

"All that is necessary  
for the triumph of  
evil is that good  
men do nothing . . ."  
— EDMUND BURKE.



# THE NEW TIMES SURVEY

THE AUSTRALIAN

LEAGUE OF RIGHTS

Vol.16, No.04

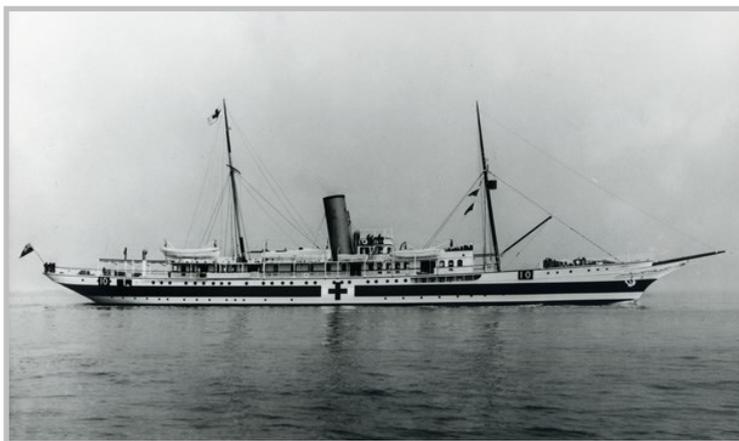
Registered Australia post — Publication PP343214 / 00016

April 2015

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## The Wonderfully 'Eccentric' Lady Houston



The Steam Yacht Liberty was designed by G L Watson and Company and built in 1908 by Ramage and Ferguson. It had a fascinating service at one time owned by a great benefactor of Newport before it was broken up in 1938, when it returned home, so to speak.

The 304 ft long Liberty was constructed of steel and had a beam of 36.5 ft and a draught of 16 ft. It had two triple expansion engines and was originally built for Joseph Pulitzer who owned her until 1912. Designed with an aversion to noise it was heavily insulated, sharp edges reduced to curves and gentle slopes instead of steps.

In 1912 James Ross became Liberty's owner and he renamed her Glencairn. By 1914 she had been sold to Lord Tredegar, who reversed her name to Liberty. He lived in a large stately home in the town and the newspapers of the period carried pictures of him with his yacht at Newport Docks. He kept the yacht for less than a year before she was hired to the Royal Navy as an auxiliary patrol vessel.

Her design was to become invaluable when she was utilised as a hospital ship (Liberty IV, Hospital Ship No 10) in the First World War. Painted white with dark coloured funnels, broad red band on her hull and two large red crosses port and starboard.

In 1919 she was sold to Sir Robert and Lady Houston. Lady Houston will be remembered for her anti-government slogans

festooning on the Liberty at various regattas to advertise the suffragette movement. The Liberty was scrapped at Cashmore's Newport January 1938.

Lady Houston's third and final marriage was in 1924 to Sir Robert Paterson Houston, a Conservative MP and Liverpool ship-owner. When he died, less than 18 months later, he left her £5.5 million (roughly £300 million in today's money) making her one of the richest women in Britain.

Lady Houston was well known for her eccentricities and her contentious political views but her invaluable support of the British aviation team in the Schneider Trophy should not be underestimated. The prestigious Schneider Trophy, held eleven times between 1913 and 1931, was an international award presented to the country who designed the fastest seaplane over a specified course. Her financial support stimulated the advancement of engine technology that would eventually lead to the development of the Spitfire fighter plane during World War Two and help save Britain from defeat.

Since 1922, the aeronautical engineer R J Mitchell, chief designer at the Supermarine factory, had overseen the British entry. Britain had won in 1927 and again in 1929. When the British Government, faced with economic depression, controversially withdrew their financial support of the team, Lady Houston came to the rescue with a private donation of £100,000 (£5 million in today's money). She wrote in a cable to Ramsay Macdonald "the supremacy of English airmen can only be upheld by their entrance for the Schneider Trophy and I consider this of supreme importance".

On 13 September 1931 nearly half a million people gathered on the shores of the Solent to witness Britain's attempt to secure the trophy for the third and last time. Lady Houston watched aboard her yacht the "Liberty". Not only was the British Supermarine seaplane victorious but it also broke the world speed record. The lessons learned in building these racing seaplanes helped Reginald Mitchell to develop the Supermarine Spitfire used by the RAF and other allied countries during World War II and it became the backbone of fighter command during the Battle of Britain. Lady Houston died on 26 December 1936, nine months after the Spitfire's first flight. *(More pictures over page)*



Members of the 1931 RAF High Speed Flight with Lady Houston, onboard her yacht The Liberty; Mitchell is standing on the right



