

THE NEW TIMES

\$20 per annum.

Box 1052J, Melbourne.

"Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" - John 8:31.

VOL. 62, No. 5.

Registered Australia Post - Publication PP481667 100259

MAY 1998.

Australia and New Zealand Edition. Published in Melbourne and Auckland.

THE ROOTS AND GROWTH OF A UNIQUE MOVEMENT - THE LEAGUE OF RIGHTS

by Eric D. Butler

The following are notes of an address given at Leduc, Alberta, Canada on Saturday, October 18, 1997. The occasion was the annual Canadian League of Rights National Conference, commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the publication of Ron Gostick's publication, *The Canadian Intelligence Service*:

In presenting the opening address at this historic event, it is not proposed to attempt a detailed history of the League of Rights, but to concentrate upon the roots and development of what is a unique movement, one which has produced a number of extremely talented individuals, whose lives have been dedicated to serving Truth. Ron Gostick must be numbered among such individuals. While most people have heard of Lord Acton's warning about the corrupting influence of power, relatively few have heard of Acton's statement that nothing so irritates some people as an exposure of the pedigree of the ideas they accept. In tracing the roots and history of the ideas, which have produced the League of Rights, we can learn much about those roots by a study of the history of the Canadian Province of Alberta, where we are meeting over this weekend.

The first Social Credit government

It was during one of the greatest tragedies of this century, the Great Depression that in 1936 Alberta started to appear in the headlines of the world's media. The people of Alberta elected with an overwhelming majority a government known as Social Credit. The new government was pledged to pay every citizen a social dividend as the first step towards increasing the purchasing power of the people and overcoming what was generally termed world-wide as "poverty amidst plenty". It is probably true that only relatively few of those who voted the first Social Credit government in the world into office grasped the far-reaching implications of what they were attempting. They were in essence challenging the right of those exercising centralised

power through the banking system, to deny them access to the fruits of their own labours and their heritage. So far from Alberta being an example of a "funny money system" that

OUR POLICY

To promote service to the Christian revelation of God, loyalty to the Australian Constitutional Monarchy, and maximum cooperation between subjects of the Crown Commonwealth of Nations.

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 an 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.

eventually failed, the true history of Social Credit in Alberta discloses how any movement can eventually be subverted and destroyed unless maintained by people with a deep understanding of what is involved.

The human drama is dominated by the issue, which has been central in man's history, the will-to-power by the few and the attempt by the many to resist. Writing in his classic, *Modern Democracies*, Lord Bryce enunciated one of those basic absolutes which man ignores at his peril. "*The natural tendency of all government is to increase its own power.*" Over the centuries man has evolved a variety of constitutional restrictions to limit the powers of government. Peoples of the English-speaking nations, including the USA, belong to a stream of history, which has its roots in the United Kingdom.

Rooted in constitutionalism

The League of Rights was born in South Australia in 1946, out of a campaign concerning constitutionalism. Constitutionalism continues to be a major feature of League of Rights activities everywhere. The League has always stressed the great importance of history, constantly referring to the observation that those who ignore the lessons of history are doomed to repeat the mistakes of history. History also teaches about those achievements, which have been the most successful in producing harmonious societies in which individual rights have been guaranteed.

As the League of Rights had its roots in the Social Credit movement, it is essential that the history of this movement is clearly understood. The 1984 edition of *The Alberta Experiment* is essential reading. *The Alberta Experiment*, subtitled "*An Interim Report*" was first published in 1937. Even at this early stage C.H. Douglas foresaw the problem threatening the future of the Albertan Social Credit administration headed by William Aberhart. But as I wrote in an introduction to the 1984 edition of *The Alberta Experiment*, by which time it was clear that Aberhart's successor, Ernest Manning, had capitulated in the face of an anti-Social Credit campaign of international dimensions, "*in the longer sweep of history, the Alberta drama will provide lessons essential for the regeneration of Civilisation.*" Previously unpublished private comments by L.D. Byrne, Douglas's adviser to Premier Aberhart, shed a clear light on how, having grasped the global picture of an international strategy to eliminate the British Empire as a coherent international force, and an obstacle to any global programmes, Aberhart readily accepted Byrne's advice that a direct attack on the debt system should be postponed until after the end of the Second World War, and that every effort should be made to prepare the ground work for such an offensive.

