

DINNER ISSUE

THE NEW TIMES

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

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C. H. DOUGLAS - "THE GREATEST PROPHET OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY"

"The test of true science is accurate prophecy, and C. H. Douglas was not only a great scientist but the greatest prophet of the twentieth century". This was the theme of Mr. Eric D. Butler's address to the annual dinner of "The New Times", held in Melbourne on Friday, October 3. As usual, a number of people were attending their first Dinner and expressed their great pleasure at being able to participate in what is a unique annual event. One of the inspiring highlights of the Dinner was, for the first time, a Mother — Mrs. Betty Luks — and her son — John — proposing and seconding the toast to "The New Times". This event made a tremendous impact on those present and provided concrete evidence of the life and the continuity of the Social Credit Movement.

In welcoming guests, Chairman Jeremy Lee made special reference to a number of those present. Guest of honour was Mrs. Rona Joyner from Queensland, described by some as the Mary Whitehouse of Australia. But he also wanted those present to extend a warm welcome to Mrs. Betty Luks, heading the Concerned Christian Senate team in South Australia, and the three members of the Christian Alternative Senate team in Victoria — Mr. Bill Petering, Mrs. Jean McPherson and Mr. Lou Cook. All stood to be loudly applauded. Mr. Lee said that the Christian Senate candidates were pioneering one of the most momentous developments in Australian political history.

Also present at the Dinner, and especially welcomed by the Chairman, was Mr. John Bennett, Secretary of The Victorian Council for Civil Liberties, the centre of a storm in Australian academic circles because he challenged the "myth of the six million". Mr. Bennett had recently returned from the U.S.A. where he had attended the second international conference of the Institute for Historical Review. He is now a member of the Editorial Advisory Committee for *The Journal of Historical Review*.

For the first time a Tasmanian proposed the Loyal Toast. In moving the toast, Mr. Tom Hume of Hobart recalled that Tasmania had produced some outstanding Social Crediters, mentioning Mr. James Guthrie and Mr. Bruce Brown. He also recalled how a Tasmanian Labor Premier, Mr. A. G. Ogilvie had openly endorsed Social Credit during the Great Depression.

A TRUE PROPHET

In his Dinner address, Mr. Eric Butler stressed that events continued to confirm the accuracy of Douglas's warnings about what must happen if present finance-economic policies were persisted with. Describing Douglas as one of the greatest prophets of history, Mr. Butler said that the test of true science was a consistently ac-

curate prediction. "Douglas was both a great scientist and a great prophet", Mr. Butler said.

Mr. Butler recalled that in his earliest works Douglas warned that monetary inflation, leading to explosive developments, was inevitable if a policy of "full employment", financed by debt-finance, was to be continued. Every industrialised nation, including those, which became industrialised after the Second World War, was now feeling the growing impact of inflation, and striving desperately to solve internal problems by greater exports. The result was growing international friction, which could lead to disasters dwarfing anything experienced in the past.

Mr. Butler said that Douglas had stressed in *Social Credit*, written in the early 'twenties, that Western Civilisation was doomed unless centralist finance-economic policies were reversed. Douglas predicted that unless conservatives challenged these policies, all they could do was fight a series of rearguard actions before being overwhelmed by the forces of destruction. The programmes of the Fraser Government in Australia and the Thatcher Government in the United Kingdom, were demonstrating the truth of the Douglas prediction.

Mr. Butler reminded his listeners that Douglas had said that there would come a time in the lifetime of those then living, when the forces of destruction appeared to be in the ascendant and that there would be a critical

COMMONWEALTH LEADERS FOR 1981 DINNER

It was generally agreed that holding the "New Times" Dinner on the first Friday in October, when the Victorian football finals and the Melbourne Show are over, was highly successful. The 1981 Dinner will be held on Friday, October 2nd, and it is anticipated that all National Directors of The Crown Commonwealth League of Rights, will be present following a Crown Commonwealth Conference in New Zealand.

moment when a small body of men and women who knew what to do and how to do it, would decide the future of Civilisation.

Mr. Butler stressed that the regeneration of Civilisation depended upon the regeneration of practical Christianity. He expressed his confidence that that regeneration was now under way.