The Spitfire

## Monsanto Roundup Harms Human Endocrine System at Levels Allowed in Drinking Water, Study Shows

By J. D. Heyes, Global Research, April 06, 2015, Natural News 5 April 2015

Theme: Biotechnology and GMO, Environment, Science and Medicine

The blockbuster herbicide Roundup causes damage to the human endocrine system at levels that people could easily — and legally — be exposed to, according to a new study conducted by researchers from Flinders University in Australia. The researchers found that, in a laboratory study, Roundup killed cells responsible for producing progesterone in women, leading to a drop in levels of that hormone. The effects were seen at Roundup levels currently permitted in Australian drinking water, which 1.0 mg/L. The US Environmental Protection Agency’s drinking water limit for glyphosate is 0.7 mg/L; however, that does not take into account the other ingredients of Roundup.

Notably, the researchers found that Roundup was even more toxic than its active ingredient (glyphosate) alone, suggesting that other ingredients in Roundup work synergistically with glyphosate and pointing to a problem with current chemical regulatory frameworks.

### Kills hormone-producing cells

Roundup is the most widely used herbicide in the United States and one of the most widely used worldwide. Its use has exploded in the past 20 years, driven primarily by the proliferation of crops genetically engineered to resist glyphosate. In the United States alone, 250 million pounds of glyphosate are used every year.

The new study was conducted on human chorioplacental JAR cells, which synthesize the hormone progesterone. Synthesis is increased when the cells are exposed to human chorionic gonadotrophin (hCG), or cAMP, a transduction molecule.

The researchers exposed JAR cells to glyphosate (either with or without the added presence of cAMP or hCG) for time periods of 1, 4, 24, 48 and 72 hours. Other JAR cells were exposed to two different formulations of Roundup for the same time periods. As expected, the researchers found that the presence of either cAMP or hCG led the JAR cells to increase progesterone output.

Both Roundup and pure glyphosate caused JAR cell death at

glyphosate concentrations similar to the maximum allowed in Australian drinking water. This led to a corresponding drop in synthesis of progesterone, showing that glyphosate does indeed act as an endocrine disruptor.

Although the researchers particularly note drinking water, this is not the only method by which consumers may be exposed to Roundup. Residues from this herbicide may be found on many commercial food products; for example, studies have detected glyphosate residues on 90 percent of U.S. soybean crops.

### Not just glyphosate

More JAR cells died when exposed to Roundup than when they were exposed to glyphosate alone. This suggests that the herbicide’s non-glyphosate ingredients are biologically active.

In contrast, most regulatory frameworks assume that only those molecules designated as “active ingredients” need to be tested for safety; all other ingredients are presumed to be inert. These findings call that presumption into question, the researchers said.

“There is a compelling need to conduct in vivo studies to characterise the toxicity of glyphosate in a Roundup formulation, to facilitate re-evaluation of existing public health guidelines,” the researchers wrote.

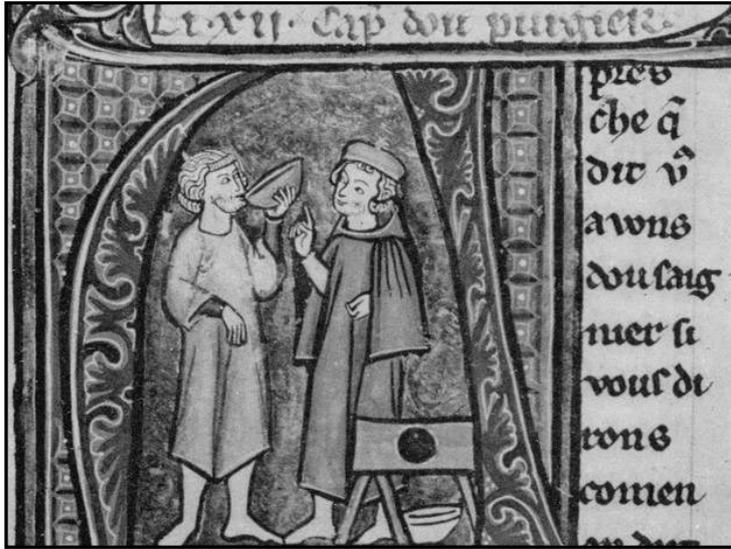
Further studies will also be needed to examine whether Roundup disrupts the endocrine system by any other methods.

### Also a carcinogen

Shortly after the publication of the Australian study, the World Health Organization’s International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) announced that glyphosate is a “probable” carcinogen. Strong evidence from animal studies has linked the chemical to various forms of cancer, and “limited evidence” from human studies has linked it to non-Hodgkins lymphoma in particular. The findings were published in the journal *Lancet Oncology*.