Of German and Scottish background, Aberhart was strongly pro-British. His death in 1943, during a vacation in Vancouver, was a major tragedy. His successor, Ernest Manning, progressively retreated from the strategy evolved by Byrne and Aberhart, this eventually resulting in Byrne being dismissed from his official position. Basic Social Credit education activities ceased. Aided by the massive revenues resulting from the Albertan oil boom, the Manning government

forgot about Social Credit - except as a slogan for electioneering purposes - and concentrated upon providing "good government". It was left to the League of Rights to make Social Credit literature available and to conduct Social Credit education programmes, the most important of these being Social Dynamics Schools. L.D. Byrne provided me with much valuable co-operation in preparing the Social Dynamics Schools.

The policy of Christianity

Over the years I had much correspondence with Denis Byrne, even during the war years when I was serving in the Australian Military Forces in the islands to the north of Australia. He was a dedicated Christian and constantly stressed that Social Credit was the policy of the Christian philosophy. The first objective of the League of Rights stresses the necessity of loyalty to the Christian concept of God, which is Trinitarian.

A change of strategy

During the Second World War, C.H. Douglas had warned that one of the real objectives of the war was the elimination of the British world, culturally as well as economically, and the reconstruction of the world on Soviet Russian lines. A series of wartime conferences in which Soviet agents played prominent roles, laid the foundation for the establishment of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, the United Nations Organisation and its different divisions such as the Food and Agricultural Organisation and the Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation. The war, which started allegedly to protect Poland's independence, concluded with not only Poland, but the whole of Eastern Europe from the Baltic States in the north and the Balkans in the South under the control of an expanded Soviet Union. The Soviet had also seized control of Manchuria in the Far East. Worldwide expansion of Communism, including China, continued after the end of the Second World War. Social Crediters around the world were prominent in urging the necessity of resistance to what was, in essence, a threat to the very foundations of Western Civilisation.

The formation of Israel in 1948

Running in double harness with the Communists, the international Zionist movement openly moved on to the world scene, driving the British from the Middle East and establishing the new State of Israel with the support of the UN in 1948. This event had global implications, upsetting the balance of power throughout the whole Moslem world, which united in defence of the dispossessed Palestinians. Prominent amongst the many anti-Zionist Jews who warned against the establishment of the Zionist State of Israel was the distinguished American Jewish scholar and expert on the Middle East, Dr. Alfred Lilienthal. The League of Rights has been consistently smeared as being "anti-Semitic", because as a Christian-based organisation it has stressed that one cannot get the equivalent of figs from totalitarian and anti-Christian philosophical thistles like Zionism.

All that can be achieved in this Paper is to draw attention to a question, which has perplexed Christians over the centuries. *Why have Jews been so prominent in Socialist and other collective movements? Why did Jewish bankers assist Hitler, as did Zionist leaders?* Answers to these and similar questions have been provided by a number of courageous Jews. It was the distinguished Jewish literary figure, Dr. Oscar Levy, who wrote, *"The question of the Jews and their influence on the world, past and present, cuts to the root of all things and should be discussed by every honest thinker."*

As the shape of things to come became clearer after the Second World War, Social Crediters started to move towards positions of leadership in what became generally known as the Freedom Movement. The background to the establishment of the League of Rights in Australia is relevant to the many campaigns in which the League of Rights has been involved.

Constitutional safeguards

Australians are fortunate that the Founding Fathers of federation left them with a written Constitution, which sought to leave all power decentralised with the original States. Only matters of national importance, such as defence, were to come under the jurisdiction of the central federal government. Originally known as the States' House, and possessing the right to criticise or block legislation originating with the House of Representatives, the States - irrespective of size or population - had equal representation in the Senate. All proposed changes to the Constitution could only take place as the result of a national referendum. The Founding Fathers were conscious of Lord Bryce's warning concerning the natural tendency of all governments - particularly central governments - to increase their own powers. They sought to make it as difficult as possible to change a Constitution, which sought to keep power decentralised. The overwhelming majority of referendums have subsequently been defeated by the Australian electors voting NO.

Dr. Evatt's centralist strategy

There was, however, a provision for the States to transfer some of their powers to the Federal government, although this could only be done by a unanimous decision of the States. Early in the Second World War the Federal Attorney-General, Dr. H.V. Evatt, who had stepped down from the High Court to enter Federal politics, a close friend of the well-known British Fabian Socialist, Dr. Harold Laski (a teacher at the London School of Economics for many years), attempted to use the war situation to stampede the State governments into surrendering vast powers to the Federal government. Dr. Evatt said that the powers being sought were necessary for post-war planning. And they were to be for five years only. Reluctantly all State governments, irrespective of their labels, eventually agreed to transfer the powers sought, a major factor being that Dr. Evatt promised that the use of the powers would be for five years only.

