

# THE NEW TIMES

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*"Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free"*

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## RELIGION AND THE FUTURE OF CIVILISATION

*By Eric D. Butler*

**The late Mr. Hugh Gaitskell, a leader of the British Labor Party, a Fabian Socialist and economist, once said that C. H. Douglas, the founder of Social Credit, should be regarded more as a religious leader than a monetary reformer. The comment was meant to downgrade Douglas. And yet Gaitskell was closer to the truth than he realised. Those who concerned themselves only with the monetary proposals put forward by Douglas missed the significance of what this remarkable figure was attempting to put before those who would take heed. The future of Civilisation will be determined primarily by religion, which will govern what type of financial, economic, political and social changes man makes.**

Some years ago I appeared before the Australian people on the ABC television programme, "Monday Conference", an incredible event, which many still recall. One of the panel, which were supposed to be interviewing me in order to shed some light on The Australian League of Rights, sneeringly asked me about religion. I replied that it was the most important question in the world, important because the actions of men were governed by what they believe. It is true that faith without works is without life, and thus means death. But if there are works without some type of faith, then those works must be extremely erratic. Marxists are not erratic in their behaviour. Even their tortuous dialectics, which can appear confusing and even contradictory to those who have never taken the trouble to study the philosophy of Marxism, dialectical materialism, are a reflection of a coherent faith. Marxists are religious in the sense that they persistently attempt to translate what they believe into action. The Marxist faith is, of course, false, a fact demonstrated by the consistently disastrous results produced when the Marxist faith finds concrete expression.

As Douglas observed, the root meaning of religion is a binding back to what is believed to be Truth. All the great Civilisations have been undergirded by religion, a relating of action to some dominant Faith. If a Faith can be eroded, then the foundations of a Civilisation have been eroded. All Civilisations are the incarnation of underlying values and principles associated with a dominant Faith. The distinctive feature of Western Civilisation was the impact of the essential Christian Revelation concerning Truth.

The essence of Christianity is the tremendous emphasis on the value of each individual, the freeing of the individual from the collective. Douglas observed that the mass is unsaveable, that mobs are insane and that "the object

of Anti-Christ is to keep mankind in ever larger mobs, thus defeating the object of Christ to permit the emergence of self-governing, self-conscious individuals, exercising free will and choosing good *because* it is good. The energising factor is attraction, inducement." (*The Realistic Position of The Church of England*).

The famous psychologist Jung wrote in "*The Undiscovered Self*" that he saw the individual as "that infinitesimal unit on whom a world depends, and in whom, if we read the meaning of the Christian message aright, even God seeks his goal."

Douglas was emphatic that there was no hope of saving Western Civilisation without "practical Christianity." Nowhere has there been a greater retreat from Christianity

### BASIC FUND LAGGING

The League of Rights Basic Fund of \$45,000 for the year 1977-78 is lagging, with only approximately half contributed. The League is constantly expanding its programme, taking the long view of the rapidly developing national and international crisis. It is planned during this year to make much greater use of cassette tapes, both to spread information much more quickly, but also to interest more people in the League. Some relatively expensive equipment is required to make available a first-class cassette tape library. More equipment associated with printing is required. As the great majority of readers have not yet contributed to the current Basic Fund, they should have no difficulty in providing the second half. All Northern N.S.W. and Queensland contributions should be sent to Mr. Jeremy Lee, Kingstown, via Armidale, N.S.W. The balance to Box 1052J, G.P.O., Melbourne.

than in the Churches, where the philosophy of collectivism is now rampant and some type of alliance with Communism regarded as desirable. Here and there a brave few are attempting to hold the line against the mounting pressures of an unholy alliance of secular humanists, "Christian Communists" and others. Christian Authority has been undermined.

What is the Christian view of increasing financial debt enslavement, agriculture, automation, the policy of "full employment" and similar issues? There was a time when Christian spokesmen grappled such questions. Usury was

condemned as an evil. But no more. A re-generated Christianity requires not only an acceptance of the truths revealed by Douglas, but a conscious and dedicated effort by sufficient people to make those truths a reality. "Practical Christianity" alone can now avert the complete collapse of Civilisation. Social Crediters are charged with the responsibility of ensuring that Christianity is presented as the only answer to the crisis now so clearly upon us. It is back to basics, a study of those basics and the development of a Faith, which is strong enough to carry sufficient individuals through the storms ahead.