"SO MUCH TO SAY"

In her short address to Dinner guests, and on Sunday at the National Action Seminar, Mrs. Rona Joyner of Queensland demonstrated why she has had such an effect on politicians and others. She recalled how she had heard much about Social Credit in the family when young, but had not taken much notice.

Mrs. Joyner said she had so much to say that she did not know which material to present. But she did stress that in opposing offensive television programmes, it was essential to obtain a list of the directors of advertising companies, and to protest direct, warning them that their products would be boycotted if they continued to

sponsor the programmes.

SUCCESSFUL SEMINARS

The National Seminar on Saturday, October 4, was most successful in every way, with all speakers combining to make a powerful defence of the traditional family. Tapes of all the addresses are available for those requiring them. As usual, literature sales were heavy and many new contacts made. The Action Seminar on Sunday, October 5, starting with a short non-denominational Divine Service in the morning, was packed with reports on action programmes. National Director, Mr. Eric Butler, thanked the volunteers who have manned the printing presses and helped with the production and despatch of League journals. Victorian actionists present responded magnificently to the appeal to assist the Christian Alternative Senate team with the distribution of brochures, the total ordered immediately being in excess of 50,000.

There was no evidence whatever that the League of Rights was "fading", as predicted some time back by one newspaper "expert"!

CONSCIENCE VOTING — A CHALLENGE TO CHRISTIANS

By Jeremy Lee

One of the major subjects discussed at the National weekend, both at "The New Times" Dinner, was the role of the Christian in politics. The following is the essence of what Mr. Jeremy Lee said on the subject of "conscience" voting:

Most people, if asked what sort of political representative they required, would opt for honesty, courage and discernment, before they discussed issues. Mr. Jeremy Lee claimed in his paper.

They would feel it essential to be represented by a man who would judge each bit of legislation by some yardstick of set of standards, and then make as honest a judgment as possible when it came to voting.

However, he said, there was no hope of returning to a parliament composed of such representatives until the voter was prepared to vote the same way himself. The time had now come for Christians to realise that the vote - as everything else was a responsibility which should be used in God's service, which presented a great challenge to all those concerned about the erosion of parliament.

He put it to his audience that voting from fear was a negation of responsibility. The current tendency to make a tentative choice for the lesser of two evils should be anathema to responsible people. It would be far better to withdraw from the voting process altogether for a while, than to continue giving licence to patently anti-Christian policies.

"I put it to you," he challenged the audience. "That if a government or a politician who has received your vote subsequently enacts anything evil or detrimental to the sort of society God would have on earth, you are just as responsible as if you had voted in parliament yourselves."

Christians could no longer get by simply by voting once every three years for what they considered the least damaging alternative, and then wash their hands of subsequent responsibility like Pontius Pilate.

"What is urgently needed now is an association perhaps even a union, although that word has an unfortunate meaning today - of conscience voters: in other words, *an association of individuals who have pledged themselves not to vote for anything or anyone unless by doing so they are promoting even in the humblest way - truthful and creative programme, rather than a deceitful and*

SOCIAL CREDIT TRAINING COURSE

In his "New Times" Dinner address, Mr. Eric Butler paid a special tribute to the invaluable work of Mr. John Fitzgerald, principal tutor for the Social Credit correspondence training course. This course consists of eight lectures originally prepared by Mr. Eric Butler. Students are supplied with the notes of the lectures together with questions for written answers. Answers are commented upon and suggestions made. Those who have worked through this course systematically under Mr. John Fitzgerald's expert guidance can testify to how they are much better equipped as Social Engineers. The backbone of the Social Credit movement in Australia, New Zealand and Canada has been built up through the Social Credit Training Course over many years. New students may start the course at any time. The charge is only \$10, which barely covers the cost of notes and correspondence. Australian and New Zealand readers wishing to take this course should write to The Director, Social Credit Training Course, Box 1052J, G.P.O., Melbourne, enclosing \$10.

destructive one,"

Mr. Lee stressed that membership of such an association should involve a conscious commitment by each individual wanting to participate — "I pledge myself -- in token of my Christian faith — not to vote in any way, unless I am satisfied that the results of my vote will make for a better society rather than a worse one."