Australian Social Crediters played a major role in opposing what was proposed, stressing that history taught that once power was surrendered, it was most difficult to regain.

Well known Marxists were prominent in the campaign to persuade the State governments to agree to Dr. Evatt's strategy. However, his proposal was finally defeated when the Tasmanian Upper House, the Legislative Council, refused to endorse the decision by the Tasmanian Legislative Assembly to surrender to Dr. Evatt. The Legislative Council stressed that in spite of the war, no State government had the right to agree to Dr. Evatt's far-reaching programme without the Australian people being consulted by referendum. Dr. Evatt and his allies mounted a campaign against the Tasmanian Legislative Council, charging it with attempting to thwart the will of the electors, as allegedly represented by the Tasmanian government. Social Crediters urged the Tasmanian Legislative Councillors to remain firm in their opposition to Dr. Evatt. The result was the famous 1944 Referendum, which the Australian people rejected with a massive NO vote.

A chastened Dr. Evatt and his Fabian friends staged a tactical retreat with the 1946 Referendum, in which the sweeping powers sought at the 1944 Referendum were modified. The well-known Fabian tactic of gradualism was used. Once again, Australian Social Crediters found themselves prominent in a campaign to resist a proposed centralisation of power.

External Affairs target

In an Adelaide luncheon address, convened by South Australian Social Crediters and attended by a number of prominent business and professional representatives, I outlined the nature of the campaign to destroy the effectiveness of the Federal Constitution and to advance a Fabian programme, which was part of an international campaign to destroy the British Empire. I also warned that Evatt and his Fabian friends were already working on a long term strategy to subvert the Federal Constitution, proposing that the Federal government use the External Affairs powers vested in it by the Constitution to enter into international agreements, and then argue that in order to give effect to these agreements, the Federal government could override the powers of the States. My address resulted in an invitation to direct a South Australian VOTE NO campaign.

It was during this campaign that I crystallised my thinking concerning the necessity of a permanent organisation to wage a campaign, which was clearly going to last for many years. Thus the first League of Rights was launched in Adelaide in 1946. Subsequently the League was established in all other Australian States, becoming a national organisation in 1960. The League subsequently grew into the Crown Commonwealth League of Rights.

The Campaign Against The Common Market

The campaign to drive the British into what was generally described as the European Common Market, this part of a long term strategy by an unholy alliance of various type of internationalists, to create some type of a World State, brought into clear relief the reality of the predictions by C.H. Douglas concerning the real objectives of the Second World War. In

Australia the League of Rights conducted a national campaign concerning the far-reaching international implications of the Common Market proposals. A young backbench Member of the Liberal Party government led by Sir Robert Menzies, D.J. Killen, criticised what was proposed, stressing the threat to the whole British world. Killen agreed to travel to the United Kingdom with me to warn the British people of the threat to their sovereignty, and to make it clear that the great majority of Australian people did not wish to break their relationship with the United Kingdom. The Australian League of Rights felt that following my tour of the United Kingdom I should take the opportunity of going on to Canada and New Zealand on my way home, to confer with fellow Social Crediters.

Briefing Canadian Parliamentarians

I had enjoyed a long friendship through correspondence with Ron Gostick, whose roots with the Canadian Social Credit movement had gone back a long way. His mother Edith had been one of those elected in the Social Credit victory of 1935. Ron Gostick quickly organised a national tour for me, starting in Quebec. I met several Canadian Members of Parliament to brief them on the Common Market issue. Several Progressive Conservative members expressed their deep concern about the Common Market proposal, one Senator saying that it proposed a shocking betrayal of the smallest member of the Commonwealth, New Zealand.

I was able to develop the theme that a strong and cohesive British world was essential for the defence of the Free World. In Edmonton I was able to discuss the situation in depth with L.D. Byrne. I was disturbed to find that the leader of the Canadian Social Credit party, Mr. Robert Thompson, had initially failed to grasp the significance of the Common Market issue and had in fact endorsed the concept of common markets. After a long phone discussion with Thompson in Red Deer, he asked me if I would provide briefing papers, which could be given to Prime Minister Diefenbaker. This was done, and press reports stated that at the 1962 conference of the British Commonwealth, held in London, the British government was "astonished" by the tone of Diefenbaker's opening address to the conference, virtually charging that the British Government of Edward Heath was betraying the future of the British Commonwealth. By the time I had left Ron Gostick in Vancouver, we had agreed on a strategy designed not only to defend the British world, but to launch a number of positive initiatives. I developed the same theme with New Zealand Social Crediters.

