



# ON TARGET

- NEWS HIGHLIGHTS
- BACKGROUND INFORMATION
- COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

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*The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance—*

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September 10th, 1976.

Thought for the Week: "It is singular that from every quarter we hear the opinion expressed that the European Age is passing, an idea linked with the rise of Eastern political ideologies such as Marxism. That is to say, we have succumbed to the East, because of our own unsoundness. It is highly important to realise that the idea and the retrogression have been contemporaneous; that it is almost possible to say that the prevalence of 'the Western heresy' has driven out of Europe that subtle quality which gave poise and resistance to the European. If Europe (and Great Britain) are to be saved, they have to recover their soul. There is no hope in the stampede of the Gadarene swine. In the economic plane, as in the social structure, the future of this country lies, as it always has lain, with quality, not mass-production....."

- C.H. Douglas in 1945.

THE ADMISSIONS OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER McMAHON: In a feature article in "The Herald", Melbourne, of September 6th, former Liberal Prime Minister and Federal Treasurer W. McMahon reveals that he has the capacity to support different policies at the same time. Having said that "In my opinion, the main thrust and objectives of both the prologue to the Budget in May and the August Budget are correct", Mr. McMahon then went on to urge the stimulation of consumption by tax reductions. He said, "With the advantage of long experience I would have reduced personal income tax by at least  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent and would also have reduced sales tax on a limited number of items in the consumer price index. Both of these measures would have been taken to stimulate consumption and investment expenditure and to offset the fairly large rise expected in the December quarter consumer price index." Mr. McMahon also says that "I would not have worried about a budget deficit of \$3,750 million, provided the extra amount was used to stimulate consumption, investment and production in the private sector of the economy." While much of the rest of Mr. McMahon's article contains the type of self-contradictory nonsense which helped to destroy his Government in 1972, we ask readers to make use of the admission by a former Federal Treasurer that consumption can be

stimulated quite easily by a reduction in taxation. If the Treasury-Lynch-Fraser strategy is persevered with, the prevailing climate of growing gloom is going to continue. And the December C.P.I. figures will prove beyond all argument that in spite of wage restraints, business bankruptcies, increasing discounts by desperate retailers, and the indirect subsidies provided by primary producers steadily being forced to accept a lower standard of living, inflation is not being reversed.

THE COMING MEDIBANK DISASTER: Early next month Australian wage-earners are going to experience a further restriction of their purchasing power as they start making their compulsory contributions to Medibank. Those firms who pay Medibank contributions for their employees will eventually have to recover their increased financial costs in higher prices. While claiming that he believes in freedom of choice, Prime Minister Fraser is imposing a socialist insurance scheme upon the Australian people. And like all socialist schemes, it must be compulsory. Dr. Peter Richardson, the Federal Liberal Member for Tangey, W.A., a former practising gynaecologist with extensive experience in the United States, Britain and Africa, predicts that "Medibank is heading for disaster." In an article in "The Australian" of September 6th, Dr. Richardson says that the disastrous future of Medibank "can be accurately predicted from the fate of the British and Canadian systems, whose small measure of success has been attained at very great financial, social and medical cost to the countries concerned.

If the Fraser Government were genuinely anti-Socialist, at least taxpayers would be given the right to opt out of any national insurance scheme and to make their own arrangements concerning their health. Perhaps some of Dr. Richardson's colleagues will heed his critical examination of Medibank.

THE WOMEN OF IRELAND: Last week we reported on the inspiring peace marches by Irish women. The woman who set the peace movement in motion, Mrs. Betty Williams, the 32 year-old mother of two children told a journalist after further mass peace marches last week end: "We are not going to stop this overnight. The peace movement has been going for only four weeks, the violence has been with us for seven years. But don't you be the cynical journalist. We are going to win eventually. Surely the spirit of the Irish women can prove infectious? They have a vital role to play in salvaging what is left of Civilisation.

## THE MOST CRITICAL WEEK-END IN LEAGUE HISTORY!

Will YOU Stand to be Counted?

