



ON TARGET

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The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance—

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Thought for the Week : "It is in the light of our conceptions of right and wrong that we frame our conduct".

-- Aldous Huxley.

DISTRUST OF POLITICIANS AND ECONOMISTS STRENGTHENS. "He (Mr. McMahon, Prime Minister) may know, indeed, precisely where we are going - but he is the only man in Australia who does. Nor is it at all satisfactory to any of us that he should keep this secret to himself."

-- Editorial, The Australian, December 2nd.

From all parts of the Western world come the reports and opinions of those who have become disillusioned with politicians, and with economists. The credibility of both, in the public mind, is somewhere near zero. The Australian, in the above Editorial, goes into the attack, with guns blazing :- "Their action in proposing to give themselves whopping increases in salaries and pensions is provoking unrest - for this is a time of severe industrial turbulence, accompanied by demands for extraordinary restraint by wage earners. However good the general case for higher parliamentary salaries, the timing of these proposals is atrociously revealing of hypocrisy in the sermonisers who claim to be leading us".

The Treasurer, Mr. Snedden, with typical, consummate gall, on a recent current affairs feature on T.V., claimed that politicians were "a part of the work force", and thereby entitled to the same percentage increments in salary as any other worker. This reasoning is fallacious. Politicians are part of management, not the work force, and management is responsible for the economic health of John Smith Limited, or Australia Unlimited. If the management of John Smith Limited joins in the wage demands of its work-force in a mismanaged enterprise, then John Smith Limited is on the skids. Similarly, the management (politicians) of Australia Unlimited who join in the wage demands of a mismanaged Australia are just as culpable as their counterparts in private enterprise. Mr. Snedden, and his ilk, must be made to realize that there is very strong "feeling" on this issue of politicians' salary grabs in the Australian community at this moment.

The same sort of comments are coming in from Britain and the U.S.A. Mr. Noel Hawken, in the "West Australian" (November 29th) reports from London that "The economic policy that the Conservatives put forward in the election of June, 1970, is bankrupt". Mr. Heath, the British Prime Minister, most assuredly has his problems, not the least of which is the state of the British economy, with unemployment nearing the one million mark, and quite likely to rise to higher numbers. The Heath Government hoped that unemployment would hold back wage demands, and according to orthodox economists, inflation. But the British Government was unaware of that new monster,

stagflation. Mr. Hawken comments - "The old-fashioned Keynesian type of pump-priming apparently doesn't work any more". Unemployment and stagflation of the British type are now causing the gravest concern in all the Common Market countries : even a chill has come over the West German economic miracle.

The Australian's man in London, Peter Smark, has some acid comments for his contribution of December 4th. Below the heading - "Politicians and Economists Deserve Each Other", he says :- "...we can offer firstly the explanation of why the Group of Ten meeting was held in Rome. The Italian capital was thought suitable because the Italian Government, like the international monetary system, does not work".

What progress was made at the meeting? Very satisfactory, observes Mr. Smark - agreement was avoided - so that now Prime Ministers, Presidents, and others can take huge delegations of economists when they all fly off for the next meeting in warmer climates. This helps the airlines, at one another's throats now for business, and keeps the economists employed. This is the facetious, vitriolic tone now commonly used to describe the 'antics' of politicians and economists. Mr. Smark's concluding barbs are worthy of reproduction. "...But isn't a fat balance of payments surplus a good thing? Britons thought so, but now they are told it is bad and that they might have to push the value of the pound up unless they all start spending like mad. The British have been saving too much, which they were under the impression was a good thing, but which is now known to be a bad thing".

"Who told them it was a good thing to save like crazy? The economists and politicians. Who now says that it is a bad thing? The economists and politicians".

We are hearing the same gobbledegook from our home-grown politicians and economists (On Target, November 19th). A serious inflationary "demand" situation in a matter of weeks disappears, and the Prime Minister and the Treasurer take measures to "stimulate" the economy. They are all groping : the blind economists are leading the blind politicians, who are supposed to be "leading" the people - but WHERE are they leading us? :

D.L.P. SENATOR COURAGEOUS ON SOUTH AFRICA. "Australia has obvious interests in the defence of the Cape route but our navy is not permitted to co-operate with this British-South Africa arrangement because our Government is afraid of those in Australia who prefer emotion to realism".

-- Senator F.P. McManus, in a letter to the Editor of The Age, Melbourne, December 3rd.

There is no doubt at all that many, or even most, Liberal Party politicians, and some of the A.L.P. politicians, are sympathetic to South Africa and Rhodesia. Senator McManus is one of the more courageous ones who speaks out fearlessly on this issue, and we give him full credit for it : there are a few others. The Senator is right to indict the Government for its fear of this political 'hot potato'. The issue has been made a 'hot potato' because of the strenuous exertions and activities of the highly organized Communist-Left-wing-liberal (small "l") complex. International Communism is putting everything it has got into the campaign to undermine the integrity of Southern Africa (read "A Message from Southern Africa" by Ivor Benson : price 62 cents, post free, from Box 1052J, G.P.O., Melbourne, Vic., 3001). The politicians are afraid that a forthright avowal of support for South Africa and Rhodesia will cost them votes; and the modern politician in the West does all his political 'thinking' in terms of the possible effects of his words and actions on the votes of his electors.