Anti-Communist training initiative

Upon my return to Australia I reported to my Australian colleagues on the situation as I saw it, and gained support for a Commonwealth tour in 1963, this to include South Africa and Rhodesia. It was during the 1963 tour that I discussed with Ron Gostick an international initiative based upon an anti-Communist training programme, which I had been developing. An experimental seminar was conducted in Vancouver before leaving Canada to return to Australia. It was agreed that this seminar was so successful, and met a need for those who

wished to wage an effective defence of the Free World, it was agreed that in the following year, 1964, I should return to Canada to conduct a major national campaign accompanied by Mr. Patrick Walsh, former Royal Canadian Police undercover agent. I agreed to have the notes of my three-part seminar published in booklet form. I also concentrated on producing a booklet on the essence of Communist philosophy, *Dialectic Materialism*, stressing that without an understanding of the philosophy of Marxism it was impossible to fully understand Marxist strategy and tactics. It was at one of the many seminars conducted in Canada over the years, one in Edmonton, that a top Soviet scientist, attempting to defect to the West during the Trudeau years, said that the League programme was the first he had struck in the West, which went to the core of Marxism. In a private conversation with me, the scientist, who was receiving no support from the Trudeau administration, pointed out that all those holding any official positions under the Soviet system were expected to have a thorough grasp of the philosophy of Dialectical Materialism. It was his study of the subject which brought him to accept Christianity. He assured me that there were many like him in the Soviet.

Marxist reaction

The 1964 League tour of Canada was an incredible experience, with meeting after meeting being disrupted in different ways. Following the last meetings in the Maritimes at Monkton, there was a call in the House of Commons at Ottawa, for my activities to be investigated. Pat Walsh said that he had learned from his friends in Intelligence circles that the reason for the 1964 uproar was the reaction of hard core Marxists and their allies to the training programme we were setting up. In essence, the Marxists were saying that while they did not like the distribution of anti-Communist literature, they deeply feared the development of action programmes conducted by trained people.

The League of Rights constantly stressed that it was not merely anti all forms of totalitarianism, but had a vision of the development of a new civilisation surpassing all previous achievements. The League was being both negative and positive, a theme, which the League of Rights attempted to foster amongst all those who called themselves anti-Communists. It was this theme which was developed inside this international movement highlighted the realities concerning the power in various forms, which the League of Rights attempted to stress.

The political problem

Early in his career, the author of Social Credit turned his attention to the problem of how the centralised control of financial credit could be broken and decentralised. Douglas stressed that while educational activities were essential, those exercising power were not going to relinquish it voluntarily. The first essential was to bring the members of parliaments under the control of electors. Douglas pointed out the defects in the modern party system. But while the framework of a democratic form of government, with constitutional safeguards

for the rights of individuals, must be preserved, it was essential to unite electors in such a way that their will could be made to prevail. As a result of helping to evolve a system of genuine representative government, the League of Rights has played a major role in fostering the concept of the Citizen's Referendum and Recall system. Douglas had insisted that genuine democracy required the right of individuals to choose or reject one issue at a time. History will record that the League played a major role in saving and regenerating genuine democratic government.

Beyond doubt one of the many achievements of the League of Rights everywhere has not only been its educational programmes, including its basic Social Dynamics Schools, but the provision of a flood of literature. The League has kept in circulation most important books which otherwise would have disappeared down George Orwell's famous memory hole. Constant education leading to effective action has been the central feature of the League's unique history. The massive vilification of the League by a variety of totalitarianism is a striking tribute to its achievements and inspiration in a world, which becomes increasingly confused and chaotic.

The future of the League

It is impossible in a relatively short Paper to predict the future of the League. The Fabian Socialist G.K. Gott, who was employed by the Whitlam Government to examine the League with a view to publishing an official report, was told by a person in a Victorian country area, whom he was trying to enlist in a campaign against the League, that the biggest problem about the proposed project was that "all the best type of people are unfortunately sympathetic to the League and its stress on service." That was a most revealing comment. Perhaps it helps to explain why Gott, in spite of being paid tens of thousands of dollars by the Australian government, was unable to produce what was required - a damning report on the League. The critics of the League have come and gone, but the League continues to survive and to influence others.

It was Prince Charles who said that no people could survive into the future unless it constantly returned to its roots. The League has survived through fifty turbulent years because it has constantly stressed the importance of nourishing and regenerating the roots of a genuinely free society. I am bold enough to hazard the prediction that the coming years will witness the League's greatest achievements. But these will be the product of the past.

