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The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance—

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Thought for the Week: "Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them."  
-St. Matthew, Chapter 7, verse 20.

LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS: By Eric D Butler.

It would be blatant denial of truth to dispute that on Christmas Eve, 1976, mankind is living in the twilight of a Civilisation which reached its zenith early this century. Starting with the First World War, which was in essence a civil war between Christian Europeans, this century has advanced to the accompaniment of a growing barbarism and the eroding of all those Christian values which gave Western Civilisation its distinctive character.

The Great Depression of the 'thirties, the growth of Communism, the Second World War and the increasing disasters which flowed from it, were but an extension of the policy of destruction set in motion in 1914. Millions of human beings have been killed, murdered, tortured, starved or uprooted from the homes in which their forbears lived for centuries. Millions have passed under the jack-boot of Communism.

A rootless internationalist, Henry Kissinger, the man who betrayed the people of Vietnam, who persuaded the simple President Ford to sign the Helsinki Agreement which formally proclaimed the ancient Christian nations of Eastern Europe to be permanently enslaved by the Soviet Union, and who insisted that Ian Smith of Rhodesia must negotiate the surrender of civilised government in Rhodesia under the guise of "majority rule", is hailed as a great world statesman.

The "famous" correspondents of the media pour out a torrent of words allegedly designed to ensure that the truth is known. But as the famous Malcolm Muggeridge has shown, the role of the media has been directed towards promoting trivia and perversion while suppressing as far as possible all information concerning the growing advance of barbarism. One of the most disgraceful episodes of the Second World War was the forced repatriation of at least one million Russian to the Soviet Union from

which they fled to escape the Stalin terror. Large numbers committed suicide rather than return. As Solzhenitsyn has charged, the "free, incorruptible press" of Britain participated in the cover-up of this sickening crime. When it suits the purposes of the controllers of the media, they then become "fearless", even bringing a President down. But they cannot discover the truth about Communism, that it could not have survived in the Soviet Union without the massive economic blood transfusion financed from the West by international financiers like the Rockefellers.

But in spite of treachery and the growth of barbarism, the eternal truth cannot be destroyed. The Solzhenitsyns of this world are a reminder that the spirit can still triumph over the flesh; that as one message to the 1976 Annual New Times Dinner put it, there is not enough darkness in the whole world to put out the light of small candle. The world into which Christ came was even darker than today's world. The Roman Civilisation was disintegrating, basically for the same reasons that Western Civilisation is disintegrating. The early Christians who celebrated the birth of He who said that He was the Light of the World, faced a far more formidable task than that of today. And yet eventually their Faith triumphed and found expression in the greatest and most creative Civilisation yet produced by man.

Those who know the Truth have a special responsibility in the testing days ahead. Unlike those living in ignorance, they cannot ask for forgiveness because they know not what they do. League of Rights supporters have a special mission as the darkness deepens; to boldly proclaim the Truth about the basic causes of the state of the world, and by their constructive works in society to help sustain the morale of their fellows in the quickening crisis. They must play their part in preserving that light essential to show the way forward through the night to tomorrow's dawn. Let us pray that the night will not be of long duration.

A Happy and Holy Christmas to all readers and their families. And a period of real refreshment before stepping forward to meet the challenge of 1977.

PUBLICATION ARRANGEMENTS: This is the last issue of On Target for 1976. The first issue for 1977 will be January 21st. Subscribers to Heritage should be receiving the December-February issue this week. As a result of copy delayed in our "efficient" postal service, New Times readers will unfortunately not receive the December issue until after Christmas.

THE RURAL CRISIS DEEPENS: A survey being conducted by the women's section of the National Party in Victoria has confirmed the view of veteran League of Rights supporters that the current rural crisis is worse than the crisis of the Great Depression. The destruction of the rural

communities started before the Whitlam Government came to power. If Government Members believe that they can go on blaming the Whitlam Government for the rural crisis, they are in for some major shocks by the time the next Federal Elections take place.