While refusing to vote might sound negative, it was not nearly so negative as voting destructively. But an association of such individuals could turn their negative stance to a positive advance.

"I believe that three percent of the Australian voting population, working together to gain a common increment from their association, could change Australian politics," Mr. Lee said. "Three percent is usually enough to decide the fate of every government in power. If every candidate, party or government was faced with the fact that the votes of three percent of his electorate could only be gained by negotiation — a negotiation that started from principles — the birth of a new Christian-motivated democracy could be conceived. There is a great deal to be learnt — but that's a very good reason for starting right away, if Christians are going to have any effect in the tumultuous conditions starting to break in the western world."

"KEYS TO MY UNDERSTANDING OF MANY OF CHRIST'S COMMANDS"

In proposing the toast to "The New Times", Mrs. Betty Luks said that in reading the works of men like C. H. Douglas, Mr. L. D. Byrne and Dr. Geoffrey Dobbs, she was provided with keys to an understanding of many of Christ's teachings. Mrs. Luks said:

When my five healthy active strong-willed children were younger, I made it a habit to stay up longer than the other members of the family. For one hour I would have a quiet time to myself. I called it "recharging my batteries".

This weekend is such a time for us all.

Just as my involvement and committal to my family and those around me used up my inner reserves so we in this association of individuals have come together to "recharge our batteries".

Over the last few days I went back in my mind to my first contact with this movement and why I became interested. Although my husband, who is a Latvian, had told me about "Communism", I couldn't really grasp the reality and consequences of such a force or power. It was only when I read of the experiences of men like Richard Wurmbrand that I began to understand the forces so nakedly exposed in his books. I became a strong "anti-Communist". Mind you, I had no answer to Communism. But I was anti. Then a supporter, a Mr. Abrahamsen of Geelong, Victoria, with whom I had then come in contact, would talk on some strange money theories. But this wasn't my strong point. I was an anti-Communist. As far as I was concerned, Communism was the problem, not money. Didn't I have a lot to learn?

I am sure there are probably just as many reasons as there are people as to what first sparked their interest in this movement and the Truth it serves. But one thing I do know: I am much richer in eternal riches for my association and involvement. I have great pleasure in reading the works of men such as C. H. Douglas, L. D. Byrne and Dr. Geoffrey Dobbs. These men provided keys to my understanding of many of Christ's teachings.

Human nature being what it is, I would enjoy taking these Truths and savouring them at my leisure, just as one can admire and enjoy a beautiful gem stone . . . to gaze at its beauty simply because it is that — a thing of beauty.

These were some of the thoughts as I attempted to put down on paper a toast to *The New Times* and like a

blinding spiritual light the Parable of pearl of great price came alive to me. The person in that story went and sold all that he had to acquire that pearl. And that is what I see the people of *The New Times* have done. The pearl of great price is the eternal Truths of God and the price our whole self.

Again the Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls. And upon finding one pearl of great value he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

"EVERYONE IS IMPORTANT"

In seconding his Mother's toast to *The New Times*, Mr. John Luks said:

It was E. Merrill Root, who wrote in an article on the family, "Living relationships do not only extend in space but are things of continuity in time . . . individual destiny, the family, the nation, man's relationship to his



Coming together to "recharge our batteries" — Mrs. Betty Luks proposing toast to "The New Times".

God".

This is a dimension my generation has ignored to its own detriment. Fortunately, over the years, my Mother has seeded the minds of her children . . . not always well received, but, the seeds were sown.

The seeds were the glimpses of Truth from the pens of Eric D. Butler, Jeremy Lee, and going further back into the past... C. H. Douglas.

St. Paul said (1 Cor. 3:6) that one man sows, another waters, but it is God who gives the increase.

The men I have mentioned are of course associated with this movement and Truth is not exclusive to this movement. But the influence on my mind came from these sources, shedding light on such subjects as a Christian's approach to politics, economics, finance, the

principles of association and much else.