The Rhodesian Drama

In November 1965, the world was electrified with the news that the little central southern African nation known as Rhodesia, had declared itself completely independent of the United Kingdom. A conflict between Rhodesia and the United Kingdom had been developing over a number of years. Originally known as Southern Rhodesia, the little nation was originally part of the Federation of Southern Rhodesia, Northern Rhodesia - later to become known as Zambia - and Nyasaland. Caught up in the famous "Winds of Change"

sweeping Africa, the British government was clearly determined to impose "majority rule" on Southern Rhodesia, breaking previous promises that Rhodesia had earned the right to become completely independent. The story of the British betrayal of Rhodesia is one of the most disgraceful events of the British retreat from Africa. The international Communists had a vested interest in destroying the most stable nation in Southern Africa, one in which it was possible for Whites and Blacks to work together to their mutual benefit.

The international campaign being waged against Rhodesia was evidence of how important that nation was in the global drama, and I had become thoroughly familiar with its background. Immediately following the declaration of Independence on 11th November 1965, I flew to Salisbury, to survey the situation, calling on South African contacts on the way. I did an interview with Prime Minister Ian Smith, and planned a global campaign in close association with South African journalist Ivor Benson, who had been brought to Rhodesia to supervise an international information campaign.

League of Rights supporters swung into action right around the English-speaking world. I immediately rushed to Ron Gostick an in-depth assessment of the Rhodesian situation, stressing that it could only be understood in the context of international power politics. Ron Gostick made use of my assessment in a special issue of his *Canadian Intelligence Service*. My assessment was translated into number of non-English languages, it was estimated that eventually this article had an international circulation of many millions.

Campaign to boost Rhodesian morale

Before leaving Rhodesia to return to Australia, I made plans with friends in Rhodesia to return in 1966 to launch a massive national campaign. Sanctions had been imposed on Rhodesia, the enemies of Rhodesia believing that economic sanctions would bring the country to its knees in a few weeks. British Socialist Prime Minister Harold Wilson was confident that the Rhodesian Independence campaign could be broken in a very short time. Rhodesia's most vulnerable front was its lack of oil supplies. There was an attempt to choke oil supplies coming through from the Portuguese territory of Mozambique. In an attempt to help bolster Rhodesian morale, I started to organise an Australian and New Zealand petrol fund, the petrol to be bought in South Africa and trucked north to Rhodesia. There was a magnificent response, prompting Australian Labor Party leader Gough Whitlam to suggest that I be deprived of my Australian passport.

Packed audiences throughout Rhodesia heard me denounce the treachery of the international campaign against Rhodesia, and I was able to assure the Rhodesians that they had the support of tens of thousands of people in the old British Commonwealth. The highlight of my 1966 campaign in Rhodesia was the delivery in Salisbury of thousands of gallons of oil. A large cheering crowd in Salisbury welcomed the arrival of a petrol tanker, which proclaimed, "The Anzacs are here!" It was a proud moment when I asked the Rhodesian Minister for Defence Lord Graham, the Duke of Montrose, to accept the donation of petrol as a symbol of moral support.

Across Canada, Ron Gostick was also organising support for the Rhodesians, subsequently being able, at the end of a Rhodesian speaking tour in 1966 to donate another tanker of petrol, and to assure Prime Minister Ian Smith of the support of the Canadian League of Rights.

For nearly a decade it appeared that the tide of international revolution had been turned back by Rhodesia, whose economy actually improved as the campaign of economic sanctions was progressively beaten back. But eventually the forces of international revolution prevailed. The Portuguese had been undermined, and retreated from their African territories. And then the heavies of the international revolutionary movement moved in, with the notorious Dr. Henry Kissinger telling Rhodesia and South Africa what was required.

The rest is history, with the murderous Communist terrorists being brought to office in Rhodesia, now known as Zimbabwe.

Subsequent developments throughout the whole of "liberated" Africa have confirmed the warnings of the League of Rights. History will confirm that the League played a major role in the defence of Civilisation. The League is proud of the role it played in attempting to avoid one of the greatest disasters of modern history. South Africa has been plundered to horrendous proportions.

Why I was forced out of The World Anti-Communist League

It was following the 1976 conference of the World Anti-Communist League (WACL), held in Seoul, South Korea, that it became clear to me that a campaign was under way to force me out of the League.

