



ON TARGET

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The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance—

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Thought for the Week: Changing attitudes is, I have discovered, one of the most difficult things to achieve. Indeed, societies tend to roll on, under their own momentum. The danger is that people may not stop and rethink where they are going until a disaster occurs."

- Prince Charles in "The New Zealand Herald", March 30,
in article putting the case for small, decentralised
technology.

THE REAL LESSON FROM RUNDLE: The real lesson of the Rundle affair is that the danger of a nation pinning its faith in big-scale planning, has been dramatically exposed. Assuming that Esso is genuine when it says that it now finds that simply to test the technology needed to mine and treat shale for oil would cost \$2100 million, three times the original estimate, what a damning indictment of the alleged "efficiency" of massive, highly-centralised technology to develop sufficient energy for Australia's genuine requirements. There may, of course, be an ulterior motive by the Rockefeller interest in holding up, or even abandoning the Rundle shale oil project. The history of the oil industry reeks with corruption from the days when John Rockefeller frankly outlined his strategy for monopolising the oil industry.

While we have no sympathy for Prime Minister Fraser and his colleagues, who before the last elections made every effort to "sell" the Rundle project as the centre-piece of their much-publicised "resources boom," we completely disagree with those who say that the future energy outlook for Australia is now gloomy. What is required now is every encouragement, including the provision of adequate credits, to those individuals and small groups capable of the initiative required for the development of the various alternatives available in the energy field.

Reading the mass of comment on the Rundle affair, one could get the impression that the production of shale oil in Australia is something

beyond available technology. Few Australians are aware of the vital contribution which the Glen Davis shale oil project made to Australia's oil supplies during the Second World War. Shale oil was being produced in Australia in commercial quantities during the latter part of the last century. Vast quantities of the shale was being exported before the turn of the century. During the 1934 Royal Commission on the price of petrol, evidence was provided that the development of the Australian oil industry was being crippled in the interests of the international oil companies.

There are, of course, other alternatives to shale for producing oil, including wood and vegetable matter. Mr. Jeremy Lee has reported from Canada on highly encouraging developments with hydrogen. But every potential which would break the monopoly of the international oil cartels, is discouraged. If Prime Minister Fraser and his colleagues are genuine in their concern about Australia's future energy requirements, they will ensure that adequate finance is made available to all those who, through decentralised initiative, can make a contribution. A fraction of the \$2100 million which Esso now estimates would be necessary for a shale oil pilot scheme, would produce spectacular results in a relatively short time.

PHONY ANTI-COMMUNISM: The Polish crisis has enable some Western politicians to do a little grandstanding. Loud talk about dangers the Soviet would be creating if they invade Poland, tends to obscure the realities. All the evidence available to us indicates that the Polish crisis is going to deepen. And if the internal Polish situation starts to threaten the Communist Government in Poland, it is as certain as the sunrise that Soviet-controlled troops will intervene. There will, of course, be no response from the West. Prime Minister Fraser promises that there will be economic sanctions against the Soviet if an invasion takes place, Western and Japanese economic blood transfusions will continue to flow to the Soviet bloc. These same blood transfusions have continued since the "big talk" by the Frasers of the West when the Soviet forces rolled into Afghanistan.

One of the most significant aspects of the Polish crisis is the open suggestion that the U.S.A. should offer sophisticated military equipment to the Chinese Communists. We wonder if any of the West's politicians have ever heard of dialectics!

Communist practitioners of dialectics believe that internal clashes amongst the Communists advance the total Communist cause.

Marxist-Leninists everywhere must be delighted at the spectacle of the West offering advanced military equipment to Communists pledged to advance the cause of world revolution. And so the overall result of the Soviet threat to Poland could be a continuation of economic

aid to the Soviet Bloc - so long as no actual invasion takes place - and military aid to the Chinese Communists. The Trilateralists promoting the New International Economic Order must also be satisfied with developments, as they openly envisage the building up of communist China to produce a "balance of world power."

