



ON TARGET

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The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance—

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Thought for the Week: "...Debt finance, with its inevitable inflation, has existed for centuries, and has provided the ideal tool for concentrating power - without responsibility - in fewer and fewer hands. It is a characteristic of human nature that the possession of power creates a desire for more power, and that power is not surrendered willingly. Thus we see that, while it is not difficult to eliminate inflation, nothing will be done to eliminate it because it would result in a loss of power. Unless there is more pressure exerted on our political representatives than exists at the present time, social problems generally and financial chaos in particular, will only get worse."

- J.D.Malan, in Natural Cost & Ownership of Money.

HAWKE GOVERNMENT LOSING CONTROL AND DIRECTION: "Mr. Keating doesn't seem to know the 'World's Greatest' accolade is given by the banking people to the Treasurer who borrows most at the highest interest rate; he still thinks he won on his merits. They must be in fits."

- Des Keegan, in The Australian, August 30th

All our experience forms our opinion that the Hawke Government is in serious decline, and we don't think that this process can be reversed; there are so many "indicators".

Never under-estimate the "insight" of a metropolitan taxi-cab driver as we were reminded by an interstate politician most recently. One, in our own city (Melbourne) made the remark that, "Hawke is going bad!" He has the "feel" of the political climate. It reminds us of the last months of the Whitlam Government (1975) when "Whitlam was going bad!"

Many of the orthodox economic forecasters see a deepening recession (John Stone, Des Keegan) as the Keating 1986 Budget flops. Mr. Keating, no doubt, thought that his Budget was a masterpiece, with a "surprisingly" low deficit to attract overseas capital, financed with a lower standard of living by the Australian taxpayer. Mr. Hawke probably thought "he had it made" if he put on a good show with the Hawke charisma: by appealing to the ordinary Australian to "have a go", and further trading on his "ocker" image. Now we must all "buy Australian", which is fair enough. We should always try

to do this. But, people with limited financial resources (and this includes the majority of us) are after value for their dollar, and regrettably, will not always buy Australian if there is a sharp comparison with respect to the better quality and cheaper price of foreign merchandise.

It's all wearing thin. Hawke and Keating are killing the goose that lays the golden egg. The Kremlin can do this, because it has total control over the ballot box (the Soviet citizen has the choice of voting for this Communist, or that Communist, or the other Communist. And if any of the three trod one inch out of line; then goodbyeski! Hawke, The Messiah, can't do this: that ballot box is in the way (thank merciful Heaven).

Now is the time when those "ideological irritations" can be fatal. In times of economic expansion, when lashings of moderately priced credit are available, the businessman can overlook such pieces of "ratbaggery" as the Bill of Rights, Fringe Benefits Tax ("Farewell-Bob-Tax", some-one has written recently), Affirmative Action in Commerce and Industry, and so on. But all these things do have a cumulative effect, and assume far greater proportions when the economy turns sour.

There seems to be a type of political decadence "in the air", like very good football (or other) sportsmen 'fumbling the ball' when they sense, strongly, that defeat is imminent. Things "go bad". Now Mr. Chris Hurford has "dropped a clanger" with his most foolish offer to certain media people to provide "tidbits" of inside Government information in return for his own media exposure. This "rot" started towards the end of those Whitlam years, with Khemlani, Dr. Jim Cairns and others gaining unfavourable publicity. Probably the "Hurford Affair" will be repeated by others as the decline continues. And of course there are those international money bandits of whom Mr. John Fletcher speaks (see On Target Bulletin, this issue). They don't help Messrs. Hawke and Keating, and they don't care.

THAT "CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION":

Many people who consider themselves "politically aware", including some of our friends, are talking as though the Socialist Revolution, in Australia, is all over bar the (suppressed) shouting, which will have to wait, we are told, until the gate is locked closed behind us - to prevent, forever, our escape back into real political freedom and democracy. The clever Fabian Socialists (and they can be clever, too!) don't want to give the game away, by premature announcements of their success: so we are told.

Now, we do not go along with this portrayal of the imminent eclipse of our political freedoms. We do not doubt in the least that such is the ultimate intention of the international agencies of subversion; however, we do not believe that most of the number of Fabian Socialists in positions of political power intend that Australia shall become a

totalitarian State: the subversives behind the Fabian Socialists are working towards that end. Socialism has nowhere to go but Communism.