This was the result of a report I had prepared on "A Programme for halting the financing of economic blood transfusions to the Communists". Both the committee considering my report and the general assembly of the South Korean WACL conference unanimously agreed that my report be received and that it be authorised for "circulation, study and consideration of action by Member Chapters." Further developments concerning my report highlighted the fact that anyone attempting to draw attention to the strange partnership between International Finance and International Communism was touching a *verboten* subject. It was the famous German philosopher, Spengler, in his classic, *The Decline of the West*, who had observed that no modern revolutionary movement, including Communism, had taken place without the backing of money power.

The background to my report was that at the Sixth WACL, held in Mexico City in 1972, Patrick Walsh, former undercover agent for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Research Director for the Canadian League of Rights, conveyed a special message from Mr. Ron Gostick, Director of the Canadian League of Rights, drawing attention to the conspiratorial nature of International Communism operating at economic, financial and policy levels throughout the Free World, and urging that the Conference contribute to an

exposure of the danger. I had previously discussed with Ron how we might inject some realism into an international organisation which had the official support of at least two governments - the Republic of China (based on the island of Formosa (present-day Taiwan) and South Korea. The movement also had the blessing of several other governments in the Middle East and Latin America.

One gained the impression that the Chinese Government based on Taiwan was the biggest financial contributor. Pat Walsh was highly regarded by Dr. Ku, representing that government, although I found Dr. Ku's authoritarian style hard to take. The philosophy of some of the delegates to the WACL were equally totalitarian.

League of Rights membership of WACL arose as a result of the initiative of the British League of Rights Director, Mr. Donald Martin, who drew attention to the fact that the Constitution of WACL had provision for the membership of international organisations. The Crown Commonwealth League of Rights, consisting of the Australian, New Zealand, Canadian and British Leagues of Rights was already in existence. Patrick Walsh's influence was valuable in ensuring that The Crown Commonwealth League of Rights was readily accepted as an international member. But it soon became obvious that representatives of several Chapters were apprehensive about the Crown Commonwealth League in general and me in particular. This was certainly true of the Australian Chapter, which had as one of its members a former Western Australian Federal Liberal Member of Parliament. On the eve of the South Korean Conference, which I attended following a lecture tour in Canada, the former WA Liberal Member of Parliament provided a classic example of the shallowness of many anti-Communist Members of Parliament.

The ex-MP had obviously never met me previously, but lost no time at a pre-Conference cocktail party in suggesting that I was a dangerous man. The foolish man was actually warning my own son, a delegate, and another Australian who also knew me, about Eric Butler. They were both non-committal when he kept asking if I had arrived yet. When he eventually realised that I was talking to Patrick Walsh, there was a dramatic change of style. In his best party-electioneering mode, he strode across the room, arms outstretched, welcoming me like a long-lost brother! "Long time no see, Eric. Great to see you again. What about a drink?"

Eventually, grasping that the resolution concerning my report was going to be easily carried by the conference, my newly found friend made it his business to be as affable as possible to me. He even voted in favour of the resolution concerning my report. I felt that if the Free World was relying upon people like this ex-Liberal MP, it had little future.

The first concrete step towards advancing the strategy, which I had in mind, was taken at the 1972 WACL Conference held in Washington, USA.

The following resolution was carried unanimously: "*Whereas recent books and documents have revealed that international financial groups in the West have provided Western technology and industrial know-how to Communist countries; and whereas the financial and technological help to these Communist countries has been instrumental in*

keeping the Communist Empire together and could be used to make the Communist Empire collapse from within; the Seventh WACL Conference therefore resolves that all relevant material be brought together in a comprehensive report, published by both the WACL and its youth section, WYACL, and then -widely distributed as a major part of an international campaign to insist that there should be no financial or technological assistance to the Communist Empire on the part of Free World countries until such time as the Communist leaders by their acts show that they are prepared to release their captive peoples. "

At the Eighth WACL Conference, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1975, our strategy was carried forward another step when the Crown Commonwealth League of Rights was commissioned "to prepare a report on the subject of the financing of economic blood transfusions to the Communists and to suggest a constructive programme for halting this suicidal policy." Watching the faces of the delegates carefully, as obvious that several were apprehensive about what was unfolding. But they could hardly vote against the resolution and leave doubts about their *bona fides* as genuine anti-Communists.