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## Revolting recipe from the Dark Ages may be key to defeat MRSA



**Scientists have been 'dumbfounded' at the infection-killing ability of the ancient 10th Century cure, after a series of tests in Britain and the US during the past year**

The Independent 31 March 2015: A stomach-churning potion from the Dark Ages could be the death of the modern day Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) infection, according to researchers who claim that the ancient treatment outperforms conventional antibiotics. Scientists have been “dumbfounded” at the killing ability of the potion - an ancient cure for eye infections dating back to the 10th Century - after a series of tests in Britain and the US during the past year.

That the Anglo-Saxon recipe, which includes wine, garlic, and bile from a cow's stomach, could hold the key to defeating MRSA came about after a chance discussion between experts at the University of Nottingham last year. During a meeting of academics interested in infectious diseases, Dr Christina Lee, an expert in Old English, told microbiologists about Bald's Leechbook – an Anglo-Saxon medical textbook kept in the British Library which contains remedies for treating infections and other ailments. Dr Lee translated a recipe for treating styes – an infection of an eyelash usually caused by Staphylococcus aureus - and the past year has seen researchers painstakingly recreate it and test it on MRSA.

The thousand-year-old remedy has proven to be an “incredibly potent” antibiotic, according to lead researcher Dr Freya Harrison, a microbiologist from the University of Nottingham. The individual ingredients alone did not have any measurable effect but when combined according to the ancient text, they killed up to 90 per cent of MRSA bacteria in infected mice. And in infections grown in the laboratory, only about one bacterial cell in a thousand survived.

“I still can't quite believe how well this one thousand year old antibiotic actually seems to be working, when we got the first results we were just utterly dumbfounded. We did not see this coming at all,” commented Dr Harrison. ■

## GAIA: GODDESS, ORGANISM OR ASSOCIATION? By James Reed

Dr. Geoffrey Dobbs on Lovelock's Gaia Hypothesis

James Lovelock formulated his Gaia hypothesis to give a scientific face to an ancient idea that the Earth is a living organism. I have been particularly hostile to this idea given the way that the Green movement has used this idea. However, I was given an interesting article on this by Dr. Geoffrey Dobbs, “On Planning the Earth, III,” Home Quarterly vol.62, 1989, which gives a detailed discussion of the idea.

There are control systems on the planet which keep the world suitable for life, such as the relatively constant percentage of the Earth's atmosphere that is oxygen, 21percent, regulated by the production of methane in anaerobic muds, taking up oxygen by oxidation to CO<sub>2</sub> and water. Atmospheric homeostatic processes of the biosphere thus maintain the concentration.

Dobbs accepts that Lovelock has done well to encourage biologists, largely in the grip of neo-Darwinist reductionism, to think more holistically, but, he says that Lovelock's depiction of the planet “is carrying the analogy too far”. An ecological interaction of a system of organisms is not an organism itself. The identification of the ecological system with a single organism not only is fallacious, but itself is a type of reductionist thinking, denying biological pluralism.

Finally for the Christian biologist, ecological order is not merely the product of homeostatic properties, but arises from God's creativity. Dobbs also notes that “the name of the Earth-Goddess transforms a scientific hypothesis into a source of direct power over people, and must inevitably encourage the illusion that those qualities in which the female can excel, of love, gentleness, non-aggression and mutuality, will escape being reduced and corrupted by centralised power over others, with its positive feed-back to more such power.”

In conclusion, then, I was right in being hostile to the Gaia hypothesis. ■

Source... [http://www.alor.org/Library/Dobbs G - The Local World.html](http://www.alor.org/Library/Dobbs%20G%20-%20The%20Local%20World.html) - 4a

(Continued from page 2)

The same IACR study also concluded that the common insecticides malathion and diazinon are also probable carcinogens. All three substances were also found to increase the risk of DNA damage, and all have been linked to destructive environmental effects.

“For too long the pesticide industry has taken the approach of ‘spray first and ask questions later,’” said Jonathan Evans of the Center for Biological Diversity.

“These dangerous and far too common pesticides are having cascading effects on our health and environment, and it's high time we took the worst of the worst chemical cocktails off the market.” ■

Sources:

<http://gmwatch.org>

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com>

<http://www.biologicaldiversity.org>

<http://www.gmo-evidence.com>[PDF]

<http://water.epa.gov>

# WHEN WAR COMES WE KNOW WHOM TO BLAME

## Yes, Congress, I'm looking at you ...

by Justin Raimondo, April 01, 2015

<http://original.antiwar.com/justin/2015/03/31/when-war-comes-we-know-who-to-blame/>

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The news broke on Twitter – where else? – at around five on Tuesday morning: "Officials: Iran Nuke Talks to Continue in New Phase." The Associated Press headline writer might just as well have shortened that to "No Deal," as the content of the story made all too clear:

"Wrapping up six days of marathon nuclear talks with mixed results, Iran and six world powers prepared Tuesday to issue a general statement agreeing to continue talks in a new phase aimed at reaching a final agreement to control Iran's nuclear ambitions by the end of June, officials told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

"Officials had set a deadline of March 31 for a framework agreement, and later softened that wording to a framework understanding, between Iran and the so-called P5+1 nations – the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China.

