully prevent heart conditions from developing as a foetus grows.

The team added fluorescent markers to calcium molecules within the mouse embryo and saw precisely at which point in time the calcium signaled, as the trigger instructing our heart muscle cells to contract are able to become coordinated enough in order to produce a heartbeat.

With the research, it was discovered that a protein called NCX1 plays a primary role in the generation of the calcium signals required to make the beating action of the heart.

Professor Nilesh Samani, Medical Director at the BHF, which funded the research, said the research is “vital in understanding and ultimately preventing diseases that affect the heart.”

REQUIEM FOR A FAILED ELECTRICITY SYSTEM by Alan Moran

Ref:<http://catalaxyfiles.com/2016/10/06/requiem-for-a-failed-electricity-system/>

The trouble with wind

South Australia has on average over 40 per cent of its internally generated electricity derived from wind. This is one of the highest levels in the world for a load with a relatively small interconnection with other sources (the two interconnectors with Victoria have a capacity to supply about 20 per cent of the state's needs).

Wind/solar generation has two features that are of concern.

The first is that it is intrinsically high cost. As a mature technology, it will remain three times the cost of coal powered generation in Australia. It can only compete because it is subsidised by a regulatory charge on the consumer (thereby also not facing the same scrutiny if its support was through the Budget). It receives the subsidy whenever it runs, hence wind has an incentive to generate whenever it can, forcing established fossil fuel plant to be placed offline.

Wind's additional capacity depresses prices in the short term. Because most of the costs of existing fossil fuel plant are sunk, they will continue to operate. But once major repairs are necessary the established coal plant is scrapped.

Gradually the electricity price will rise to reflect the higher cost (of) wind generation that is being substituted for the non-subsidised supplies. But this rise is muted as the higher prices will cause high energy intensive industries to close, reducing demand. Already we have seen the Point Henry aluminium smelter close and the Kurri-Kurri smelter mothballed. The same outlook appears imminent for the Portland smelter.

Secondly, wind/solar is inherently less manageable than fossil, nuclear or hydro-generation. It requires its fluctuating supply to be shadowed by counter fluctuations. This requires additional costs and careful management.

South Australia's electricity system breakdown

The preliminary report of the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) on the south Australian blackout was published October 5. It summarized the position as Generation initially rode through the (weather induced) faults, but .. 315 MW of wind generation (then) disconnected .. result(ing) in ... the Heywood Interconnector overloading, tripping the interconnector. In this event, this resulted in the remaining customer load and electricity generation in SA being lost (referred to as a Black System)

Actually the AEMO had already spilled the beans.

In its Market Notices system amidst some the 30 or so routine operating statements that AEMO posts each day

came Notice 516103 on 3 October. This not only said the collapse in wind generation had caused the system to black-out the whole state but went on to redefine nine wind farms as unreliable generators. AEMO basically said that the event is not a one-off contingency but that the cascading effect of a state wide South Australia blackout as a result of losing some pylons **was intrinsically likely to re-occur.**

This finding did not prevent the promoters of wind and other sources of power from placing themselves in denial. Tony Wood of the Grattan Institute wrote an article in *The Australian* headed, "Don't blame renewable energy for the state's plunge into darkness". Many other apologists for the renewable industry were scathing about those like Minister Frydenberg who suggested wind had played a part. And even after the publication of AEMO's report, the industry's propaganda journal, *RenewEconomy*, was claiming it "raises questions answers none".

Who's to blame?

AEMO itself as an entity is not immune from criticism. On many occasions its engineers have said that operating a system with high wind share is technically feasible.

In public has drawn attention to problems of integrating more wind but expressed confidence in doing so and been hopeful that this would be further facilitated by advances in battery storage technology. But, as Brendan Pearson's quote of the Chief Scientist Alan Finkel makes clear, this is overly optimistic. The Chief Scientist estimated that **"if we retrieved all of the batteries made for use in mobile phones, laptops, cars and industry in 2014 and used them as back-up for the electricity system, we would have enough energy to power the world for just nine seconds."**

And in its submission to the Senate in July of last year AEMO, while expressing some concerns about high wind penetration in South Australia, said:

Based on experience to date and analysis of likely future outcomes, AEMO considers that it is technically feasible to integrate the renewable energy likely to emerge from the RET while maintaining the security of the power system. In the longer term if even higher levels of renewable generation eventuate, there is likely to be some additional grid support costs to maintain system security and to meet frequency standards. (Select Committee on Wind Turbines Submission 469)

The former head of AEMO Matt Zema (who, sadly, has since died, hence his private counsel is no longer confidential) was less sanguine at least in private. Mr Zema during the course of a private briefing in April of this year the former head of AEMO, made the following comments:

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The renewable developments and increased political interference are pushing the system towards a crisis. South Australia is most vulnerable with its potential for wind to supply 60 per cent of demand and then to cut back rapidly. The system is only manageable with robust interconnectors but these operate effectively only because there is abundant coal based generation in Victoria.

Wind, being subsidised and having low marginal costs, depresses the spot price and once a major coal plant has a severe problem it will be closed. New coal plants cannot be built because governments are hostile and banks will not finance them. Wind does not provide the system security. But the politicians will not allow the appropriate price changes to permit profitable supply developments from other sources. In the end the system must collapse.

Mr Zema thought that once network collapses occurred, Ministers would search for a fall-guy and would plump for AEMO. In the light of the agency's guarded public statements, AEMO may have cause to fear being accused of culpability in the collapse.

The political landscape on energy is littered with cant. It is conditioned by a public persuaded that global warming will bring untoward harm and that the costs of substituting wind and solar (both of which are depicted as fundamentally free) will be, at worst, trivial. This is powered by rent-seeking businesses, conventional energy suppliers included, which see a path to greater profit from investments which have their risks underwritten by governments to give assured returns.

The PM and his colleagues: energy minister Frydenberg, industry minister Hunt and South Australian frontbencher Christopher Pyne, have been forthright in hitting their political opponents. In the main this has been because of inconsistency between state plans and incentives. The ALP remains a supercharged romantic wedded to a 50 per cent renewable target by 2030.

But the Coalition has been (a) little less supportive (of) the patronage-rich renewable industry. Indeed, South Australian wind farms were built on the back of federal and not state subsidies and few demurred at their level until the earlier near miss blackout in July of this year.

In fact, the Coalition, while criticising the ALP's goal of 50 per cent renewables by 2030 itself has a goal of 23.5 per cent renewable share by 2020. Given that hydro cannot be increased, this means it is looking for 15 per cent from wind and solar by 2020. That implies a massive and unachievable expansion from those sources' present contribution of six per cent.

Aftermath

Each state has reacted differently.

In Victoria energy minister D'Ambrosio is powering

ahead with increased renewable programs and supplementing this with prioritising battery storage. This entails horrendous additional costs. But the state is passing down the same de-industrialisation path as South Australia and if wind expansion causes Hazelwood power station to close will be partly offset by mothballing the Portland smelter, hence immediate price effects will be suppressed.

The South Australian government is shell-shocked at having moved from the frontier of a Brave New World to third world status and, for its part, Queensland is now saying its absurd 50 per cent renewable goal was (only) just aspirational. ***



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