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## SOUTH AFRICA'S FINANCE — ECONOMIC ACHILLES HEEL

**South Africa is increasingly hampered in its struggle to survive against mounting international pressures because its Government insists upon following the same Keynesian policies of finance, which have brought all the industrialised nations of the world to a crisis, which is paving the way for an attempt to establish World Government along Communist lines. The end result must be, as C. H. Douglas warned, the complete collapse of Civilisation.**

**The progressive inflation now being suffered by the South Africans is the inevitable result of the finance-economic policies being pursued.**

Over the years endeavours have been made to warn the South African Nationalist Government that it was on a disaster course. The late Dr. J. D. Haldeman, formerly prominent in the Canadian Social Credit Movement, who made his home in Pretoria, worked for years attempting to influence South African politicians and officials. The most prominent of the South African politicians to grasp the significance of the financial policy was Dr. Hertzog, a former Minister for Health in the Nationalist Government. He was forced out of the Nationalist Government when he clashed with Prime Minister Vorster when Mr. Vorster started to depart from some of the policies of Dr. Verwoerd.

During many visits to South Africa Mr. Eric Butler has warned South Africans that their main Achilles heel was the Keynesian-type finance economic policy being pursued. He has pointed out that South Africa accepted the notorious Bretton Woods agreement, the establishment of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, while the South African Reserve Bank is modelled on the same lines as all Central Banks throughout the world. Mr. Butler has stressed that using Africans, as a type of raw material in a rapidly expanding industrial system must produce even more explosive results than those taking place in Western industrial countries.

### A REJECTED PROGRAMME

Back in the late 'sixties, Dr. Bryan Monahan, Chairman of the Social Credit Secretariat, submitted to the South African Prime Minister, through the South African Embassy at Canberra, an appreciation of the South African situation in relationship to the developing international crisis, outlining a finance-economic programme which the South Africans should adopt in their own defence. Dr. Monahan received no acknowledgment of his appreciation.

The following is a part of Dr. Monahan's appreciation, his proposed Draft Plan for South Africa and an explanation of the proposals:

#### IV. DRAFT PLAN FOR THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

##### (1) *National Resources Inventory:*

Draw up an inventory of all South Africa's capital assets, including estimates of mineral and other resources, and of the manpower, this being the average earning capacity per average working-life multiplied by the number of the workforce; the complete inventory to be in terms of current money-values. Re-value the inventory annually.

##### (2) *National Resources Account:*

Establish a National Resources Account (N.R.A.) and credit it with "interest" on the valuation of the National Resources at a rate to be determined annually.

##### (3) *Reduction of Prices:*

Draw on the N.R.A. to subsidise producers in individual cases in consideration of their agreeing to reduce prices of products by, in the first place, 5% of their current selling price, such reductions being carried to the consumer level, whether of capital production or consumer goods.

##### (4) *Compensation of Wages:*

Where due to changing economic circumstances rises in wage rates are determined *by arbitration*, subsidise the employers by draft on the N.R.A. so that the new wage rates do not increase prices.

##### (5) *Reduction of Taxation:*

Reduce all forms of taxation by 5% in the first place, and reimburse government revenues from the N.R.A. The Government to have no other access to this account.

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(6) *Gold Production:*

Subsidise from the N.R.A. presently uneconomic gold mines, and offer gold freely on the world market at current world price. Republic of South Africa gold reserves in excess of industrial requirements could also be used for this purpose.

V. EXPLANATION OF THE DRAFT PROPOSALS

(1) The proposal to evaluate resources is essentially normal company procedure as in a revaluation of assets with a view to an issue of bonus shares. In the case of the National Resources Inventory the value does not need to be exact. The purpose is to establish a base on which Proposal can be carried out, and to indicate variations from year to year. Under normal conditions of expanding productivity the valuation would increase each year, and would tend towards greater precision. It is to be noted that the valuation is *not* monetised, but "interest" credited to the N.R.A. is.

(2) The N.R.A. represents a drawing facility, equivalent to a bank overdraft, the limit of which in this case is the "interest" on the Inventory. The difference is that the "overdraft" is not repaid, but is replenished by annual "interest" and does not attract bank interest. The Bank or other instrumentality handling the account would be entitled to handling charges.