The survey conducted by National Party women reveals that more than a third of farmers' wives now do a full day's work on the farms. Farmers' wives are being forced to do more as their husbands seek work off the farm. There was a "growing feeling of helplessness". 65 per cent. feel like second-class citizens. They feel unable to maintain their homes or provide their children with common place extras. Many find that they can no longer afford to visit friends, with 40 per cent. stating that they had been forced to cancel holidays and outings. There are growing health and domestic problems. Families were breaking up. Primary Industry Minister Sinclair has said that the rural survey findings were alarming. He would refer the findings to his departmental officers and the Social Security Minister, Senator Guilfoyle. In the meantime not one positive suggestion has come from the Federal Government on how to ensure that farmers who have produced an abundance of food, or could easily do so, might be suitably rewarded without penalising consumers with even higher food prices. The use of new financial credits to finance consumer discounts would be a major step in the right direction. But Federal Treasurer Lynch doggedly keeps on insisting that there is "excess liquidity"- i.e., that there is too much purchasing power.

The destruction of the rural communities of Australia is a major national disaster, and one for which all Australians will pay dearly unless halted.

BRIEF COMMENTS: The critical state of Australia's defence is a matter of grave concern. Defence Minister Killen fell into a trap of his own making when he challenged Bulletin journalist Samuel to debate him on TV concerning allegations of Defence Department leaks made by Mr. Samuel.

When he appeared before Channel 9's cameras, Mr. Killen's bluster and rhetoric were no match for the kind of hard facts produced by Mr. Samuel. But just as serious as lack of defence security, is the fact that the already meagre Defence programme is to cost more because of devaluation. The estimated cost of a five-year programme is \$1857 million. As about 80 per cent of military equipment bought is from overseas, nearly another \$400 million must now be added to the total cost. There is a vast amount of unused industrial capacity in Australia which could be used to make Australia much more self-reliant militarily. Increased domestic defence spending could at present provide a stimulus to consumer demand. But, as Defence Minister Killen said earlier this year, "fighting" inflation must take precedence over military defence. A realistic defence programme

requires a change of financial policy to permit full use of Australia's productive capacity without creating more inflation.

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In the long list of policy disasters, both foreign and domestic, by the Fraser Government during its first year in office, the important subject of Taiwan should not be overlooked. It was reasonable to expect an "anti-Communist" Government to restore the normal relations with Taiwan which were disrupted by the Whitlam Government. The strategic importance of Taiwan is enormous.

Papua-New Guinea has established diplomatic relations with Peking without breaking its ties with Taiwan. Japan and other countries do likewise.

THE BASIC FUND. There has been a magnificent response to the League's Basic Fund for 1976=77. It is clear that many of our readers have seen the real picture of our situation and have grasped the fact that only the application of the principle of self-help is going to give the Australian people a fighting chance of preserving their rights and freedoms. Since our last report 105 supporters have added \$5668 to the Basic Fund, taking the total to \$20,415. Nearly half of the Fund has therefore been subscribed or pledged in just under three months. The League is continuing to plan ahead for the biggest expansion programme in its history, confident that the balance of \$25,000 will be provided long before the end of the League financial year.

A feature of the giving has been the usual magnificent giving by those least able to afford big contributions. Several pensioners have given \$50. We are deeply moved by the spirit of some of our hard-pressed rural supporters. Those giving can rest assured that there are no "fat cat" salaries paid in the League. Salaries paid to full-time League officials put them in what the Henderson Report describes as the "poverty class." There are no strikes about conditions or salaries. The 40-hour week is unknown. Overheads are kept to a minimum. Much of the League's "donkey work" is done by volunteers. The volunteer printing team is also developing, thus enabling vast quantities of brochures, for example, to be turned out for supporters to distribute.

Will all those who have not yet contributed please do so as quickly as possible. Today's battles can only be fought with ammunition available NOW. All Queensland and Northern N.S.W. contributions to Mr. Jeremy Lee, Kingsdown, via Armidale, N.S.W. The balance to Box 1052J, G.P.O., Melbourne.