Many individuals and organisations have been asked to make submissions, either personally or in writing, to the Constitutional Commission: it is to report to the Government by June, 1988. There are six areas of government, pertaining to the Australian Constitution, to be examined. Firstly, Head of State. The issues that are canvassed, and which are quite obviously not yet decided, are "Do we need a head of state ...?": "Should the head of state be head of the government, or separate?", "What powers...?: who should hold the powers?

Also, Monarchy or Republic (for Australia). We all know that the Socialists/Communists want a republic: but they haven't got it yet. Secondly, the Queen of Australia. To calm the alarmists, we quote precisely what is written under "The Queen of Australia, (a) Style, Title, Succession and Regency,"

"... in 1973 (under Whitlam .. O.T.) the Commonwealth altered the royal style and titles by enacting that the Queen's title in relation to Australia and its territories would be Queen of Australia. The Queen is therefore Queen of Australia, independent of her position in Britain or elsewhere (our emphasis ... O.T.)

The "issues" to be canvassed here, in our opinion, do not weaken the Queen's position, but under 2b) there is information which is vitally important to clarify the present position.

2b). Powers of the Queen: "The Queen, as the head of state of the Commonwealth has powers conferred upon her by the Constitution, such as the power:-

- to appoint and dismiss a Governor-General (s.2)
- to assign powers and functions to a Governor-General (s.2)
- to approve the appointment of a deputy to the Governor-General (s.126)
- to assent to bills reserved for the Queen's pleasure (s.58)
- to disallow any law within one year from the Governor-General's assent (s.59)

The power to disallow a law has never been exercised by the Queen, and some people might think it inappropriate for an independent nation such as Australia.

"The Queen could formerly exercise similar powers in relation to Australian States, but since the Australia Act 1986, the only power the Queen may exercise in respect of a State is the appointment and dismissal of State Governors (Sir Brian Murray, in Victoria, resigned ... O.T.) Any such exercise of power may only be with the advice of the State Premiers.

Yes, this does appear to be a weakening of the Queen's power in the States, and this "makes sense" if it could be assumed that the

Commonwealth, presently, is centralist in intent and seeks to restrict the power of the Crown in the States, preparatorily to restricting the power of the Crown at Commonwealth level - an assumption which we, ourselves, could accept without difficulty. It seems obvious to us that the (unrestricted) power of the Crown, in the States, could - in some future political bid for republicanism, at Commonwealth level - offer a serious impediment to such an initiative. The "issues" to be canvassed are the retention of the Queen's powers; they are still there, in spite of the effect of the Australia Act.

The Governor-General: The official Commonwealth Constitutional Commission "Issues Paper" states that "The Imperial Conference of 1930 declared that a Governor-General should be appointed by the King (or Queen) on the advice of the King's ministers in the dominion concerned and it is a convention that an Australian is appointed to the position. The appointment by the Queen is not for any fixed term, but at her pleasure (s.2). In practice, a term of office may be for four or five years and no Australian Governor-General has been removed involuntarily. The foregoing is not strictly accurate with respect to the stated "convention". There were British Governors-General after the War, viz. The Duke of Gloucester, Field Marshall Sir William Slim, Lord Morrison, Viscount de Lisle. The "issues" canvassed are the nationality of the Governor-General, length of term, nomination and removal.

Powers of the Governor-General: Quote, "Powers are conferred upon the Governor-General by the Constitution and by statute. They may be exercised by him only on advice, either from his ministers or by the Executive Council. The only exception to this are the so-called 'reserve powers', which in exceptional circumstances (The Dismissal, 1975 ... O.T.) may be exercised without or contrary to advice."

THE RESERVE POWERS OF THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL ARE STILL THERE.

The issues to be canvassed, significantly, are all about these "reserve powers".

Commander-in-Chief of Naval and Military Forces: "The Governor-General is vested by s.68 of the Constitution with the command-in-chief of the naval and military forces of the Commonwealth. HE STILL IS.

In a pre-revolutionary, or actually revolutionary situation in Australia, the situation could be hopeless if Communist politicians were in control of the armed forces; whereas Australia could be saved if forces, loyal to the Crown, and in control of the armed forces, asserted authority.

The other Sections of the "Issues Paper" mainly concern administrative matters.

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