In considering this Proposal, it is important to recognise that the only "money" which has an inherent *commodity* value is gold, and to a much lesser extent coins. Paper money has a relatively small cost of production. But the greater part by far of what functions as money is bank credit, created out of nothing by book-entries and circulating in the form of cheques. Thus the monetisation of "interest" derived from the Inventory Valuation does not differ from normal bank procedure in method. In principle, however, the difference is crucial.

A full technical explanation of this procedure is too complex for inclusion here, but can be provided if required.

(3) This Proposal and Proposal (4) and, optionally, Proposal (6) are the key to the situation. The percentages expressed are tentative and illustrative only.

Insofar as the Government assumes responsibility for the overall control of the economy, its difficulty is in controlling the financing of industrial and other expansion without causing inflation. Proposals (3) and (4) introduce the money needed for expansion of the economy by *reducing* prices, and this and lowered taxation (both of which should be slowly progressive) are the economic equivalent of an increase of income for the individual, since increased productivity requires increased purchasing power to absorb it. An increase in incomes appears as an increase in prices overall, and is self-defeating, being offset only to the extent that an increase in productivity exceeds an increase in costs of production. By financing increased productivity directly, the self-defeating mechanism is progressively eliminated.

The "value" of a currency is commonly held to be, in the last resort, its exchange rate with a unit of gold. This in turn is set on the international financial exchange centres. The true value of a unit of currency, however, is its purchasing power within its country of origin. By decreasing prices *internally*, the external value of a currency is increased—an effect normally sought to be achieved by devaluing a currency in terms of gold.

The effect of Proposal (3) is to strike at the root of international control of internal finance, which is the key to economic control and, so long as the existing system is maintained, political control. This proposal, therefore, would

force the International Planners into the open. Their only economic remedy would be to "devalue" South Africa's currency on the international exchanges; but this would immediately make South Africa's more competitive, which, together with the "revaluation" of the Rand in terms of internal purchasing-power, would make the Rand more valuable, not less, in international transactions. This move would indeed be "checkmate" in the game of international finance where the origin of the world's troubles lies.

A further commonly held misconception concerning economic theory may be dealt with conveniently at this point—that a country grows rich on its exports. This is not true. What is true is that a country grows more powerful under the existing financial system to the extent that it holds other countries in its debt providing, of course, that it controls the physical sanctions to enforce the debt. This is the explanation of the rise and fall of Great Britain. The headquarters of World finance has been transferred from London to New York.

But international trade in realistic terms is pure barter. A country, which exported the whole of its production, and imported nothing but money, would die of starvation as soon as household stocks were exhausted. But adherence to the theory that a surplus of exports over imports constitutes a favourable balance places a country at the mercy of the manipulators of foreign exchange.

(6) Since purchasing-power, and not gold, represents the real value of a currency, it is obvious that once purchasing-power has been stabilised, or, as should happen with increasing productivity, enhanced, gold can be dispensed with as a basis of currency. But since the power of international finance depends on gold as the measure of a currency's value, and as the world is suffering from a shortage of gold, the offer to supply gold from "uneconomic" sources exposes still further the position of the international financiers, and makes much more difficult the imposition of an embargo on exports to South Africa which, short of war, is the only effective measure that could be taken.

Apart from physical sanctions—i.e. war—South Africa is vulnerable only to the extent that it is dependent on critical imports.

A further misconception is that a country such as South Africa should seek to attract "overseas investment". Technical skills are a purchasable commodity, and to the greatest extent possible—and it becomes increasingly possible—industrial and other expansion should be by the exploitation of internal resources, financed by internal financial resources. With the Rand of increasing purchasing power, foreign "capital" should be repatriated.

VI. TACTICS

A careful study of documentary evidence, a great deal of which has become available in the past twenty years, makes it quite certain that an attempt to impose an invulnerable World Government on the nations of the earth is approaching its climax. The attempts to coerce the Republic of South Africa by attacking apartheid, and the Republic's position in relation to South West Africa, and by the imposition and attempted maintenance of an arms embargo demonstrate the vital importance of the Republic's power of independent initiative at this time, when a conventional military assault would be both physically and psychologically difficult to sustain. But a purely defensive posture by the Republic will in the end lead to certain defeat whereas offensive action, by showing the way to break out of economic bondage, might

quite possibly lead to the defeat of the Conspiracy.