"And after intense negotiations, obstacles remained on uranium enrichment, where stockpiles of enriched uranium should be stored, limits on Iran's nuclear research and development and the timing and scope of sanctions relief among other issues."

Various issues related to nuclear technology – storage of Iran's nuclear materials, the status of the Fordo plant, the time limit on research and development restrictions – are among the remaining sticking points, but none of these appear to be insurmountable. The principal division seems to be over the draconian economic sanctions imposed on Iran by the United States and its allies: specifically, the timing of lifting them. Iranian media, focusing on this issue, are reporting that how and when the sanctions will be lifted is "still under consideration." The AP story cited above says Iran's Supreme Leader, the Ayatollah Khamenei, opposes a two-stage deal – one that presumably schedules the lifting of sanctions only some time after Iran has carried out the stipulations of phase one, leaving open the possibility the US might backtrack.

So the deadline has been extended and instead of a signed deal, or even a "framework" for one, what we have instead (so far) is an "understanding." The negotiations are going to go for another twenty-four hours. But unless the talks continue for another two weeks, they are almost certainly doomed to fail.

The infamous letter authored by Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Leo Strauss), and signed by 47 Republican Senators, presaged the successful sabotaging of the negotiations. You'll recall the text of this "open letter" to the Iranian leadership consisted of a little civics lesson in which the GOP solons instructed Tehran on the intricacies of the American political system. In short, Team Cotton told them flat out: our party, which controls Congress, is not going to approve any lifting of sanctions, period: and, with a little help from pro-Israel Democrats like Bob Menendez, any deal is almost certain to meet an insurmountable obstacle. That's because of the legislative trap that is about to be sprung by a bipartisan coalition of deal opponents.

Yes, the President can lift some of the sanctions unilaterally, but not all of them. More importantly, the War Party has arranged for a way to get around a presidential waiver and scotch the deal before it is even reached in the form of legislation introduced by Republican Sen. Bob Corker and co-sponsored by 8 Senate Democrats.

The "Bipartisan Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act of 2015" forbids the lifting of sanctions for 60 days after a deal is reached.

So any deal would not be implemented without a vote in Congress. It also requires the President to submit the agreement to Congress for its approval within 5 days. As Greg Sargent points out in his Washington Post interview with veteran legislative analyst Edward Levine, the political upshot of the Corker bill is that it would give supposedly pro-agreement Democrats political cover to undermine the negotiations:

"Sargent: Isn't it actually politically easier for a Democrat to support the Corker bill, in the name of enhancing Congressional oversight, than it would be to vote against an actual final agreement?"

"Levine: Assuming that the agreement is a good one, you're correct."

The Corker legislation will come before Congress sometime in mid-April, which is why the news that no deal has yet been reached practically seals its fate. This bit of legislative legerdemain will abort any agreement even before it sees the light of day. As Levine says of the Iranians: "If they are convinced the US will never lift its sanctions, then what's it in for them?" If the Cotton letter told them that a deal will only have a lifespan of two years, at most, the Corker bill is telling them it may not even last that long. In which case the Iranian hardliners will prevail, Tehran will walk away, and Senate "liberal" Democrats can then claim they only wanted to assert Congress's role in the process, while blaming Tehran. And Sen. Rand Paul – who supports Corker, as well as signing on to the Cotton letter – can babble about the Constitution while playing footsie with the War Party under the table.

If you've been wondering why the big hurry on the part of the Obama administration to reach an agreement at this particular moment, now you know.

In spite of overwhelming support for the Lausanne negotiations by the American people, the 47 GOP Senators who signed the Cotton letter, and their covert enablers among the Democrats, will have led us down the path to war. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will have succeeded in mobilizing his American amen corner in order to stop any hope of peace with Iran.

As it stands now, barring some big breakthrough in Lausanne, war with Iran is only a matter of time. You can probably bet it won't happen on Obama's watch. However, just as soon as his successor takes office, the countdown to Armageddon will begin. Early on in the run up to the Iraq war, I wrote an op ed piece for USA Today that seemed, at the time, a mite harsh. Citing the clear statements of then Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon egging on the Bush administration to attack Iraq, and then go on to strike Syria and Libya, I wrote:

"Sharon told the congressmen that 'the American action is of vital importance' – which begs the question, vital to whom? ... Our troops will be fighting a proxy war in Iraq, and beyond, not to protect US citizens from terrorist attacks, but to make the world safe for Israel. When the dead are buried, let the following be inscribed on their tombstones: They died for Ariel Sharon."

