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The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance—

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Thought for the Week: "By constantly looking towards the sun, one always keeps the shadows to the rear". - Old Proverb.

THE HAWKE MANIA: Pierre-Elliott Trudeau has announced his retirement from Canadian politics at a time when his poll ratings are at an all-time low. The same Trudeau was swept into office in 1968 on a wave of what was aptly termed "Trudeaumania". Trudeau was given the same type of adulatory treatment by the media being currently given to Prime Minister Hawke. Mr. Trudeau had the same charisma which it is alleged Mr. Hawke has. Like Mr. Hawke, Mr. Trudeau was a Fabian Socialist. He was going to bring Canada together. At the height of Trudeaumania, only one small voice dared to look at Trudeau's background and his probably strategy for imposing a silent revolution - The Canadian League of Rights. The League and its National Director, along with Research Director, Mr. Patrick Walsh, the former RCMP under-cover agent, were attacked as "right-wing extremists" and "hatemongers". It was not long before an increasing number of Canadians began to grasp the danger of Trudeaumania. Eventually the man who was hailed as a national idol became one of the most detested Prime Ministers in Canadian history.

It can be predicted now with complete certainty that Prime Minister Hawke will eventually go the same way as Trudeau. We predicted the same about Malcolm Fraser in those heady days of early 1976 when the nation was breathing a big sigh of relief that the flamboyant Gough Whitlam had been deposed by Malcolm Fraser. It took several years before it was reluctantly conceded even by many Liberal and National Party supporters that the League was right.

After his first twelve months in office, Prime Minister Hawke continues to enjoy the type of popularity generally reserved for sporting heroes and pop stars. He is a master at manipulating the media which generally have treated him in a most uncritical manner. The most outrageous statements are made without any challenge. It is even claimed that when Mr. Hawke brings down some tax cuts in the next Budget, he will have fulfilled all his election promises. At a

later date the League will be examining in detail the great gap between Mr. Hawke's promises and actual results. We seem to recall a promise about how the price of petrol was to be reduced. Remember?

But the central theme of the Hawke mania is that Mr. Bob Hawke has "brought the nation together". The comparatively low level of industrial strife is stressed. But this was falling under the Fraser Government, the basic reason being the economic situation and large scale unemployment. In the artificially created euphoria about "bringing the nation together", Mr. Hawke and his fans have discreetly ignored Tasmania, where the deep resentment against Mr. Hawke has been further increased by his failure to fulfil promises made to the Tasmanian Premier when the Franklin River project was halted. We predict that Tasmania is going to prove one of the most destructive of the many Achilles Heels of Mr. Hawke. Failure to increase Mr. Hawke's electoral support in the House of Representatives at the next Federal Elections will not be important. But what will be devastating for Mr. Hawke's long-term strategy will be the election of an over-whelming majority of anti-Hawke Tasmanian Senators.

Michelle Grattan, Melbourne "Age" political commentator, heads an article on March 5, "One year on, all Hawke's problems are little ones". But those "little" problems are soon going to become big problems. One of the biggest is the land rights issue. Once the Australian people grasp the revolutionary implications of what this means, Mr. Hawke will find that his theme of "bringing Australia together" will blow up in his face. Nothing has changed under the Hawke government compared with what was being done by the Fraser government; except that Mr. Hawke is a far better media performer, which enables the Australian people to be kept in a type of national trance. Perhaps this explains why relatively few have seen through the government confidence trick concerning the deficit. The much-publicised "consensus" was related to a deficit of \$8,500 which allegedly would start to disappear as the "recovery" took place. So far from this happening, all the indications are that there will be one of those "blow outs" for which former Treasurer John Howard was responsible.

Finally, another major reason for Mr. Hawke's popularity rating is a Federal Opposition which is practically non-existent. The quip was made last week that Federal Treasurer Paul Keating was wasting his time by even appearing in Parliament, as the Opposition did not ask even one question on financial policies. Perhaps this is not surprising; the Opposition have learned nothing and forgotten nothing since the electors dismissed them twelve months ago. Policy making is ignored in order to concentrate upon attempted image making. The same mistake is being made by the Liberals in the N.S.W. Elections, which

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paid in perpetuity, unless someone thinks of another idea.

"The security for these loans is, of course, Australia - its industries, its production, and its land. While this situation continues, it is, perhaps, academic to argue as to who finally owns Australia.

"But it is no longer academic when we consider land rights. In the event of 'self-determination', by Aborigines in large tracts of Australia, what happens next? Should an Aboriginal community in its territory decide to raise loans for public works - an international airport at Ayers Rock, perhaps, or a Casino in Arnhem Land - who will issue the securities? Will Aboriginal communities on their own land have access to the Loan Council for their capital works requirements? Who will be liable for debt-service - the taxpayer, as at present? And, if so, how will the taxpayer feel about paying debt and interest on capital works in areas of Australia he is not allowed to enter?

"Or does 'self-determination' mean that Aboriginal communities can issue their own securities for any loans they may require - a situation which would require both de facto and de jure sovereignty?

"These matters may well seem peripheral to the misty-eyed emotionalists - a considerable number of whom seem to be in government. But they're playing with fire - and it is the ordinary people, both Aboriginal and European alike, who will get burnt".

CLOSING THE TARGET GAP: 17 supporters narrowed the gap to be bridged to reach the League's Basic Fund Target of \$45,000, by contributing \$1,859. This takes the total to \$42,427, with a gap of only just over \$2,500 to be bridged by the majority who have not yet contributed. What we would like to see is a flood of those smaller donations. 500 supporters contributing \$10 each would provide us with a surplus. Many apologise for what they consider their small contributions and for the fact that they didn't "get around" to sending something. Let's all pull together over the next few weeks and finalise the 1983-84 Basic Fund. The League has, of course, planned its programme firm in its belief that supporters will not fail. Do it NOW.

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