In these circumstances, if it were decided to implement a strategy along the lines indicated in the Draft Proposals, it would be essential to plan in secrecy so that an economically and practically sound scheme could be brought into operation suddenly as a surprise move able to achieve a quick success. It should be announced in the first place simply as "economic measures introduced by the Government to overcome inflation". There would have to be international retaliation; but this would force the opposition onto open ground, where his attacks could be exposed for what they are. The Draft Proposals are fully in accord with economic reality, and are flexible and adaptable, whereas the maneuverings of international finance are political. Expansion of productivity is a fact; financial restriction is a strategy. Overcoming inflation would release ever-increasing productivity, and, basing currency on a stable and, progressively, an enhanced purchasing-power, would free that currency from a fictitious tie with gold or "reserve" currencies, and would free the economy from an equally fictitious dependence on an export surplus. It is vitally important to recognise that it is not necessary to import "money" to purchase a country's own production. Surplus exports over imports are a real economic—i.e., physical loss. The ultimate, though because of international repercussions, not the immediate, result of what is proposed would be to increase the international value of the Rand, and until other countries based currency on purchasing-power, it might even be necessary to impose

an export tax to prevent a drain of the real resources of the country. Conservation, not dispersion, of real resources is a fundamental necessity of national independence.

It is impossible to foretell when and how the ultimate climax of a centuries long plan will occur, but the strategic situation has deteriorated so rapidly in recent years that it is safe to say that time is not on our side. This is epitomised in the fact that the Republic of South Africa alone now possesses the power to exercise an independent initiative without constituting a threat to anyone but the manipulators of world power. This independence can probably be maintained until South Africa becomes subject to a nuclear ultimatum. As long as the rules of international finance are adhered to in their present form, that independence is circumscribed by theoretical obligations. But it is *essential* to break out of those rules while it remains physically possible. No genuine obligations—obligations founded in economic reality—need be repudiated. The ability to supply gold, while not being bound by the economics of a gold-based currency, and the ability to supply materials vital to the economies of other countries, provide a unique and final opportunity to avert disaster for the Republic, and perhaps lead to redemption for the rest of the world. The ruthless technological tyranny, which threatens us, would be the worst disaster ever to befall mankind.

To repeat, The Republic of South Africa uniquely has the one chance against a final certainty of a new and probably final Dark Age.

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## AMERICAN TAXPAYERS FINANCING SOUTHERN AFRICAN REVOLUTION

**In a report late last year the distinguished American columnist Paul Scott wrote that "The only certainty about President Carter's highly questionable policy of trying to force major political change in southern Africa is that it is going to cost the American taxpayers a lot of money."**

**The State Department has established a \$100 million Southern African Special Requirements Fund under authority granted in the \$6.7 billion foreign aid bill approved by Congress. Many Americans are not even aware of how the Special Requirements Fund was established.**

When first proposed to Congress early in 1977, the fund was known as the "Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) Development Fund". It was intended to be made available for a new government in Rhodesia following the anticipated collapse of the Smith Government. But the Smith Government has survived and there was considerable criticism of the fund by a number of Republican members of the Congress. The State Department then changed the name of the fund to the Southern African Special Requirements Fund", the money for which was provided in the foreign aid bill, and slipped through Congress with little public discussion.

President Carter is authorised to spend the fund as he sees fit. Neither Rhodesia nor South Africa has ever asked for foreign aid from the U.S.A. The Carter policy is to replace the present governments of the two countries. And it is clear that it is realised the new governments will require massive American financial support.

How does the Carter Administration propose to use the 100 million dollars Special Requirements Fund? When questioned about the fund by Senator J. Bennett Johnston, a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Robert H. Nooter, acting deputy for the Agency for International Development, replied: "The 100 million dollars are intended as part of a fund not yet programmed which

are expected to grow out of the changing political situation in Southern Africa." Nooter went on to make the significant observation that "It might be used in the Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) negotiations. The negotiators might be more effective having the funds to use as a bargaining chip . . . There could also be, for example, disruption or violence in these countries.