Once a person has fed on such food, there is much around which can be shown to be empty and shallow. It is an honour for me to second this toast to *The New Times*. It is a toast to the supporters of the past, present and the future, who share "a common philosophy", from which are drawn the policies, the "fruits" of which are the objectives.

One very important fact of such an association of individuals is that everyone is important. We can't all be Eric Butlers and Jeremy Lees, but each has a priceless gift of talent to contribute, however great or small. And those talents and gifts are needed to further the work of *The New Times* in the form of the "living relationship". It is with great pleasure that I second the toast my Mother has moved.

"ONWARD CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS"

In view of the dominant theme of the Australian League of Rights National Weekend, of which "The New Times" is a major feature, perhaps the most appropriate message to the Dinner came in a cable from the President of The New Zealand League of Rights, veteran Mr. Sid Wood, who simply said, "Onward Christian Soldiers".

The Chairman, Mr. Jeremy Lee, said that unfortunately the Queensland State Director, Mr. Chas Pinwill, had found at the last minute that the Senate campaign prevented him from attending. But Mr. Pinwill sent the following message: "We have a great campaign here in Queensland to get Flo Petersen and Glen Sheil into the Senate. It says something for Queensland that we have two people actually worth supporting. The campaign has kept me flat out at home this year, but I'm with you in spirit".

After observing that there were a number of other apologies, verbal messages of goodwill and a wire from well-known Victorian actionists. John and Yvonne Devine, the following messages were read:

"A VITAL PART OF OUR HERITAGE"

From Mr. Ron Gostick, National Director, Canadian League of Rights

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

Just a word to wish you a happy and fruitful New Times Weekend, and to commend you for the great work done this past year and wish you even more significant advances in the coming months.

As Eric Butler will attest, Canadians were forced to examine the "Constitutional Issue" this past year, as never before, as political leaders and governments have been moving to produce a new set of rules for our future. We were fortunate to have Eric Butler over here at a critical stage in this campaign, as his help and advice were invaluable - - and became a significant section of our little book. *The Battle for Canada*, now playing a central role in our current campaign.

Looking back, perhaps it is well that we were forced to re-examine the Constitutional issue, because this is indeed a very vital part of our heritage and League efforts.

We have had a difficult but successful year of advance over here, one of the highlights of which was the brief

national tour of young David Thompson — an inspiration to all of us, and a credit to Australia. I hope to repay David's visit next year, and if possible fly on to take in the 1981 New Times Dinner. God willing.

Patrick Walsh, our provincial directors, Phillip Butler, and my wife Jeanette and family, join me in wishing you all a great weekend, and renewed strength for a major advance this coming year.

"WHAT COULD BE OUR FINEST HOUR"

**From Phillip D. Butler, Assistant National Director,
The Canadian League of Rights**

Last year it was my wife Jenny's and my honour to be with you all at that memorable "New Times" Dinner to mark the centenary of the birth of the genius C. H. Douglas. What a feast of fellowship that was as we had the pleasure of not only meeting again old friends and family, but to also meet so many new people who have come to realise that the League of Rights, which grew out of the readership of "The New Times" stands by eternal Truths.

At this time as I send this message to you from Canada we are in the midst of what could be our finest hour or could be our darkest hour. We are involved in a battle here where some men wish to take more power to themselves thus robbing the individual of some basic freedoms. It is a battle where we find the Provincial Governments - - not all of them but the majority - trying to hold onto and in many cases increase their

ECONOMIC DEMOCRACY

by C. H. Douglas.

The work, which launched the worldwide Social Credit Movement. New edition with introduction and biographical sketch of Dr. Geoffrey Dobbs. Douglas's first article, "The Delusion of Super-production", included as Appendix. Indexed. The most important book of the twentieth century. Price \$3.45.

sovereignty in their own jurisdiction — battling with a Federal Government which is attempting to further centralise power in their hands.

This battle is bringing the best out in some Premiers and the worst in others. But, it is certainly encouraging to us to see a young man — still in his early 30's — Brian Peckford, the Premier of our youngest province, Newfoundland, doing battle with the centralists. In many ways he reminds me of a young Premier Jo Bjelke-Petersen who does not fear to defend basic freedoms of the individual and has pointed out that power is only safe if it is spread around in many hands. When one sees a young Canadian like Premier Peckford giving the type of leadership he is, then one feels that there is still health in Canadian society.

