

ON TARGET

A WEEKLY COMMENTARY ON THE COLD WAR

"We will bury you . . . your children will grow up under Communism . . ." Krushchev.

FALSEHOODS
DISTORTIONS
SUPPRESSION

Registered at the G.P.O. Melbourne for transmission by post as a periodical.

Vol. 6 No. 15

April 24, 1970

Thought for the Week: "There is no wealth but life; that country is richest which nourishes the greatest number of noble and happy human beings." - John Ruskin.

MORALITY AND THE MORATORIUM: "I question the morality of the moratorium planned for May 8. It could well become a threat to public order." - Dr. James Knox, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne, The Age, April 20.

In announcing to the Australian community that the individual has the right to break a "bad" law Dr. Cairns has sought to justify his call to Australian people to "occupy the streets", on May 8. The open alliance between the Communist Party the left wing of the Labor Party, the Church and the intellectuals is bringing tremendous effort into this campaign of mass civil disobedience. Dr. Knox served the community well in drawing attention to the immorality of the campaign. Dr. Cairns and his followers are challenging the basis of the civilising process which elevates society above the level of the jungle. That process stems directly from the Christian belief in God and the relationship of man to God and his institutions (his neighbour).

Simply stated that process relies upon adherence to the laws of the properly constituted society. With all its weaknesses and inadequacies there is no substitution for authority based upon the moral law, and this is still the basis of western civilisation. To maintain the basis of law and order which stems from government based upon the moral law it is necessary that discipline exercised by the state through the Parliament, the Courts and the police be upheld. This is the process which Dr. Cairns and his followers are challenging and seeking to replace with mob violence.

The epistle lesson read in Churches last Sunday puts the issue clearly. "Be subject to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; or to governors, as sent by him for vengeance on evil doers and for praise of them that do well. For so is the will of God, that by well doing ye should put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: as free, and not using your freedom for a cloke of wickedness, but as bond servants of God. Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the King."

The tragedy of our day is that "the ignorance of foolish men" has not been challenged and "put to silence" by those who should understand the irrevocable connection between the maintenance of law and order and the discipline of the Christian faith. Dr. Knox has served the Christian community well by his statement. He needs to be joined by a swelling overwhelming chorus: from all Christian leaders.

THE AMERICAN SITUATION: This week our international correspondent Mr. Eric Butler reports on the current American situation:

Informed American friends have been telling me that President Nixon could be a one-term President. There is no doubt that President Nixon is in deep political trouble on the issue of school segregation. The programme of enforcing segregation is generating increasing friction, not only amongst the Europeans but also amongst the Negroes. Millions of dollars are being spent on growing fleets of buses to bus children many miles so that a school "balance" can be achieved. Nixon is desperately attempting to create the impression that he personally objects to this programme, that parents should have the right to send their children to the nearest local school. This means in effect support for segregated schools. But parents are bitterly pointing out that while the President says one thing, his officials are doing the opposite. The situation has reached the stage where there is serious talk of George Wallace emerging as the major threat to Nixon in 1972. Wallace has been given rousing receptions at big meetings in the South. But the Wallace organisation has lost most of the pre 1968 impetus, and is seriously short of finance. However, if Wallace can win back the Governorship of Alabama later this year, he would then have a strong base from which to operate. It is clear that American politics will therefore be governed to a marked degree by what happens to Wallace later this year.

The Vietnam issue still tears at the very vitals of the American community, with President Nixon scoring major political points with his "Vietnamisation" programme - until the news from Laos and Cambodia started to demonstrate that the Communists are not letting up in their campaign to take the whole of South-East Asia. Unless Nixon is prepared to move to a win policy in Vietnam as demanded by the organisers of the recent victory march, he will find massive opposition to any proposal to directly commit large numbers of American troops in Laos or Cambodia. The Communist strategists are well aware that the American political front is the one where they are confident they can score major successes. This year's Congressional Elections will be a major test for President Nixon, and he is painfully aware of this. All his foreign policies are at present influenced by internal political considerations.

One of the most significant developments is the inconsistency of many of those opposing the American intervention in Vietnam. They support the dangerous American pro-Israel policy in the Middle East, making it clear that America should throw its full weight behind Israel. In spite of the fact that the Middle East situation continues to deteriorate in favour of the Soviet, which moves steadily towards its ultimate objective of obtaining control of the major Middle East oil supplies, there is no evidence of any realistic shift in the Nixon policy. And local Zionist spokesmen, prominent in opposing the Vietnam War, are doing all in their power to ensure that Nixon has no second thoughts. However, one does detect that both in the U.S.A. and Canada there has been a decline in public support and sympathy for Israel. One American observer informs me: "The Zionists desperately need to 'discover' some new threat of anti-Semitism!"

Anthony's Antics

"Adjustment and reconsideration was needed in many rural industries, the Minister for Primary Industry (Mr. Anthony) said today. . . . He said that reconstruction in primary industry was urgently needed." Daily Telegraph (Sydney) April 4th.

Mr. Anthony has apparently learnt little from the Melbourne march. He is quoted by Peter

Samuel, in the Bulletin (April 4th) as saying recently: "It is a most disturbing fact that perhaps one third of the farms which are a cherished part of the Australian scene are producing an inadequate income for the families on them... And much as I don't like it, and much as you don't like hearing it, I am afraid that the only possible answer for many of these people is that they should engage in some other employment, leaving a smaller number of people to work bigger and more economic units."