There were several features of the Rio Conference, which I have long remembered. The taxi drivers who met delegates at the airport and took them to the conference hotel were some of the most erratic I have travelled with in any part of the world. Delegates awoke each morning to find soldiers, acting as security guards, based outside their rooms. Former Australian Federal Member, W.C. Wentworth, presumably with the Australian Chapter of WACL, arrived late to the conference and launched a strong attack on what he felt were "dangerous conspiratorialist" books being promoted. I had always found Bill Wentworth a brilliant but often erratic politician. He and Pat Walsh got into a shouting match - which indicated that Bill Wentworth was confusing what he regarded as 'far-out' literature with the outstanding scholarship of Dr. Antony Sutton, Research Fellow at the prestigious Stanford University in California, USA. The Australian League of Rights subsequently financed the publishing of an Australian edition of what was one of the most important books of the Cold War years, *National Suicide*, including as an appendix, the explosive testimony before the 1972 Republican Party Convention at Miami Beach, Florida. Sutton meticulously documented that American troops were being killed in Vietnam with American technology.

I returned home from the Brazil Conference via South Africa and Rhodesia. Ivor Benson travelled with me. Immediately I returned home I plunged into the task of preparing the report asked for at that conference. I threw myself into this project and long before the 1976 South Korean WACL Conference, had it completed. I was fortunate in that I had the Sutton studies readily available. There was also the great Alexander Solzhenitsyn's New York address of 1975, in which the exiled Russian charged that the western world was guilty of sustaining the slave system operating in the Soviet. Solzhenitsyn said, "*The whole existence of our slave owners from beginning to end relies on western economic assistance - beginning with the first spare parts used to reconstruct our*

factories in the 1930s" Solzhenitsyn charged that the USA was making credits available to the Soviet Union at a rate far lower than that being charged to Americans trying to buy their own homes.

The Report drew upon reputable organisations like the Southampton Chamber of Commerce to demonstrate that the Marxists were exploiting defects in the West's finance-economic systems which forced them into a position where it was believed that their economies could only operate if export markets, like the Soviet Union, were available to them. I was optimistic that the international circulation and study of this document would have some impact on the international scene. But it soon became clear to me that influences were at work to ensure that this document was killed. The first signs of what was to come started to emerge at the South Korean Conference.

A major feature of the League's international strategy was also to bring South Africa and Rhodesia (present-day Zimbabwe) into the WACL. We were assisted by the fact that the government of Taiwan had maintained diplomatic contact with South Africa. I had a number of discussions with Mr. Lee, Taiwan's Ambassador in Pretoria. He was optimistic about the future of a China freed from the scourge of Communism. I well recall his observation, "*History is a very long business, Mr. Butler.*" But the unfolding of history resulted in the government of Taiwan being removed from being the official representative of the Chinese people at the United Nations. I heard later that my friend, Mr. Lee, had committed suicide. The government based on Taiwan, accepted as one of the permanent members of the Security Council of the United Nations, had originally joined with other UN Members in condemning Rhodesia as a "threat to world peace" and had endorsed the policy of international sanctions against Rhodesia.

In its desperate search for anti-Communist allies, the Taiwan Government raised no objection to Rhodesia's having a Chapter at the WACL. The South African Chapter, under Ivor Benson, was already accepted. My suggestion was that the status of the Rhodesian Chapter would be strengthened if Lord Graham, Rhodesian Foreign Minister and Minister for Defence, was a member of the delegation to the South Korean Conference. Lord Graham readily agreed to try to assist our strategy. Also representing the Rhodesian Chapter was Dr. Ian Anderson, Chairman of the Rhodesian Candour League and editor of its extremely well produced journal. South Africans and Rhodesians travelling to South Korea travelled via Taiwan. Lord Graham had friends in the government of Taiwan and it was planned that he should meet with them before going on to South Korea. We had planned a 'council of war' when Dr. Anderson, Ivor Benson and Lord Graham arrived. Dr. Anderson and Ivor Benson arrived safely but, after some delay, the news came through that Lord Graham could not obtain a visa to enter South Korea. Our strong protests to the South Korean Chapter had no effect. Neither the Government of Taiwan nor the South Korean Government was prepared to act. Later it was revealed that pressure had been applied from Washington to prevent Lord Graham's attendance at the South Korean WACL Conference.

I was of the opinion that one of the reasons for the refusal to grant Lord Graham a visa to enter South Korea was his well-known

support for the type of views I held on the relationship between International Communism and International Finance. His presence at the South Korean Conference would have helped the strategy, which the League of Rights was attempting to advance through WACL. South Korea was, of course, living with the constant threat that the North Korean Government might stage a sudden thrust southwards. A continuing American military presence was required. Also of interest was that the Seoul skyline was starting to be dominated by the buildings of the major international banks. I was present when some of the first models of South Korean cars rolled off the assembly line. One of the famous 'Asian Tigers' was starting to flex its muscles. When I asked one of the officials what was planned for the South Korean cars, he quickly replied that they would be exported!