Substitute Netanyahu for Sharon and you have the truth about who's dragging us into the next war – one that will make the Iraq war seem like a mere skirmish. Only this time the identity of the perpetrators will be clear to one and all.

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# UNDERMINING INDIVIDUALITY THROUGH EDUCATION

"Professor Morey, associate professor of Education at Monash University said individuality suffered if children were ranked in class attainments, and prizes offered accordingly without prizes for other kinds of excellence... It is quite reasonable to constantly put children in a race which most of them have no hope of winning." *The Australian* April 17 (ed. 1967).

The pursuit of excellence has, since time immemorial, been one of the cornerstones of that educational system to which we owe the flowering of Western civilizations. Other systems have produced other civilizations, some static and fossilised like those of the Hindu and Moslem, others at rudimentary and barbaric stages. It would therefore seem that this is a principle, which should continue to be built into our educational methods.

When investigating the reason for so many American P.O.W.'s co-operating with the Communists in Korea it was traced to the way

individual prowess had progressively been eliminated from America's modern educational system resulting in the production of individuals who readily conformed when under direction or suggestion.

There are among us "progressive" people who can see clearly that individual excellence is an embarrassment to the planners of the socialist heaven of the future. Indeed as the socialist countries are finding, individuals are incompatible with the ideal ant-heap community. And they will keep popping up in the most unlikely places. Take Svetlana Stalin.

The Morey's of this world cannot succeed. It is certain that the majority of the professor's audience can still face up to the truth that in a race only one can win. The pity is that our youth should be exposed to such rubbish. ■

Source...<http://www.alor.org/Volume3/Vol3No16.htm> - 5 May 1967

## The Coming Vaccination Tyranny: Sleepers, Awake! by Mrs. Vera West

The Abbott government has just announced that parents who do not vaccinate their children will lose welfare payments. The idea, which will "save" \$50 a year, is to scrap the "conscientious objection" provision which presently allows anti-vaccination parents to get child care assistance and Family Tax Benefit A, so that objecting families could lose up to \$2100 per child will stop this means that parents having a religious, philosophical or medical objection to vaccination will be forced to comply or lose benefits. It seems that this measure arose from rising whooping cough deaths and disease outbreaks in "small communities" where unvaccinated children live. Presumably these "small communities" include outback Aboriginal communities.

Thus, rather than engage in a voluntary vaccination programme in the affected areas, the government will introduce measures that overrule the freedoms of people objecting to vaccinations. There are reasons for such an objection. For example, on philosophical grounds alone one may actually prefer to get childhood diseases to strengthen the immune system, as used to be done. One may not trust what goes into vaccines, even if conventional immunisation theory is accepted.

The claim that unvaccinated children are a "threat" to vaccinate children is fallacious. The vaccinated children, according to orthodoxy are already protected, so why worry about them? Their health and liberty is not threatened. If the parents choose to not vaccinate their children, that is their right.

Tony Abbott posted this 29 minutes ago, about the time I started my article, on April 12, 2015 on his Facebook page "No Jab, No Play. No Jab, No Pay". Like that tough talk "jab, jab, jab". It continued: "from 1 January 2016, childcare and family payments will be denied to parents who don't vaccinate their children". The flavour of this is but one further illustration of Abbott's abandonment of the classical liberal tradition of freedom and liberty.

Back in *The Social Creditor* January 1939 C.H.Douglas spoke of "moral re-  
-armament". The forces of the elites seek to divide and rule. As illustrated by consulting the comments on Abbott's Facebook page, many of the supporters of his proposed policy falsely (I believe) believe that the safety of their children is at risk. There is a need to unite and not to be ruled, Douglas said. This is a principle that needs to be recognised in the battle ahead. ■

*(Continued from page 4)*

No doubt we will have some announcement from the Obama administration that puts a happy face on what is – as of this writing – a failed attempt to avert another Middle East war. Pay no attention. This marks the end of the road for that effort. Sen. Cotton openly stated his intention was to "blow up" any deal and he and his Israeli handlers have succeeded.

I don't use the term "handlers" lightly. The Cotton letter, as well as the behind-the-scenes ploy to bring Netanyahu before a joint session of Congress, was clearly engineered by the Israelis, who mobilized all their assets to pull it off. AIPAC, the powerful pro-Israel lobby, has pulled out all the stops, including heavy lobbying for the Corker bill. Such a campaign couldn't have succeeded, however, without a lot of legwork: if not for Sheldon Adelson, the dual Israeli-American citizen who contributed a record amount to elect a fresh bevy of interventionist Republicans to Congress, war with Iran might have been averted.