The number referred to by Mr. Anthony is now about 100,000, and looks like increasing considerably in the next few months. Implicit in his argument is the suggestion that if these farmers go it will be better for those who stay. Why on earth we cannot learn from the mistakes of others is puzzling. In America some 12 million people have left the land during the last twenty years. Today there are under three million farmers. Have they become more viable because of the exodus of their neighbors? By no means. Debt, inflation and resultant bankruptcy are a common condition in many rural areas of the United States. A further "reconstruction" is being considered by the United States administration. A noted congressman, Odin Langen of Minnesota, recently had this to say about the latest scheme: "The Great Society, then, is going to preside over the phasing out of over two out of three farm families as a solution to the problem of low farm income. What such a plan tragically ignores are the total effects on the entire economy. What happens to the rural community. What happens to Churches, schools, county and township governments, health and welfare facilities, mail service, transportation facilities, electric power and telephone systems? And what happens to American cities, already plagued by chronic unemployment?... The nine million farm people, represented by the two and one half million families the administration would remove is a number equivalent to the combined populations of fourteen states; Alaska, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Maine, Montana, New Hampshire, North and South Dakota, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont and Wyoming. Or it would be like evacuating the entire city of New York...."

Mr. Anthony's "only possible answer" may well lead to a reply from the electorate in which men who once were members of Parliament will be "engaged in some other employment" as a result of their ineptitude. "Get Better or Get Out" is a slogan which is catching on rapidly among Australia's men on the land.

COUNTRY PARTY CRISIS: "The Victorian Country Party yesterday rejected moves to break up the Federal coalition with the Liberal Party.... the party decided instead on a resolution indirectly censuring the Federal CP by calling on them to do more for rural communities. Mr. McEwan clashed several times with State CP members of Parliament during a tense three-hour debate over the Party's dissatisfaction with Federal performance." The Age, 16th April, 1970. It is quite clear that the Country Party faces a major crisis over policy. The division between State and Federal members becomes increasingly bitter. The Age report went on to quote the remarks of the Deputy Leader of the State Parliamentary Country Party, Mr. Bruce Evans, who was particularly blunt: "I want Mr. McEwan to do all in his power to ensure that the speech he gave here today doesn't circulate in my electorate. This doctrine that you can do more as a Member of the Government is dynamite - it is what the Liberal opponent from my seat is saying. We ought not to sell the principles and the policies of the Country Party on the basis that it is more important to have power than principles." Mr. McEwan reacted angrily to this, as he did to the vigorous debate which followed his speech. At one stage he threatened to get straight back on the 'plane to Canberra, and also told farmers that they shouldn't

"squeal like stuck pigs." He warned them that they had nothing to gain by shooting at their own front-line troops in Canberra. However, it is clear that fewer and fewer voters regard the Country Party federal members as "front line troops", but rather as the "surrender merchants" getting a good position at the funeral of the family farm. Only a determined reversal of federal members, back to their own National Policy can halt the erosion of confidence that was so apparent at the CP conference at Warrnambool.

MR. GORTON INSISTS ON SUICIDE: The most telling warning came from veteran Victorian Liberal Sir Wilfrid Kent Hughes. "If you go ahead with this, you will be committing political suicide."
- The Age, April 20th.

Faced with revolt from a reported eight to ten members (figures which Allen Barnes the Canberra correspondent of The Age says are admitted by Mr. Gorton himself) over the decision of the Federal Government to legislate for Federal control of offshore limits, Mr. Gorton is reported to have retorted to the above warning from Sir Wilfrid Kent Hughes: "Well let's commit political suicide." Allan Barnes reports Mr. Gorton's "utter refusal to take any notice of criticism voiced at the Government parties' weekly private meetings", the inference being this attitude was applied to any criticism whatsoever, after having promised subsequent to the election debacle to place all legislation before the party for criticism. The offshore limits legislation is the culmination of this "arrogance" says Mr. Barnes. Reports coming in from commentators throughout Australia point to the increasing disrespect in which Mr. Gorton is held/ It is certain there is now no chance of the Government improving or even holding their position at the Senate elections in November under Mr. Gorton, but any house-cleaning which must eventually come, must be accompanied by a rejection of Mr. Gorton's centralist policies.

PARENTS TAKING A STAND: "A high school advisory council has called for State-wide parent opposition to secondary teacher strikes. The twelve-member Mt. Beauty High School advisory council wants the Victorian Council of Schools Organisations...to decry the sporadic strikes backed by the Victorian Teachers' Association." The Age, April 16th, 1970. The report went on to quote one council member as saying "...we abhor the manner in which the VSTA is proceeding to build a form of anarchy into our schools by their approach to the problem." He said a recent open night at the school had been turned into a political junket for teachers. Mt. Beauty parents were not happy with the campaign's effect on children. They were being set an example through a rebellious attitude to the Education Department, becoming involved in issues at time when they should be enjoying life. The fears expressed by Mt. Beauty parents are shared by an increasing number of parents around the country. We should never forget that education is a parental responsibility, and that parents must question vigorously any improper use of educational time. Increasingly, children are used as raw material in political issues, despite the anxiety of parents.

"ON TARGET" is published by the Australian League of Rights, Bcx 1052J, G.P.O. Melbourne.

Subscription rate \$4.00 per annum. W. & J. Barr (Printers) Pty. Ltd.