It is interesting to note that in the Battle For Canada - the Premiers from the less populated provinces, British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba and Newfoundland are prepared to fight the centralist policies of Mr. Trudeau but that the Premier of Ontario, Bill Davis, is prepared to cave into and in fact support Mr. Trudeau shows that if there is any hope for Western Civilisation, it will come from those "fringes" of civilisation. Please also note, Premier Davis's Government is also supposed to be "conservative".

So, this evening as you all gather together you will realise from what I have said, that there are Canadian patriots also fighting for the preservation of a common heritage we share. It also heartens us to know that you are also fighting the same battle because if in the long run any one of us is victorious, which we will, then we will be able to give that leadership which what is left of Western Civilisation badly requires at this time. I might also add that it is the example of the Founders of Australia we are putting forward as the alternative to our present crisis here.

We join with you in spirit and ask you all to remember us here in Canada in your prayers as we indeed have reached a crucial period in our history.

"A UNIQUE ASSOCIATION" From Mrs. Dulcie Willacy, "Ladies' Line"

Greetings from our branch of the League of Rights family to the many representatives of other branches of the same parent body, now gathering together to enjoy fellowship and to learn from each other.

Ours is indeed a unique association of individual personalities. When we meet others, for the first time, we never feel that we are with strangers. Immediately there is that feeling of having known one another for years. There is never enough time to say all we would wish to say to each other. When we part, we know we are separated by distance only. By keeping in touch with the League, as an organisation, we are actually keeping in touch with members of a family, whose principles are based on the Christian concept of individual uniqueness and individual responsibility.

Our society is also based on the Christian family unit. That family unit is now under unrelenting attack. The

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League family, along with many other fine groups of people, is vigorously defending the sacred family unit.

Our prayer is that the action we take in the defence of our Christian heritage may be pleasing in the sight of Almighty God, and therefore worthy of blessing.

"DOUGLAS ... A GREAT DISCOVERER" From Robert Nixon, W.A. Secretary Institute of Economic Democracy

Today we hear a lot about inventors whose achievements are meant to bring great benefits to mankind. However, in the fields of technology and social activity inventors are often a great liability.

Surely the true position is that man can discover, uncover or reveal God given truths, and to censor or patent technology, or to invent social schemes and propaganda, as distinct from the application of God's laws, is a perversion.

C. H. Douglas could be described as a great discoverer and re-discoverer of the truths related to the application of Christian policy to man's economic and political environment.

Best of luck for a very successful seminar on the theme — How to Preserve and Extend the Traditional Family -- because a lot of people have yet to discover that the Christian concept of the family is the only alternative to various other arrangements invented by men.

"THE SOUNDLY BASED CHRISTIAN FAMILY CAN AND WILL SURVIVE" From Mr. Don Martin, National Director, British League of Rights

I take this opportunity to send you best wishes and congratulations on yet another annual New Times Dinner and Seminar. It hardly seems a year since my wife, Jane, and I together with Dr. Geoffrey Dobbs were with you



"My Mother has seeded the minds of her children" —
Mr. John Luks seconding his Mother's toast to "The
New Times".

in Melbourne in September 1979.

The theme of your seminar this year "The Australian Family Under Fire" is most appropriate for discussion.

Governments may come, governments may go; revolutionaries may come, revolutionaries will go; new fads will come, new fads will go, but the soundly based Christian family can and will survive all the forces of evil thrown against it.

What is needed is a counter-attack: demands for policies, which will give the family economic independence and the complete freedom to choose, that which is right and good because it is good. The Christian family can then prove to all others by its example, that it is the only sound basic unit for society.

May your dinner and seminar rededicate you all to the upholding of true Christian principles, so that you may be a shining example to all others.

With very best wishes and kind regards.

