



ON TARGET

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The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance—

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Thought for the Week: "Of all villiany, there is none more base than that of the hypocrite, who, at the moment is most false, takes care to be most virtuous."

- Cicero.

AUSTRALIA AT THE CROSS-ROADS: By Eric D. Butler.

This is a time for facing reality, not for clutching at straws. Even the most non-partisan electors will agree that there is a strong case for ridding the nation of one of the most hypocritical Prime Ministers it has ever suffered. But the same electors are far from convinced that a Fraser-Anthony Government is going to deal constructively with the basic finance-economic problem rapidly eroding what is left of the free society. While Mr. Malcolm Fraser has said in letters to electors that he feels that the "Petersen Plan" for reversing inflation has considerable merit, which is encouraging, there has been no official public statement to indicate that the Liberal Party policy makers have any realistic anti-inflation programme.

As for Mr. Doug Anthony, Leader of the Federal National Country Party, he has recently demonstrated that he can be just as dishonest as Prime Minister Whitlam. When asked by leaders of the Farmers' Union of Western Australia what was the attitude of his Party to the anti-inflation plan put forward by the Queensland Premier, Mr. J. Bjelke-Petersen, Mr. Anthony replied: "As I explained, the so-called Petersen Plan comprises a number of separate policy papers by the Queensland Premier over a period of time, most of which I wholeheartedly support. However, the attempt by the League of Rights to collect all of the Premier's statements into a package and add one or two of their own to it, and label it as the Petersen Plan does not have my support. The main part of their policy is for food subsidies which I disagree with". (Vide The Farmers' Weekly, October 2nd.)

This is one of the most wilfully dishonest statements conceivable, and is a serious reflection upon the Queensland Premier, who put forward his three-point plan for reversing inflation at a Premiers' Conference called by Prime Minister Whitlam following the Federal Elections in May of last year. The "Petersen Plan" was produced in response to a challenge by the Prime Minister for Premiers to put forward an anti-inflation policy. Notes prepared by the Premier concerning his policy were subsequently made available by the Queensland Premier for those asking for details. It is the Premier's own notes which the League of Rights has had circulated in tens of thousands throughout Australia. It is a blatant falsehood that the League did as Mr. Anthony claims. This is not the first time that Mr. Anthony has made false accusations against the League. He tried once to label it as "pro-Nazi." Mr. Anthony is entitled to disagree with the policy of consumer price discounts on food, but he is not entitled to suggest that this is one of the policies which the League added to the Queensland Premier's proposals. If Mr. Anthony will consult with Mr. J. Bjelke-Petersen, he will learn that Consumer price discounts on food are advocated by the Premier.

Irrespective of what explanation is offered for Mr. Anthony's misrepresentation of the "Petersen Plan" including that which suggests he is a case of a man suffering from an invincible stupidity, he must be listed as a liability to the anti-Socialist cause at the present critical time.

The tragedy of the Liberal-National Country Party position is that Mr. Fraser is attempting to make a stand on ground which the Liberal-Country Party Coalition played a major role in undermining over many years. There is no argument, as I pointed out last week, that the Senate has the lawful right to act to try to force a Government to face the electors. The Senate is a part of the Parliament, and contrary to all Mr. Whitlam's sweeping claims, he has at present lost control of the Commonwealth Parliament. But it was unfortunate that it was Mr. Fraser, leader of the Liberal Party in the House of Representatives, who made the public announcement that the Senate would defer Supply until there was an election for the House of Representatives. This suggested that the Senate had no real independence, but is the passive creature of Mr. Fraser and Mr. Anthony. The end result of the present crisis may conceivably be a further down-grading of the Senate, leading to drastic reduction in its powers and its eventual abolition.

As this comment is written, my own assessment, based upon an objective examination of all the evidence, as distinct from what I might prefer, is that Mr. Fraser is starting to lose ground. He and his colleagues desperately need a new initiative. The Whitlam strategy is clear and ruthless. Mr. Fraser and his advisers failed to understand the character of the Prime Minister. Mr. Whitlam only responded to the Senate challenge last year by a double dissolution because he knew that the finance-economic crisis was going to worsen, and that he had every chance of defeating Mr. Snedden and hopefully establishing himself firmly for a full three-year term, starting with a joint sitting of the Senate and House of Representatives during which he could push through his most important legislation. The Whitlam appointment of former Senator Murphy to the High Court has produced a series of majority decisions which make an alarming contribution to the Socialist strategy. Insufficient publicity has been given to Chief Justice Barwick's charge that the Federal Constitution is being subverted by High Court decisions.

Mr. Fraser should have seen that Mr. Whitlam was not likely to react to a Senate threat in 1975 as he did in 1974. The Prime Minister knows that he would be decisively defeated in a House of Representatives election at present. It was obvious that he would not submit, but would decide to try to fight his way out of the crisis, irrespective of the cost to the nation. Aided by most of the media, particularly the ABC, and brilliant if hypocritical Parliamentary performances, Mr. Whitlam has gone on to the offensive. A desperate Labor Party has tightly closed ranks behind him, The Dr. Cairns statement concerning Mr. Whitlam will have little effect on events. The Khemlani affair is starting to look like a cheap Hollywood film. The Whitlam propaganda machine is attempting to show that the Opposition are only concerned with "grabbing power". As Government funds run out, the Whitlam campaign will intensify the attack on Mr. Fraser, charging him with being the "guilty man" who has stopped the flow of funds and is making people suffer. If the Senate refuses to shift from its present position, Mr. Whitlam will continue on, attempting to confuse the people about "parliamentary democracy" (many are most confused) and preparing the ground for a half-Senate Election. He will attempt to use the national crisis to keep public debate away from the fundamental issues, trusting that sufficient electors will respond to this strategy, thus ensuring that he improves his position in the Senate. With the ACT vote giving him two extra Senators (John Gorton has made his pro-Whitlam position clear) it is possible that Whitlam can achieve his objective. If he does, the situation will then be desperate.