Nooter's testimony resulted in a group of ten members of Congress to circulate a warning to their colleagues, stating: "The establishment of this \$100 million fund is

### GAY BRETT

**It is with deep regret and a sense of great loss that we record the recent death, after a long illness, of Mrs. Gay Brett of New England, N.S.W.**

**Those who really knew Gay Brett were privileged. She not only made a vital contribution to the work of The League of Rights in her own right, but was a perfect helpmate to her husband John. It was tragic that she should leave us while in the full bloom of womanhood, but perhaps, as John Brett so courageously says, there is a lesson to be learned. We extend our deepest sympathy to John Brett and his young family.**

to serve as an enticement for militant black organisations to overthrow the present governments of Rhodesia and South Africa."

According to this group of Congressmen, Black nationalist guerrilla leaders in Southern Africa have been privately told by Administration officials that the Carter Administration is ready to spend billions to underwrite political changes in the region. American taxpayers are being used to help finance revolution. However, as the news of the Special Requirements Fund becomes more widely known in the United States, electoral pressure against the Carter Administration's Southern African policy increases.

### **RHODESIANS CRITICAL OF SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FUND**

Another view of the American Special Requirements Fund is provided in the November-December issue of *Rhodesia & World Report*:

The Zimbabwe Development Fund in the latest Anglo-American proposals could be simply a trap in that it might well be a non-starter, being withdrawn by its sponsors at some political whim. It has, however, aroused the cupidity of some Rhodesian international "merchant princes" who see in it considerable opportunities for profiteering, conveniently concealed under the fashionable cover story of inflation.

The proposed fund has received two well-conceived and realistic attacks from local Rhodesian authorities on development.

In the first of these attacks Professor W. R. Mackechnie, of the University of Rhodesia and president of the Rhodesian Institute of Engineers, stated that while the proposed fund might pay for an oil from coal plant or another hydro-electric scheme it would not — even if it was in Rhodesian rather than American dollars — meet the current national budget for as long as two years. He said: "What this country (Rhodesia) really needs is the removal of sanctions and the ability to compete on the export and domestic markets with all comers". He added: "Development fund schemes promoted elsewhere have not been as successful as the promoters or participants might have hoped." He said, "The pitfalls are that the money is generally spent to a large extent in the countries of its origin to provide politically advantageous employment there." He stated: "other strings included expatriate expertise supplied by those countries. Their greatest impact was often a significant rise in the inflation rate and the provision of over-sophisticated and uneconomic development, rather than appropriate technology and services."

The second attack came from Professor R. L. Cole, head of the Economics Department of the University of Rhodesia. He pointed out that there are so many poorer black states than Rhodesia that accordingly the justification for promising aid to Rhodesia was essentially political. He added that there was a need to improve the level of

## **ANNUAL NATIONAL WEEKEND**

To assist country and interstate supporters to make forward plans, we announce that the 1978 National Weekend in Melbourne will start with the Annual "New Times" Dinner on Friday, September 22nd. With sufficient notice, private accommodation can be provided for all those requiring it.

agricultural output throughout Africa — which meant coercing people who are content with their traditional way of life as well as larger land holdings.

These sentiments above coincide so exactly with those of *Rhodesia & World Report*. We are pleasantly surprised to find our views supported by Rhodesian academics.

### **We can do it alone**

It should be noted that, while the proposed development fund amounts to no more than U.S.\$850 million, European development in Rhodesia has been estimated at current values to be worth more than some U.S.\$100 million — moreover it is proposed to pay the grants from the fund in annual dribbles. This fits in well with the flow of supplies of goods from the donors' side in more senses than one. Even the Tanzanian Government complained that a loan from Britain had to be spent on scrap road-making machinery as it flowed into a scrap yard situated in the constituency of one of the British Cabinet Ministers. The scandal of the similar involvement of a United States Senator in the spending of a loan granted to the Bolivian Government by the American Import Export Bank has a page to itself in Latin-American history.

Rhodesia wants no loans or grants from anyone outside. She has managed well on her own in spite of sanctions. Still less does she want any Zimbabwe or any other loan or grant to help compensate for the chaos and corruption of a black government.

Readers are reminded that before UDI Rhodesia had one of the highest rates of "take off" in the world; that is to say, that she was able to provide all her capital requirements from her own profits. This self-sufficiency was of course anathema to the One-Worlders and was the main cause of sanctions being applied in order to make Rhodesia a client state of the United Nations Organisation.