WACL "COMING TO GRIPS WITH INFLATION"

**From Mr. Patrick Walsh, Executive Board Member,
World Anti-Communist League and Research Director,
Canadian League of Rights**

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

The National Director of our Canadian League of Rights has brought you up to date on the Canadian picture re the "Constitutional Issue" and I would also like to add a word of appreciation for the great help Eric Butler gave us when we kicked off "The Battle for Canada". His advice and lectures, as well as his contribution to our booklet were invaluable.

Having said this, however, I must also add that we missed Eric Butler, as well as Ron Gostick, at the 13th World Anti-Communist League Conference in Geneva, this summer. However with Donald Martin representing the Crown Commonwealth League of Rights we were able to highlight the inspiring message from the Hon. Johannes Bjelke-Petersen, MLA, the distinguished Premier of Queensland, injecting the necessity of the Free World coming to grips with the threat of inflation and rejecting the United Nations Organization because of its ineffectiveness. We were pleased to see the theme of the Crown Commonwealth League of Rights' booklet PROGRAMME FOR HALTING THE FINANCING OF ECONOMIC BLOOD TRANSFUSIONS TO THE COMMUNISTS endorsed by Prominent Europeans like General Robert Close and the well-known French writer and editor, Pierre de Villemarest. Last but not least, we are looking forward to the visit to Canada of Jeremy Lee and we know that he will duplicate the fine contributions Eric Butler and David Thompson have made on their lecture tours.

We are about to complete our final laps in a series of testimonial meetings and banquets to commemorate the 30th year of continual publication of our monthly, *Canadian Intelligence Service*, in essence paying a worthy tribute to Ron Gostick, the publisher and editor, for having provided that beacon light of truth through these difficult years. We know you will be thrilled to know

ALTERNATIVE TO DISASTER

by Dr. Bryan Monahan.

An examination of deliberate inflation as a policy of subversion, and the answer necessary. Price 70 cents.

that Ron is looking forward to his New Zealand tour and the prospect that he might also be able to attend the 1981 New Times Dinner.

We join with all of you in spirit, during this weekend, God bless.

"TRUTHS TRANSCEND AND OUTLAST US MORTALS"

From Mr. John Brett, Toowoomba, Queensland:

Regretfully we are not with you again, but spiritually we will always be there.

When the organised church vacated the field of battle, our antagonists thought that all that remained to be done was to mop up the residual combatants. It was thought that ideas perish with their vehicles. The fact that truths transcend and outlast us mortals is not recognised as a truth any more.

The battle has lasted over half a century with horrendous casualties, and of the millions that have traversed the battlefield only two small opposing groups remain. Under the banner of truth, is that small tough, durable and courageous group named the League of Rights. The overwhelming numbers and power of their opponents has failed to dislodge them.

So it will be the David and Goliath tale over again.

It could be a different story though, without the sacrifice and splendid example of the League commanders. They are 'Men who want to be Men'.

Best wishes for a happy and rewarding Dinner and Seminar.



Mrs. Rona Joyner reveals some of her hard-hitting tactics.

A FINANCIAL POLICY FOR THE REGENERATION OF THE TRADITIONAL FAMILY

The following are the notes of the Paper presented by Mr. Eric Butler in Melbourne on Saturday, October 4, at the Australian League of Rights Annual National Seminar, the theme being "The Family Under Fire".

While it is true that much of the breakdown of the traditional concept of marriage and family must be attributed to the erosion of Christian belief and practice under the impact of what Malcolm Muggeridge has aptly described as the great liberal death wish, it is financial pressure, which has had the most destructive impact. It is of importance to recall that when the British economist John Maynard Keynes first put forward his theory of deficit debt financing in the 'thirties, with inevitable inflation, as even Keynes admitted, one of the most eminent Marxist theoreticians of the day, John Strachey, hailed the theory as one which in practice would produce growing instability and make the Marxist advance easier.

Apart from a short period during and after the Second World War, when it was demonstrated that a policy of consumer price subsidies on basic items in the economy minimised the necessity for wage increases with a consequent general price stability, the inflation rate has steadily increased until today it is beyond argument that inflation is the major cause of the erosion of Western societies.