The only answer to the Whitlam strategy is for sufficient electors to pressure the Opposition to campaign on the fundamental issues, and to start putting genuine alternative policies to the Australian people. Only in this way can Whitlam be forced on to the defensive.

TRANSPORT LEADER WARNS ON INTERSTATE COMMISSION: "Mayne Nickless Ltd., big transport group today launched a strong attack on the growing number of commissions, tribunals and statutory authorities in Australia, which it said are destroying incentive. The chairman, Mr. R. C. Davis... said the time had come for an objective appraisal of government in Australia. 'The 3-tier system - local, state and federal - probably has many advantages over any alternative, but the appendages in the form of commissions, tribunals and statutory authorities have become such a maze that I believe the inefficiencies are not apparent and they are growing... My company is disturbed at the possibility of another body in the form of an Interstate Commission', he said."

- The Herald, Melbourne October 28th.

Mr. Davis does well to warn about the potential dangers of the Interstate Commission. While it is true that all bureaucracy tends to expand and feed upon itself, there is much more to the Interstate Commission than is generally realised. It is a major feature of the overall strategy to create a centrally-planned Socialist State in Australia. Many innocent people, including some who would strongly deny any Socialist tendencies, have thought that the Federal Government's offers to take over all State railways were designed merely to relieve the States of their onerous financial problems. But as the Federal Minister for Transport, Mr. C. Jones, said after the South Australian State election results made it clear that the South Australian railways would come under Commonwealth control, this step was central to his Government's strategy for eventual control of the whole Australian railway system.

Control of communications and transport is a major feature of Socialist strategy, as outlined by Karl Marx in The Communist Manifesto of 1848. The Socialist strategists in Australia are determined to bring all forms of transport, including road transport, under central control. It is true that the Opposition has insisted upon a number of amendments to the Interstate Commission Bill, but the Socialists are always happy to have what appears to be relatively harmless machinery established as a beginning, knowing that some "crisis" can always be used later to expand the use of the machinery.

Mr. Davis is engaging in wishful thinking by suggesting that the Interstate Commission might turn out to be a "toothless tiger with a charter in vague terms like 'co-ordinating', 'investigating' or 'policy making'." His alternative suggestion, that it could be "a creeping monster gradually controlling the destinies of every transport operator and employee in Australia", is much more realistic. He and his business colleagues in the transport industry should take the question of the Interstate Commission much further, applying the maximum pressure to all Opposition Members and candidates, asking for definite pledges of opposition to bureaucratic interference with the transport industry. They should also be using their business expertise to get a warning across to the public, pointing out that the ultimate objective of centralised control of transport is control of THE INDIVIDUAL.

BRIEF COMMENTS: As Mr. Don Martin, National Director of The British League of Rights, revealed during his Australian lecture tour, a massively-financed propaganda campaign was used to persuade many British electors that the European Economic Community is a "bastion" against Communism.

As Portugal slides towards a major internal collapse, with conflicting groups of Marxists fighting for

power, the Common Market is offering to help Portugal with £80 million while cutting off trade talks with anti-Communist Spain. No comment necessary.

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LEAGUE LEADS AGAIN

With the Senate and House of Representatives still dead-locked when the Commonwealth Parliament met on Tuesday of this week, the League of Rights proposed that a new initiative be introduced into the developing crisis by a nation-wide Petition to the Governor-General, requesting him to use his authority to end the crisis by dissolving Parliament and permitting the electors to vote at a general election.

Coinciding with the insertion of a large advertisement in The Sun, Melbourne, on Wednesday of this week, League of Rights, National Director Mr. Eric Butler issued a statement to the Australian media, stressing that the Australian people had the solution to the national crisis in their own hands. They must ask the Governor-General, a part of the Commonwealth Parliament, to act on their behalf. Mr. Butler said that if sufficient public financial support was obtained, the League planned a nation-wide series of press advertisements concerning the Petition Campaign.

As we go to press the first response to the League's initiative has been most encouraging. Unless the political crisis is ended over the next week, actionists should be ready to participate in yet another major national League campaign.

Brief Comments continued.

In 1973 the Anglican Bishops of Mashonaland and Matabeleland, Rhodesia, protested to the World Council of Churches that it was financing groups that "employ methods of naked terrorism". The Bishops charged that the terrorists "came out of the bush, surrounded farm-houses by night, sprayed them with bullets and heavier armaments, wounding occupants, chiefly children, and burning down houses of local Africans.

The W.C.C. ignored the protests so the Rhodesian Bishops wrote again in May, 1974, stating that since their last letter "members of ZANU and their willing or forced accomplices have killed 87 civilians in this country. Far and away the majority of these have been Africans innocent of any offence and most have been killed with great brutality". The Bishops concluded, "We have learnt with disgust that earlier this year £6,355 was voted to ZANU." But the so-called Christians of the W.C.C. continue to support the murdering of innocent Rhodesian Africans. All Christians should make certain that no part of their Church funds are donated to the W.C.C.

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At least one piece of cheering news has come out of the current national crisis. Mr. Al Grassby, the Federal Government's "adviser on Community relations", says he has been "embarrassed" because he cannot travel. He has no funds because of the Senate budget deferment!

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