Instead, we are very likely to be faced with an appalling prospect: a ruinous conflict that will drive the Middle East to perdition, and our own country along with it.

Oh, but every cloud, no matter how dark, has a silver lining, and so does this one. Because at least, this time, we'll know whom to blame. When the body bags come home, and the war comes home in the form of economic collapse – astronomical oil prices will hit us like a ton of bricks – we can always look at the names on the Cotton letter, and the roll call of Democrats who voted for Corker, and "thank" them in the only way they deserve to be thanked. ■

# Fighting the Vaccination Tyranny: Prepare for the Legal Challenges

## By Ian Wilson LL.B

"No Jab - No Play and No Pay for Child Care" read the media release from Tony Abbott's office. From January 1, 2016 the conscientious objection exemption on children's vaccination for access to taxpayer funded Child Care Benefits, the Child Care Rebate and the Family Tax Benefit Part A end of year supplement, will end - if the government has its way.

The statement released by Abbott seems to be, in the first instance, directed at young children, rather than, say, unvaccinated older children. It is however only a short step to include them in as well, if they are not already captured. From there one imagines that the Social Security whip could be used to ensure vaccinations for, well, almost everything, for anyone receiving any type of government payment. But at present Family Tax Benefit families meet the current immunization requirement, at around 97%, at the relevant age points.

John Howard had the gun banning grab as his great moral issue, to demonstrate to the public and the "international community" that he was, supposedly, a great moral leader. Abbott has faced recently an existential threat to his leadership. His strategy now, is to seek the moral high ground. The imagery portrayed is "save the kiddies". His press release says that at present 39,000 children under age 7 are not vaccinated because their parents are vaccine objectives, which is an increase of over 24,000 children in the past 10 years.

Why should a parent, or even any person, object to a vaccination? Isn't it the case that vaccines are completely safe "magic bullets" that give one superman-like protection from disease?

### The Case Against Vaccinations

The Abbot government claims that "medical research" does not support the conscientious objection position to vaccinations. By contrast to this the vaccination skeptical position holds that (1) vaccines are like all medicines, far from risk free and have resulted in cases of lifelong disability and death. (2) Vaccines are not "magic bullets". (3) Unvaccinated children are not a health risk to vaccinated children - this position conflicts with the vaccination claim that the very point of vaccines is to give immunity against disease. (4) On the contrary vaccinated children may still infect unvaccinated children. (5) It is a fundamental violation of human rights and international law to abrogate personal informed consent to medical treatment. From my reading, that I believe summarizes the vaccination skepticism case.

Skepticism about the safety and effectiveness of vaccines is not a recent phenomenon. Australia had compulsory vaccination against smallpox in 1930. But it was reported that more people had died from ill-effects of the vaccine than smallpox had killed, and later compulsory vaccination was abandoned (see "Compulsory Vaccination Killed More than Smallpox", at <http://noconpulsoryvaccination.com/>) There is argument in the public health literature that it has not been vaccinations which have led to the decline of diseases, but public health and sanitation strategies.

The skepticism literature also makes the point that there is a lack of double-blind, placebo-controlled trials for the safety and effectiveness of vaccines. The claim made in reply by scientists

and Big Pharma is that it would be unethical to withhold a vaccine from a child in the placebo group. This, of course, begs the question of the issue of the safety and effectiveness of the vaccine.

Another important argument that needs to be made more often is that vaccines are not a "magic bullet" even if they do work because microorganisms are in constant evolution and may evolve to avoid the impact of the vaccine. The idea that "one shot" can make us safe forever is understandable, but is mythical.

In my opinion in terms of strategy, although there is probably a theoretical case against vaccinations in the sense of being "magic bullets" the best case for the present debate, given the limited time and difficulty of criticizing deeply entrenched science would be for the movement to focus on evidence of children who have been vaccinated, but have still contracted that particular disease which they had been vaccinated against and the numerous cases of children who have been vaccinated but have had severe allergic reactions, and suffered from debilitating illness or died. (See many truly sad cases at <http://noconpulsoryvaccination.com>)

The argument here is that it is a fact that in, admittedly, small percentages of children have an adverse reaction to a vaccine. From what I can ascertain, science has no certain method of predicting this in advance. Therefore for any arbitrary chosen child, there is a hypothetical risk factor of the vaccine causing an ill-effect, perhaps death. This, I believe cannot be denied given that all drugs have the possibility of causing adverse reactions in some individuals. Doctors have drug reference manuals which list numerous possible side-effects for even common drugs available across the supermarket shelves, such as aspirin.