JEREMY LEE REPORTS FROM SUFFOLK, ENGLAND: "Reading the morning newspapers on one's first day in England is something of an experience. I first came to this country at the end of 1946, when the ravages of war still scarred the face of Britain. Much of London was rubble, and Plymouth almost flattened. Yet I would venture to say that Britain was in better shape then. Her wounds were material, and were quickly mended. Her wounds are now spiritual. Don Martin remarked to me as we left a strike-bound Heathrow airport - "The money-lenders have done more damage to Britain in the so-called peace than Hitler's mighty Luftwaffe was ever able to inflict in war!"

This morning's Daily Telegraph (March 30th) gives a hint of the crisis: The leading article discusses a statement issued by 364 academics, including 76 Professors and five chief economic advisers to previous governments, making 'in toto' what the Telegraph called the "establishment" of British economics. The statement says that Margaret Thatcher's policies of monetarism are wrong, and likely to bring serious disrepute on the economics profession! Mrs Thatcher, the Telegraph said "is most unlikely to be influenced by the academics' plea. She is more likely, indeed, to conclude that it shows there is something wrong with Britain's universities and the way in which economics are taught there" Thus a battle royal looks like developing between "scurvy" politicians and "scurvy" economists, like Tweedledum and Tweedledee. The most sobering comment came from the one voice that knows something about real economics - the business of production. As the Telegraph reported: "The recession will stretch into next year when unemployment will reach 3,250,000, the Confederation of British Industry says in a pessimistic survey. The CBI challenges forecasts by Ministers and the Treasury that the recession is bottoming out and argues that current indicators suggesting an improvement is in sight are showing a "false dawn...."

One can only applaud Margaret Thatcher's single-mindedness, while deploring her judgement. It is quite clear that no evidence will make her deviate from her course. She appears to have set her sails for the most glorious disaster in Britain's history.

Speaking to 1,500 Tory delegates at the Party's Central Council Conference in Cardiff on Saturday she said: "...It once seemed obvious that so long as there were unemployed hands and underused plants we could put them to work by more or less throwing newly-created money in their direction. In practice, as governments increasingly

covered, the extra money did less to raise production than it did to push prices up even higher and unemployment up even more..." She added: " I do not greatly care what people say about me...This is the road I am resolved to follow, this is the path I must go..."

The latest T.U.C. figures show that between November 1979 and November 1980 over 900,000 jobs were lost. Included in these figures were engineering (down 157,000 jobs), textiles (down 114,000), metal manufacturing (77,000), vehicles (63,000), and metal goods (58,000). Non manufacturing industries lost 211,000 jobs in the same period, most being in transport and distribution (106,000) and construction (71,000). As we might have guessed, few of the job losses were in public administration!

On top of economic woes, racial issues refuse to disappear. Enoch Powell is in the news again, warning that Britain's cities face civil war through the growth of their coloured populations. The usual rash of nonsensical reactions followed his speech, suggesting that any conflict between races will be due to the Powell speech itself! However, the Daily Telegraph, in its editorial, stressed that Powell's speech should be taken seriously, although they balked at Powell's suggestion that enforced re-emigration was needed. The editorial said: "Even a majority of those who agree that mass third-world immigration was a calamity would cavil at mass compulsory repatriation... But the Telegraph failed to offer any alternative solution to what it agrees could end in urban civil war.

By way of compensation, however, is the fact that April is ushering in a glorious English Spring. Bird life is abundant, and the countryside is a mass of blossom. The cuckoos note will soon be added to the cries of the political cuckoos in Westminster - and Britons will sigh as they have for so many hundred years "Loude singe cuckoo!"

BASIC FUND DESERVES A MIRACLE: The Easter Season is centred upon the story of the greatest miracle of history. It is an appropriate time to challenge supporters of the Christian Faith to make another miracle happen by making certain that the League's increased Basic Fund target of \$55,000 is reached. There is not much time to go until the Fund deadline for 1980-81 is reached, but a massive push from all those who have not yet contributed will make the miracle a reality. With 11 supporters contributing \$753.00 last wee, the total now stands at \$47,920. The target is now well within range.

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