Following the South Korean conference most of the delegates were the guests of the Taiwan Chapter of WACL. I found the visit most interesting. Most impressive was the type of rural reform programme. There certainly was a tremendous vibrancy about the island. The whole economy was geared to service defence against any possible attack from Mainland China. At this stage Taiwan was still regarded as a major feature of American Western Pacific defence strategy. The major shift in American foreign policy, pioneered by Dr. Henry Kissinger and the International bankers, ultimately leading to Communist China taking Taiwan's place in the United Nations, was yet to

come. Taiwan ultimately became the victim of the very forces I had warned about in the Report, which WACL had commissioned the League of Rights to prepare. There is no evidence that the Report was circulated as requested by WACL delegates. There was a growing coolness towards me and it was made clear that I was not going to obtain a visa to attend any more conferences in Taiwan. It was also becoming clear that my long association with the anti-Communists in South Africa was coming to an end. Major policy shifts had already started to emerge with the Vorster Government's decision to end South African support for Rhodesia. It was made clear to me that I was never going to get another visa for entry into South Africa. Old friends inside South Africa were being eased out of official positions as a preliminary to the preparation to take the whole of Southern Africa into the New World Order.

The collapse of the Soviet Union and developments since have highlighted the accuracy of the report of the Crown Commonwealth League of Rights in 1976, that Communism was basically a special manifestation of mankind's will-to-power with the threat of an eventual coalescing of the superficially conflicting forces of International Communism and International Finance in a programme designed to create a New World Order. The effort by the League of Rights was only one initiative to meet the threat at the international level. Considered in retrospect, it was doomed to failure from the beginning. But, it must be recorded, the effort was made.

WHAT PRICE WILL AUSTRALIA PAY?

Coinciding with the first print of Jeremy Lee's *Australia 2000 - What Will We Tell Our Children?* S.E. Asia was engulfed in an enormous financial crisis. The dimension can be seen by the fact that, in a seven-month period, over \$US800 billion was wiped from the combined value of their currencies. Enormous efforts have been made to play down the dimensions of this crisis. But an extensive examination reveals the near panic in some quarters.

"The Asian economic crisis brought the world financial system to the brink of collapse at the end of last year, according to the powerful Bank of International Settlements. "At the end of the year, the liquidity crisis had reached systemic dimensions, requiring an immediate injection of cash and the rolling over of maturing debt," the BIS said . . . The volatility in currency and equity markets revealed highly exposed positions, boosting interest in hedging products. The figures show this contributed to a near record \$US94.2 trillion turnover of financial contracts on derivatives exchanges in the fourth quarter..." (*Financial Review*, March 9, 1998.) The International Monetary Fund arrived in Asia with the terms for the bailout; higher taxes, elimination of subsidies on basic commodities of food and fuel on which the poor depend, and, above all, elimination of barriers on foreign investment and ownership.

Unlike other nations in the region, Australia has already bowed down to the IMF requirements. Ninety percent of corporate Australia was foreign-owned long before the Asian meltdown started. Australia's Foreign Minister Alexander Downer made it quite clear we would accept all IMF requirements, urging our neighbours to do the same.

But when it became obvious the IMF terms looked like

producing such social breakdown in countries like Indonesia that Australia could be threatened with waves of destitute boat people, Australia offered, on behalf of Indonesia, to beg leniency from the IMF.

Australia has now contributed over \$4 billion to IMF projects for debt-relief in Asia. We are seen as being the 'cats-paw' for the IMF. We have been excluded from ASEAN conferences on alternative relief mechanisms being studied by Asian leaders. We have a bigger overseas debt than any other Asian nation. We have opted to maintain an import-led economy, which is playing havoc with our already-impossible overseas debt.

A recent report from the Canberra-based Access Economics, carried in the *Financial Review* on April 20, said Australia was returning to 'banana-republic' status:

"The surge in the balance of payments deficit and the weaker Australian dollar is also expected to fuel Australia's foreign debt, with Access tipping the politically sensitive net foreign debt to rise from \$328 billion this financial year to \$474 billion by 2001-2, up 45 percent..."

Asian nations, unlike Australia, are fiercely resentful of the foreign takeover being forced on them by the IMF, the debt-collection agency for the International banking fraternity. They see Australia as lined up against them in its uncritical endorsement of the IMF. A few servile politicians may still believe Australia is part of Asia. But nobody else does.

The prelude to these disastrous events is starkly portrayed in Jeremy Lee's book, now in its fourth print-run, with a US edition due shortly.

Available from all League bookshops, \$20 posted.