## **LEGACIES**

Occasionally the Social Credit cause has been assisted by moderate legacies left by supporters. As foreseen by the founder of the Social Credit movement, C. H. Douglas, the battle to change the course of history was going to be a long one. Dedication of a high order would be required. Social Credit is a unique movement, stressing the importance of the heritage principle. It has, thanks to its pioneers, become firmly established in the stream of history. Those who wish to help make it possible for the continuation and development of the movement may care to ensure that The Australian League of Rights, 273 Little Collins Street, Melbourne, be mentioned in their wills.

## METRIC AND COMPUTERS

The programme to impose the metric system of weights and measures upon the English-speaking nations, including the United States, has met with varying degrees of resistance, the strongest to date being in the United States. We have no doubt that the basic reason for the pro-metric campaign is linked with the concept of "One World". It is a major feature of the attack on a distinctive Anglo-Saxon culture. But it is also resulting in enormous industrial sabotage, and contributing towards inflation.

As one of the more superficial pro-metric arguments is that the computer age has made metrics imperative, we publish the following reply to this argument, by R. W. Parry, well-known Melbourne chartered accountant, and President of the Australian Anti-Metric Association, who wrote as follows in a letter to "The Toowoomba Chronicle", Queensland, on October 27, 1977:

I was both delighted and concerned by the letter from Mr. D. J. Davidson (T.C., 20-9-77) regarding metrication.

My delight was in his statement that "no rational person expects Australia to go 'totally metric' " for it shows he is no supporter of the Metric Conversion Board.

The M.C.B. has stated that it wants to make Australia use the metric system as the sole system of measurement. It is an absurd objective, because no country in the world uses only metric units of measurement. All countries extensively use the popular imperial measures, such as feet and inches.

Most of the remainder of Mr. Davidson's letter has me deeply concerned because it shows, first, that he has little or no knowledge of computers, and secondly that his students are not being taught the basic fundamentals so essential if they are to become useful citizens of tomorrow.

It was quite misleading for Mr. Davidson to suggest that the confusion, which existed when we first adopted decimal currency, is the same as the confusion now being experienced in the switch to metrics.

Our currency was decimalised on the basis of 10 shillings becoming one dollar, and the shilling was sub-divided into 10 cents (instead of 12 pennies) so that the relationship between the old and new currencies was mathematically very simple.

The same does not apply with the proposed switch of measuring units. None of our traditional units is retained, and the conversion factors needed to translate familiar everyday weights and measures into the host of new units with foreign prefixes make an electronic calculator an essential weapon when accurate translations are to be made.

Electronic computers shun decimals wherever possible, and use the base 16 (hexadecimal) numbering system, because the latter has these expensive machines operating at maximum efficiency. If a computer records in decimal numbers its capacity in an eight-digit printout gives a capacity equal to the decimal number 4294967295. (It is printed as FF, FFF, FFF — F equalling the decimal number 15).

In other words, by switching from the decimal system to the hexadecimal system the capacity of the computer is increased over 40 times.

No businessman would seriously suggest that any machine he owned (or rented) should be worked to only

one-fortieth of its capacity, so staff are trained to use the efficient hexadecimal numbering system.

Mr. Davidson said he "challenged" my assertion "that growing numbers of scientists and mathematicians are supporting the view that the computer era will see the elimination of the decimal numbering system for most purposes".

In an article in *The Listener* (U.K.) of January 25 1962 Professor A. C. Aitken. Professor of Mathematics at Edinburgh University made these points: (1) The scale of 10 is alien to the electronic computer; (2) The development of computers was retarded for some years by the misguided attempt to work them in the decimal scale; (3) In the future of electronic computation the decimal scale will have vanished from the scene.

In his book entitled *Number the Language of Science*, Professor Tobias Dantzig Professor of Mathematics at the University of Maryland. U.S.A. said: "That mankind adopted the decimal system is a physiological accident. Those who see the hand of Providence in everything will have to admit that Providence is a poor mathematician". He went on to explain that, if mathematicians were asked to choose a number base for the world to use, "the number 10 would not even be considered".

An I.B.M. lecturer at a course for chartered accountants, introducing them to computers (which I attended nine years ago) summed up the position concisely. He said: "Any of you who think decimals are the way to do calculations are thinking B.C. — Before Computers!"

It is not many centuries since Europe used a system of Roman numerals. The decimal system replaced it when it was found to be superior for most everyday purposes.