Superficially, it would appear that this is as it should be, and this would be the case, if events and issues on which public opinion is held are based on factual information, and not distorted propaganda. And the mass media are as guilty as they can be over this matter of factual reporting on Southern Africa. Not only are the vital issues of our proper relationships with this part of the world distorted and/or obscured, but those who do have the courage to speak out truthfully are subjected to all manner of abuse. The evil situation has come about that our political 'leaders' are afraid to stand up for the truth on an issue of the most vital concern to our Nation because they are bluffed into silence, largely by subversives, who have managed to brainwash these politicians into the belief that it is 'advisable' to remain silent on 'controversial' issues. It is a sign of the times that integrity is not the strong point of our politicians. Fortunately, we still do possess a few of courage and integrity, who may quite possibly go down in history as famous Australians. We believe that Senator McManus may be one of these.

GIVE YOURSELF A CHRISTMAS PRESENT.

The above title suggests the slick advertising man's 'catch-line'. What a disappointment to discover that this Christmas present does not come in a shiny box with Christmas tinsel. It is something that you cannot see nor touch, and can even bring criticism to you from friends and acquaintances. It is a donation/pledge to the Australian League of Rights 1971-72 Financial Appeal. This Christmas present is a guarantee to you that the Australian League of Rights will be able to maintain its operations against the forces of Darkness that are closing in around the precious light of freedom which we still have in our hands. The flow of donations/pledges to the Financial Appeal slowed last week : \$384-30 was received, taking the total now to \$9,834-10. May we please have all those 'Christmas Presents' which you can give yourself by sending your pledges/donations to the Australian League of Rights Financial Appeal (1971-72) Box 1052 J, G.P.O., Melbourne, Vic. All Northern N.S.W. and Queensland contributions should be sent to Box 17, Alderley, Queensland, 4051.

NATIONAL T.V. BROADCASTS OF INTEREST. Over the past week or so, two telecasts of interest have claimed our attention, and the interest of the Nation. The first was the Prime Minister's 'report' to the Nation, and the second, Monday Conference, an hour-long question and answer session held between a visiting professor of Agricultural Economics, and a rural audience of some 700 people, at Condoblin, N.S.W.

Those who waited, with bated breath, to hear the Prime Minister report to the Nation, and perhaps outline plans to combat the disastrous down-turn in the economic situation, were completely disillusioned. What we were treated to was the report of a pigny who had visited the Lands of the Giants - he had been patted on the head by one or two of the Giants. The Anzus Treaty is still valid : we wonder how much credence the people of Taiwan now place in American 'assurances'. The 'report' was a fizzer - in Orwellian phraseology, the un-report of an anti-Prime Minister.

The Monday Conference confrontation between Professor Ogg and his audience had more meat in it. It was obvious that the A.B.C. was sympathetic to the plight of the rural people, and that it was making a genuine attempt to bring before the Australian people as a whole the severity of the rural crisis.

However, whilst there were some aspects of the session which were helpful, viz., that rural reconstruction would not help the small, or family farmer so much as the pastoral Houses, companies etc.; that governmental support for limitation of production had not worked in the U.S.A., and would not work here; and that Australian farmers should not be content to 'gripe' about their problems, but take them up with their M.P.s. Overall, nothing was put forward which would give a lead towards a solution of basic problems. Professor Ogg assumed, from the beginning, that there was a case for reconstruction, and therefore, the shift of population from the land was an accepted fact of life. The audience followed this cue, and the questions and answers dealt only with effects, and not causes. Tariffs were blamed for the cost/price squeeze, but no attempt was made to criticize financial policy. The burden of increasing debts, and high interest rates received no prominent comment, and therefore no attempt was made to promote a solution. Heavy taxation, and inflation were barely mentioned. If these basic factors are assumed to be inevitable, there is no solution to current problems. League supporters should utilize the publication - "A Programme for Reversing Inflation" (32 cents post free from Box 1052J, G.P.O., Melbourne, Vic., 3001) in order to hammer home the alternatives which are available now.

ON TARGET CHRISTMAS GIFT SUBSCRIPTION

The On Target subscriptions are rising steadily, nevertheless, we have always offered an inducement to our supporters to have a little 'drive' of their own at Christmas time, by making a gift-subscription offer, and this Christmas will be no exception. For one reason and another, we make the offer a little different this time. We offer gift-subscriptions for a period of THREE MONTHS, and the offer is open until the 31st December, 1971 ONLY. Prices :- One subscription 90¢ - two and more subscriptions 50¢ each. Please mention, in your application, whether or not you require your name to be made known to the donee on a gift card.

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