Given that vaccination as a medical treatment has risks, the argument then goes that people should have a right to refuse treatment, and not be coerced into undertaking treatments by financial threats such as social security payments being removed. In terms of ethics, the argument is sound, but today, ethics doesn't count for much. **Law is ethics with teeth**, so let us see where this can be taken. I believe that the main strategy in this controversy will need to be a legal challenge.

### The Basis of a Legal Challenge

Many vaccination objectors hope that there is some human rights basis to their claims, largely because the Abbott proposals violate people's right to make an informed choice about medical treatment. The hope might therefore be to complain to the United Nations about an infringement of a basic human right or even to take Australia to an international court. I don't know enough about international law (when I did my law degree it wasn't even an elective) to comment with confidence. My guess is that the Abbot government has already received expert legal advice on this issue and is adopting its present strategy of linking getting social security benefits such as the Family Tax Benefits to avoid a human rights challenge. After all, parents really opposed to the Abbot proposal still have the abstract freedom of foregoing the government benefits. Of course they will suffer extreme hardship, but the Abbot Camp will no doubt

*(Continued on page 7)*

argue that this is the price of freedom on the issue.

The international law issues need to be explored by experts in the field. I doubt whether anyone will come out of the woodwork to do this pro bono (free), so consultation will have to be paid for. Hence the need for a nationally organized movement to quickly collect money.

In my opinion there is a possibility of challenging the Abbot proposal in the High Court of Australia. I do not have great faith in victory, but it is possible that a case could be heard. In any case it would be a delaying strategy and part of a necessary road if an international law challenge can be mounted. Such a strategy will drag the matter out, possibly to an election which Abbott may well lose, since it will be time for the Labor Party to "whack us with the Left". Maybe circumstances may change by then and the new government will have other concerns (e.g. perhaps the revival of the anti-discrimination package designed to completely eliminate free speech).

What then is the Constitutional weakness of the Abbot proposal? What gives the government the power to do what they propose? Section 51 of the Australian Constitution lists the legislative powers of the Federal Parliament, "to make laws for the peace, order, and good government of the Commonwealth". A referendum in 1946 extended the powers of the Australian government over a number of social services, essentially setting up the modern welfare state as we know it. An amendment inserting a new Section 51 xxiii A now reads: "the provision of maternity allowances, widows' pensions, child endowment, unemployment, pharmaceutical, sickness and hospital benefits, medical and dental services (but not so as to authorize any form of civil conscription), benefits to students and family allowances".

What is the point of Section 51 xxiii A? Is it there to be used by governments as they see fit to pass laws or implement executive acts related to health policy, or even to control political beliefs? What limits, if anything, does this power have? Clearly the Constitution and the common law recognize that there needs to be an incidental power to enable laws made on the basis of other Section 51 powers to work. Thus Section 51 xxxix says "matters incidental to the execution of any power vested by this Constitution in the Parliament or in either House thereof, or in the Government of the Federal Judicature, or in any department or officer of the Commonwealth". But the "no jab, no play, no pay" policy is hardly incidental to making the Family Tax Benefit scheme work, so it is implausible to suppose that there is some "incidental power" basis to the policy. In fact the history of social security law and policy in Australia has been to support those in need rather than achieve other or incidental policy objectives such as a health policy. (For a fascinating outline of Australia's social security system, see Andrew Herscovitch and David Stanton, "History of Social Security in Australia", Australian Institute of Family Studies, Family Matters, 2008).

In Lange v Australian Broadcasting Corporation (1997) 189CLR520, the High Court of Australia unanimously accepted a "proportionality" test which asked whether a law was "reasonably appropriate and adapted to serve a legitimate end in a matter which is compatible with the maintenance of the constitutionally prescribed system of representative and responsible government and the procedure prescribed by S128..." (at p.567)

In Leasky v Commonwealth (1996) 187CLR579 the issue of proportionality was discussed in relation to whether or not the Financial Transaction Reports Act 1988 was a valid Commonwealth law. It was held that for non-purpose powers, proportionality was irrelevant once it was determined that there was a sufficient connection between the Act and the Constitutional head of power. But the real issue is to decide what exactly is a "sufficient connection". Thus the majority of the High Court in Roach v Electoral Commission (2007) 239ALR1 adopted a proportionality test that "it be reasonable appropriate and adapted to serve an end which is consistent or compatible with the maintenance of the constitutionally prescribed system of representative government". [al [85]] But the majority of the Court in Work Choices (2006) 229CLR1 cited with approval the majority of the Court in Grainpool of Western Australia v Commonwealth (2000) 202CLR479, who said that "if a sufficient connection with the head of power does exist, the justice and wisdom of the law, and the degree to which the means it adopts are necessary or desirable, are matters of legislative choice". (p.492)

It is worth testing to see if the reasonable proportionality test is back in vogue with the present High Court as a test of validity of the Abbot proposals. This is particularly of interest because health policy does not feature as a Section 51 power. An interesting paper by Sharon Scully, "Does the Commonwealth Have Constitutional Power to Take Over the Administration of Public Hospitals?" (At [http://www.aph.gov.au/About\\_Parliament/Parliamentary\\_Departments/Parliamentary\\_Library/pubs/rp/rp0809/09rp36](http://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_Departments/Parliamentary_Library/pubs/rp/rp0809/09rp36)) is informative. There is no explicit power in the Constitution allowing the Commonwealth to make laws regarding public hospitals. Constitutional powers thought to be relevant include the external powers, the provision of allowances and benefits, the quarantine power, the incidental power and fiscal powers.