Mr. Davidson made the common mistake of metric system supporters when he asserted that "Our whole number system is a decimal one, and it is logical that our measurement system should also be decimal". The logical way to produce the most useful system of measurements is to choose units most suited to the needs of the users.

A study of measuring systems used since early Biblical times shows that many of the Biblical measuring units were relics of early Babylonian and Greek metric measuring systems. Ten omers equalled one bath (or ephah) and 10 baths equalled one homer. These primitive units were discarded as man's knowledge increased and he could see the immense practical advantages of other, non-decimally

related units.

The metric system is a modern example of history repeating itself - a few Eighteenth Century Frenchmen copied the principles used in the early Biblical units and produced the so-called metric system. While Napoleon thought the system would be ideal for the then millions of finger-counting near-illiterate Europeans he was controlling, he had the sense to reject a proposed decimal clock, and retained the proven clock we still use — which evolved in ancient Babylonian times over 4000 years ago

With the hindsight of the way Biblical metric units were abandoned, and the knowledge of the way computers are revolutionising mathematics, one does not need a crystal ball to know that the French metric units will soon be as

obsolete as the omers and baths of the Bible.

I thoroughly agree with Mr. Davidson's closing remark that "the ability to adapt, in this fast-changing world of ours, is an important attribute to have".

Tests conducted by I.B.M. (to name but one authority) have shown that students and adults can very quickly adapt to the hexadecimal numbering system — the system certain to be the predominate one used in the Twenty-first Century.

I stress that decimal numbers will still be used (just as Roman numerals are still used for some purposes) but it is absurd for Australia to be currently squandering thousands of millions of dollars trying to adopt the fast-becoming obsolete metric system as its sole measuring system.

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## TO THE POINT

**While politicians everywhere continue to pay lip-service to the necessity for less trade restrictions a theme strongly endorsed by the international financial groups, finance-economic realities, and the fear of electoral backlashes compel them to take steps to protect domestic producers against imports. Prime Minister Fraser of Australia is again using strong words in protesting to the European Economic Community about its expressed determination to reduce steel imports. E.E.C. politicians point out that they have massive unemployment and that steel exports from Japan, Australia and other countries aggravate their problems. And, of course, this is right under present financial policies.**

Sir Samuel Burston, President of the Australian Woolgrowers and Graziers Council, has proposed that Australian farmers should boycott European cars and farm machinery in protest against the Common Market's refusal to buy more Australian food. Here we have further evidence of a trade war, which is becoming more intense and bitter. Australian farmers who blame E.E.C. tariff barriers, and the consequent loss of the British market, for much of Australia's current rural recession, might ask where were the spokesmen for the farmers' organisations and the politicians when they could have taken practical steps to encourage the British against the Common Market disaster. Instead of fighting to keep the British-Australia link strong, some of those now complaining about E.E.C. were adopting the line that British entry into the Common Market was "inevitable" and that Australia should diversify.

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President Jimmy Carter is already being described as "a one-term president." His first State of the Union address did nothing to reverse the falling public opinion polls. Inflation continues, and is edging upwards again, and the much-heralded end of the business recession is not in sight. Not even around the famous corner! The President has pathetically called for voluntary price and wage freezes, apparently oblivious to the fact that when such a freeze was imposed, it did nothing to end inflation. There has been no positive reaction to Mr. Carter's budget. The Carter Administration's pro-Communist foreign policy is coming under increasing criticism. Those naive people who put their faith in Jimmy Carter because

he was "a born-again Christian" have become progressively silent. Carter has, of course, never been more than a front man for the real government of the U.S.A. When he has served his purpose he can be discarded and forgotten. More "saviours" will be produced! Fortunately, however, a growing number of Americans are becoming awake, thanks to the widespread circulation of conservative, anti-Marxist literature.

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It is becoming increasingly clear that the Financier-Marxist conspiracy has no intention of permitting any chance of a new constitutional and political arrangement in Rhodesia working. It is conceivable that the internal settlement worked out between the Smith Government and the three African national leaders could result in a situation where the European continues to be a major stabilising influence holding the balance of political power. Whether or not such an arrangement could work only time would tell. But Dr. Owen, the British Foreign Minister who told the House of Commons, "If it was in my power I would have removed Smith the day I took office", is prepared to collaborate with the Communists and the Carter Administration in backing Mugabe and Nkomo and their terrorist thugs.