Inflation is a hidden form of taxation and bears heaviest upon those members of society who are least able to protect themselves — those on fixed incomes, including the elderly attempting to live on pensions and the investment of savings. Inflation has a devastating impact on young families. Taxation also bears heavily upon the family where the Mother remains at home giving her full attention to the children, and there is only one income coming into the home. And yet the Mother who gives full attention to her home and family is making at least, but probably more, contribution to the well-being of society as the Mother who either voluntarily, or more likely, because of financial pressure, is engaged in paid activity, often with the children being looked after by some child-minding institution financed by the taxpayers.

FINANCIAL PRESSURES ON MOTHERS

Far be it for me to suggest what woman should be doing with their lives. Large numbers of women certainly feel the need to fulfill themselves in the professions, in trade, commerce and other fields. But the evidence is overwhelming that the great majority of Mothers seek paid employment outside the home because of financial pressures. It is also beyond argument that large numbers of couples would have more children if present financial penalties were removed. In saying this I am also aware that our so-called advanced social scientists have brainwashed many into accepting the most incredible nonsense. Malcolm Muggeridge points out that when people are persuaded to stop believing in absolutes, the most basic absolute being God, they do not stop believing in anything: they are then capable of believing all types of absurd ideas. Muggeridge comments that some of the self-styled intellectuals are the most incredible idiots of all. Many will recall how the well-publicised American academic Dr. Ehrlick visited

Australia in 1971 and solemnly taught that the world was on the brink of starvation and that it was essential that people should have less children, that there should be zero population growth. His views were featured by the media. The trendy academics and avant-garde teachers took up the theme, preaching it to their students. Many of those students have practised what they were taught with the results that Australia is now experiencing the lowest birthrate in history. The starvation so confidently predicted has not materialised. Western nations not only provide enormous quantities of food for the Soviet Union and Communist China, but also currently there is growing controversy between them concerning what to do with food surpluses.

There is such an abundance of food in Australia that there is no physical problem about ensuring sufficient for every family, even if the numbers of children were greatly increased. Every housewife is painfully aware that her main problem is financial, the rising cost of food. And there is the rising cost of housing, clothing and educating a family. With no apparent end to inflation, in spite of politicians repeating like a cracked record that they are "fighting", "restraining", "wrestling" or "squeezing" it, it is not surprising that in such an unstable situation large numbers are fearful about the future for their children. Those best qualified to express an opinion, point out that the basic cause of many disintegrating marriages is financial.

THE BURDEN OF SOCIAL WELFARE

As a generalisation it can be said that as the traditional family disintegrates, there is an inevitable proliferation of a Social Welfare bureaucracy. Social Security and Welfare now absorbs nearly 30 percent of the total Federal budget. This is the biggest single item in the Budget and it must continue to increase if traditional family life continues to disintegrate. But the whole thrust of present financial policies is against the preservation and extension of the traditional family, encouraging in many cases what was once described as couples "living in sin", basically for financial reasons. Spending even more money on welfare merely aggravates most costly, in real terms, effects. A removal of basic causes would be much more realistic. The proposal that income splitting should be permitted for families with only one income, would have limited value in reducing the amount of taxation to be paid. But something much more far reaching than this is required if the basic problem is to be tackled.

A SOUND PRINCIPLE

It is generally overlooked that a start, however small, has been made towards the type of financial policy required for preserving the traditional family. This is the child endowment. By inference at least, it establishes the principle that each new baby is not only entitled to the right to life, but is also entitled to a type of social dividend. The payment of the endowment to the parents reflects the

traditional view of parental authority and responsibility. But even the minute application of a sound principle has been badly eroded by inflation. It is now four years (15-1-76) since the last increase of child endowment to \$15 per month, less than \$4 a week, for the first child, with little financial incentive to have more. \$37 for two children, \$63 for three and \$88 for four could hardly be described as lavish. Since 1976 continuing high inflation has eroded the 1976-dollar by at least 35 percent. And as every Mother knows, erosion by inflation is currently increasing.