The idea seems to be that combining a whole set of section 51 powers somehow a comprehensive power emerges, even though there may be gaps between the powers.

Applied to the present case it would seem that the only other head of power other than section 51 xxiii A relevant to the vaccination issue would be the quarantine power of section 51 (ix). The section certainly gives a power for disease regulation, and has been used to regulate tobacco and alcohol. The Quarantine Act 1908 section 4 (1) takes a relatively restricted view of a quarantine to be actions centered around preventing the introduction, establishment or spread of diseases, including the regulation of vessels, installations, animals and plants. It needs to be tested what exactly the scope of this power is.

### **Conclusion**

I believe that a High Court challenge to the Abbot proposal is possible and well worth the considerable money that will be needed to get the challenge up. There is an immediate need for all concerned people to unite into a movement and to pool financial resources, raising funds for this challenge, as well as possible international law challenges. I do not believe that resources will be wisely spent, yet, trying to win over the population or to battle this issue out politically. If the legal challenges fail, perhaps the publicity will generate momentum for an extended political battle. Time is short and we do not have the luxury of making mistakes and going back to the drawing board on this one.

# Some Thoughts on Compulsory Vaccination

By Louis Cook

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The Abbott Government's policy of connecting 'family benefit payments' to a vaccination program, in order to achieve a dubious goal, is an interesting concept because it can easily be construed as an abuse of power.

It is a form of 'political blackmail' particularly when the government creates the financial climate forcing people (read 'disadvantaged voters') to rely on government financial support and making them vulnerable to pressure.

I have avoided discourse on the medical side of the debate because I am not a scientist or experienced medical practitioner, however not all people are equal, so compulsory vaccinations may have an adverse effects for a few people.

Put bluntly... 'A few people must suffer for the benefit of many' ... this is not good policy!

I can understand vaccination as a tool to condition the human body to cultivate its own defence mechanisms. This is also achieved by little children 'playing' in dirt or drinking unpasteurised milk at an early age. The examples are endless but when politicians interfere and start forcing participation then it is time for a closer examination of the issues.

Fundamental to 'freedom' is the right to 'contract out'... Social Credit says '*the right to choose or refuse one thing at the time*'.

'Freedom' also has an obligation couplet, 'Responsible'.

Now we come to the 'financial connection'. Every business is subject to the 'laws of orthodox finance' with the ever attendant inflation and its detrimental effect on the operations of business.

If you want to secure your business then you do whatever you can to make your product desirable and if that doesn't work then you try and make use of your product compulsory.

When it comes to matters of compulsion then it raises another issue... '**Compulsion' leaves no need for the issue or product, to prove its worth.**

A familiar example here is 'compulsory levies' for schemes managed by bureaucrats who do not suffer when poor management decisions are made, witness challenging

councils who have a 'bottomless pit of finance' when opposed by a lone ratepayer.

If it is 'discriminatory compulsion' the plot thickens and George Orwell's '*Animal Farm*' comes to life... "**All animals are equal but some animals are more equal than others**".

Such appears to be life in Canberra.

Goodness! This started as some comments on compulsory vaccination and finished at the doors of the 'communist state'!

If you too are opposed to political compulsion then make doubly sure your elected political Representatives knows how **YOU** feel about the issues involved ... nothing will change unless **YOU DO!** ■

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- To defend the free Society and its institutions — private property, consumer control of production through genuine competitive enterprise, and limited decentralised government.
- To promote financial policies, which will reduce taxation, eliminate debt, and make possible material security for all with greater leisure time for cultural activities.
- To oppose all forms of monopoly, either described as public or private.
- To encourage all electors always to record a responsible vote in all elections.
- To support all policies genuinely concerned with conserving and protecting natural resources, including the soil and environment reflecting natural (God's) laws, against policies of rape and waste.
- To oppose all policies eroding national sovereignty, and to promote a closer relationship between the peoples of the Crown Commonwealth and those of the United States of America, who share a common heritage.

Published by The Australian League of Rights, G.P.O. Box 1052, Melbourne, 3001.

A monthly journal — subscription \$30.00 p.a.

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