The end of the Rhodesian drama is far from over. And the nature of the drama itself highlights a major feature of the world crisis. Peter Simple of *The Daily Telegraph*, London, commented on the occasion of Rhodesia's last Independence celebration day, November 11, 1977: "But, whatever happens, future Western historians, if there are any, will see Rhodesia as a symbol of a nation's courage

and resourcefulness on the one hand, and on the other of the treachery and stupidity of the liberal West, its seemingly irreversible rush towards its own destruction."

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Every new pressure towards more centralisation produces a reaction in favour of greater decentralisation. This is one of those truths, which keep mocking the centralists. The great Solzhenitsyn has advocated the principle of smaller political, racial and cultural unities. The creation of larger political and geographical units tends to result in cultural impoverishment.

Kipling wrote,

"God gave all men all earth to love.  
But since our hearts are small,  
Ordained for each one spot should prove  
Beloved over all."

The Swiss have been more successful than most people in preserving their cultural and political autonomy. Solzhenitsyn has complimented the Swiss for their policy, which insists that a candidate for naturalisation can only be accepted by the people of particular canton. It is also significant that no foreign worker can vote in Switzerland and he has no right of permanent residence. It is surprising that Switzerland has not been subject to an international smear campaign. Could it be that the Swiss are spared this criticism because their comparatively stable country is used as a major base by the International Financiers?

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Speaking at the recent National Agricultural Outlook Conference in Canberra, Mr. Rob Tazelaar, principal administrator of the Commission of European Communities, stressed the big food surpluses in Europe. Mr. Tony Webster of the Australian Dairy Corporation complained that Australian dairymen were suffering because the E.E.C. was "dumping" on to other markets.

Harmony between nations can only be established when each nation operates a finance-economic system designed primarily to produce for itself, surpluses being used to obtain from other nations what cannot be readily produced domestically.

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The noted British military historian, A. J. P. Taylor, has joined the growing number of those calling for the release from Spandau prison in West Berlin of Rudolf Hess, deputy to Hitler before flying to Scotland in an attempt to end the Second World War. Hess has now been imprisoned for 31 years and since September 1966, has been the only inmate of the prison. The French, British, Americans and Russians take it in turn to guard him. Taylor wrote: "Why should we tolerate this inhuman treatment of Hess any longer? Surely it is time we remember our own principles of morality and fair play instead of allowing the Russians to dictate to us. Even at the

Nuremberg trials, Hess was found not guilty of any war crimes or crimes against humanity. His only crime was that he was Hitler's deputy. Unless the Western nations display a little of the humanity their leaders often prate about, Hess will certainly die in Spandau prison. The Hess case will remain as a reminder of how the Second World War speeded the advance to a new and more sophisticated barbarism and a retreat from Christian chivalry and charity.

## MIDDLE EAST TIME BOMB STILL TICKING

An objective study of the peace initiative of President Sadat of Egypt concerning the Zionist State of Israel and the Middle East crisis provides yet one more example of the impossibility of genuine negotiations and fair agreements with Zionist leaders. President Sadat's dramatic visit to Israel and attempt to reach some settlement with the Zionist leaders was prompted primarily because of Egypt's deteriorating economic position. Nasser's Socialism plus the crushing military burden has placed the Sadat regime in a critical position. Sadat has risked his political future by his approach to Israel. It is already clear that the former terrorist leader Begin is not going to agree to solving the basic cause of the Middle East crisis — the plight of the Palestinians deprived of their home by Zionist aggression. The Middle East time bomb is still ticking and further explosions are inevitable.

As observed by Zionists themselves, the establishment of the State of Israel was designed to be more than "providing a home for the Jews", the great majority of whom have no intention of going there; it was but a step in a "far-reaching plan". There has been a persistent attempt to confuse the real nature of the Middle East crisis and to use it to condition people everywhere to accept the drive towards World Government.

But there is an awakening and perhaps it is an encouraging sign that Mr. Issa Nakhleh, Chairman of the Palestine Arab delegation was invited by the National Executive Committee of the American Legion to speak at the 1977 National Convention of the Legion.

### "CENSORED HISTORY"

*By Eric D. Butler*

This compact background introduction to the Middle East crisis and the conspiracy against traditional civilisation has been widely recommended internationally. Essential reading. Price: 80 cents.