Any suggestion that child endowment might be restored just to the 1976 level, is met with the usual blind reflex reaction, "But think of the increased cost of all the millions necessary to finance the increase." This reaction is a reflection of the mesmerism of what are mere man-evolved financial symbols. Please note there is no suggestion that endowment should not be restored to its 1976 level, still less increased to a more realistic figure, because over the past four years there has been a 35 percent, reduction in Australia's capacity to produce the basic requirements for stable family life, adequate food, clothing and housing. Australia's capacity has in fact substantially increased. Producers will tell you that there is enormous unused productive capacity. One obvious manifestation of unused productive capacity is the large number of unemployed.

REALISTIC NATIONAL FINANCE

In a society where financial policies were a reflection of reality, a non-political institution, which might be called a National Credit Authority, would be charged with the responsibility of producing annually what every company is required by law to produce: a proper balance sheet for the nation. At present taxpayers are only presented at Budget time with a list of estimated receipts and expenditure. This helps to maintain the pretence that taxation is the only source of money available in the community, and to obscure the fact that the bulk of money, including what is called foreign capital, is created by the simple process of credit creation. In spite of the fact that large numbers of banking authorities have candidly admitted that banking institutions, irrespective of whether they are Government or private, create credit with a stroke of the pen we still have some politicians and so-called informed people, still trying to deny this basic fact. But there are people in different parts of the world who still believe the world is flat!

As far back as 1925 Sir Reginald McKenna of the Midland Bank and a former Chancellor of the British Exchequer, said that the ordinary citizen would not like to be told that the banks can and do create credit. He explained how every overdraft was an extension of credit creation. Many other authorities could be quoted.

In more recent times The Bank of New South Wales Review has reiterated how credit is created.

THE TRUE PURPOSE OF FAMILY

The regeneration of an increasingly sick society must start with a regeneration of the family. Just as the family exists to serve the individual, so does society exist to serve the family. Apart from the two direct payments to the

family, these to be indexed like politicians' pensioners so that they are not eroded by inflation, there is one further anxiety currently afflicting families which must be removed - the fear that the school leaver will join the ranks of the unemployed and eventually become a social problem. Modern nations with their expanding inheritance of labour-saving technology, must face the reality that the required labour for a high material standard of living for all is progressively diminishing. Unnecessary production for stimulated exports is increasingly bringing the non-Communist nations into dangerous trade conflicts. Attempts to resolve the problem with a shorter working week ignore the obvious; that it is preferable to operate the present sophisticated production system with present working hours, but substantially reducing the retiring age. A man of 55 for example, has made his contribution towards maintaining and expanding the real credit of the nation, has reached a responsible age, is probably a grandfather, and is still young enough to enjoy developing his hobbies, or assisting in service to his community. He would also have more time to spend with his grandchildren, thus making the extended family a reality.

The reduction of the retiring age to say 55 for a start, further reductions being governed by improved technology, would help solve the problem of youth unemployment overnight and remove present family anxieties.

Adequate retiring pensions, also indexed against inflation, could be paid in exactly the same way that child endowment and the Mothers' incomes could be paid. No one can dispute that it is both desirable and physically possible to permit the traditional family to regenerate itself. But it requires changes in financial policy, which the political representatives of the people will only implement if it is made clear to them that those changes must be made or that new representatives will have to be found. The future for the traditional family in Australia depends largely upon what our women folk do about it. They can give the lead. As Kipling said, the female is more deadly than the male. Our politicians will soon get moving to ensure financial rights to the traditional family if women organise themselves and take appropriate action.

REAL HISTORY

In her Dinner address Mrs. Luks said that one of those responsible for introducing her to Social Credit was a man she had not seen for a long time, Mr. Neil McDonald of Geelong. Commenting on this, Mr. Eric Butler recalled in his Dinner address how during the long months of isolation to the North of Australia during the war years, he had run political courses for fellow soldiers who were interested. One of these was a fellow Sergeant, Mr. Neil McDonald, and a close friend ever since. Mr. Butler said, "It is encouraging to consider how ideas which I first learned from C. H. Douglas and then transmitted to a fellow soldier during a long war-time stay on a tropical island, were then transmitted to a person who has entered the political arena in South Australia under the Christian banner. Ideas can transcend both space and time".

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