The 1976 National week-end of the Australian League of Rights coincides with a rapid deepening of the national and international crisis. The situation presents the greatest challenge the League has ever had to face, one which is going to discover whether enough are really prepared to stand to be counted.

THE NEW TIMES DINNER: Friday, September 17th, 6.30 p.m. at the Victoria, Lt. Collins Street, Melbourne. It is the duty of every supporter eligible and capable of attending to be present at this annual re-dedication function. Your presence inspires others. Speakers to the toasts will be of the usual high standard. The toast to "The New Times" will be proposed by Mr. Murray Jorgensen, editor of the League's new quarterly, "Heritage". In view of the rush of events in Southern Africa, a special feature of this year's Dinner will be the playing of a taped appeal to Christians everywhere by Major the Rev. John Fall, Rhodesian Army Corp of Chaplains. Those present will hear the moving words of a priest of the Christian Church who tells the real Rhodesian story from the front line. Chairman: Mr. Jeremy Lee. Bookings accepted until Wednesday, September 15th, 5.00 p.m. Donation \$7.50. State if fish or vegetarian dinner required. Messages from those unable to attend will be read at Dinner and published in Dinner issue of "The New Times."

CAN AUSTRALIA BE DEFENDED? Three outstanding speakers, including Mr. Eric Butler, will deal with the most vital issue facing Australia today at the League's National Seminar, Saturday, September 18th. The third Paper, "Australia's Front Line in Rhodesia", will be given by a personal friend of Prime Minister Ian Smith. Be present yourself and use enclosed leaflet to tell all your friends. Venue: The Victoria. First Paper: 2.15 p.m.

CAN THE LEAGUE MEET THE CHALLENGE? The National Action Seminar on Sunday, September 19th, will hear League National Director Mr. Eric Butler present a survey which will be the biggest challenge ever presented to League supporters. A variety of reports and discussions will be a feature of the day. Short Divine service - 9.30 a.m. Conference starts at 10 a.m. Lunch provided for \$1.00. Those intending to attend must book. Ring 63.9749. Or write to Box 1052J, G.P.O., Melbourne.

BRIEF COMMENTS: As the rural crisis deepens, with some desperately suggesting that the drought in Southern Australia might be creating shortages and higher prices (!), the Federal Country Party are reviving that old hardy, a Rural Bank. For years the Federal Country Party paid lip service to the necessity for a Rural Bank. Mr. Ralph Hunt, currently Minister for Health, made a speech on the subject before becoming a Cabinet Minister. Sensing the wrath of the electors before the 1972 Federal Elections, the Federal Country Party attempted once again to revive the Rural Bank project, but the Liberal Party would have none of it. The truth is that long-term, low-interest credit could readily be made available to primary producers through present Commonwealth banking institutions. All that is required is a policy directive from the Government. Much more pressure will be required on the Fraser Government before that happens. In the meantime thousands of good Australians are walking off their properties.

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"It is nearly one year and a half since the economy of the United States recovered. But, personal consumption has been stagnant, unemployment has increased, and private investment has not picked up. Both the Republicans and the Democrats have completed the nomination of their presidential candidates. Economic problems will be among their major campaign issues." Believe it or not, the foregoing is a serious comment by a correspondent describing the American scene for the readers of "China Post", September 3rd. While the American Presidential candidates debate how they are going to have increased economic growth without more inflation, Mr. Fraser, Mr. Lynch and their Treasury "experts" insist that the American anti-inflation strategy has been "successful".

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Speaking in Brisbane last week-end Federal Treasurer Lynch said that Australians were overtaxed. But like a good party politician, he blamed the Labor Government for high taxes. Of course the Whitlam Government increased taxes. But does Mr. Lynch really expect Australians to believe that heavy taxation only started with Labor? Now that Mr. Lynch admits taxation is too high, will he please move to ease the burden, starting preferably with the highly inflationary Sales Tax? He makes much of tax indexation, but no move has been made to index Sales Tax, which even Mr. Lynch says will provide \$1700 million for the Commonwealth over the current financial year.

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