



ON TARGET

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The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance—

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Thought for the Week: "Without question I could state at the outset that modern anthropology as taught in Anglo-American schools and colleges is the result of a political ideology, not the source of it. The people who developed it, and their disciples who disseminated it, were almost all partisan and passionate crusaders for socialism. They most certainly wanted all humanity to be innately equal, and they wanted to discover that the sole reason why inequalities existed was because of variable environments. Thus the responsibility for poverty and failure could be placed chiefly on society, not on the individual, and the rebuilding of the social order on socialist lines could be justified."

- Carleton Putnam, in Race and Reality (1967)

BLACK MAGIC IN BRITAIN: Mr. Eric D. Butler filed the following report from the United Kingdom before returning to Australia:

Nothing has so dramatically demonstrated the hypnotic effect of the black magic known as orthodox economics, than the case of the 15-year old English schoolboy who lost £20,000 on the stock market over his lunch break. The legal experts are now trying to work out who is responsible. Commonsense would suggest that the stockbrokers who did business with someone they obviously did not know, by telephone, should stand the loss. But commonsense is now lacking in a country where schoolchildren are being given courses in what is termed "economic awareness". They are being taught to understand the workings of the stock exchanges. The boy who lost £20,000 was merely applying what he was learning in the classroom, no doubt excited by the prospect of becoming one of the "Yuppies" who, playing with computers as the stockmarket boom appeared to be never ending, became a new class. Currently, of course, the "Yuppies" are looking rather battered - there are plenty of Mercedes being re-possessed. But hope continues to spring eternal, and if only the Reagan Administration can be persuaded to stop writing so many red figures and tax the Americans more, all will be well! The economic witchdoctors all appear to have different explanations for what is happening. But Mrs. Thatcher's

Finance Minister Lawson soothingly tells the British people that there is really nothing too much to worry about. In one sense he is correct when he says there is nothing basically wrong with the British economy. There are no problems about production. In fact, in some areas, including grain growing, there is a surplus of production in relation to domestic demand. The "solution" for this is greater exporting. One of the gurus of the New Right, former Socialist Paul Johnson, is urging that the British become more "ruthless". Johnson even raises the question of whether the British can stand the "luxury" of a Royal Family which he urges has to be "modernised" and play its part in a Brave New World where figures are more important than real things. Presumably the members of the Royal Family, instead of providing the type of very human functions they do, would be much better employed as Directors of some multinational engaged in exporting gadgetry of some kind to the far ends of the world. Or, perhaps, engaged in exporting arms to both sides in the Iran-Iraq conflict? Consider the French situation, with France now joining with the British and Americans in providing mine sweepers for the Persian Gulf. It seems to be reasonably well established that the mines being laid by Iran are sold by France!

But amidst the general madness there are signs that some are starting to ask questions about realities. One whizz-kid was thrown into complete confusion recently when asked what happened to a piece of paper called a pound when it was fed into a computer. What form did it then take? And how was it transferred elsewhere? And so on. More people do need to become as little children. But not the type of children being brainwashed to believe that their games with computers reflect reality. Another interesting question had all the "experts" stumped: Where did all the thousands of millions lost in the stock market crash go to? The truth was indicated by one businessman who took his losses rather philosophically, observing that the fortune he had made was the result of inflating the figures on shares. "Bits of paper yesterday, bits of paper today, bits of paper tomorrow", he said. How true.

The saddest thing to report on the state of Britain today, is the failure of the General Synod of The Church of England to make an authoritative statement on the question of homosexuality, a subject demanding strong moral leadership at a time when the problem of AIDS is one of the most alarming issues concerning the future of mankind. A weak compromise statement resulted in the rather vulgar, but telling headline: "POOFTERS MAY STAY IN THE PULPITS". This referred to the fact that there are now many self-professed homosexual Priests of the Church.

BRIEF COMMENTS: Media commentators covering the Joh-Bjelke Petersen drama have made liberal use of the term "bizarre". But one of the most bizarre comments comes from Queensland National party MP Brian "ON TARGET"

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Austin, former Cabinet Minister sacked by Sir Joh, who claimed last weekend that Sir Joh was "being advised by extreme right-wing groups, including the League of Rights". "Every time the Premier gets into some sort of difficulty, such as the Joh for PM and the present campaign, the people I call fruity loops are behind it. That is, the League of Rights and so on", he said.

The truth is, of course, that the League of Rights advised against the Joh for PM campaign, correctly predicting that it could be a major disaster for the Queensland Premier. Needless to say, the League does not expect an apology from Mr. Austin.

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One of the most revealing statements during the Queensland political upheaval has come from the new leader of the National Party, Mr. Mike Ahern. Immediately following his election, Mr. Ahern told a press conference that "This is the moment I have been working towards." This extraordinary statement suggests that Mr. Ahern has been a prominent member of a government whose policies he had disagreed with, but that he had supported that government until he felt the time was right to move against Sir Joh. Mr. Ahern has the backing of Sir Robert Spärkes, the man who cynically exploited the popularity of Sir Joh in his drive to make the Nationals the dominant party at Canberra. Sir Joh has made a number of bad decisions, with a dangerous blind eye concerning Japanese investments in Australia, but his biggest mistake has been to allow himself to be "set up" for political destruction.

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The Cash Transaction Reports Bill 1987 follows the American pattern of attempting to curb the cash economy, with banks and building societies being required to report all cash transactions in excess of \$10,000 to a new federal agency. American reports state that it is interesting that there has been a big increase in cash transactions under \$10,000 since the American legislation was introduced! Not even the Soviet Union, with that State's draconian powers, has been able to destroy what is often described as the "black economy". Every attempt results in further totalitarian measures. The nature of people is such that if taxation becomes oppressive, as it is now, with governments using the taxpayers' money for all kinds of wasteful and destructive activities, they will use every possible means to minimise their tax contributions.

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The massacre of 16 Christian commune leaders in Zimbabwe will shock Christians, in particular in the West, that law and order is not established in Comrade Robert Mugabe's Zimbabwe. We saw on TV that a Zimbabwean Minister condemned the massacre: also Mr. Joshua Nkomo condemned the massacre. What can all this mean? It at least means that the authorities in Harare (formerly Salisbury) don't have full control of their country; that probably tribalism is still rampant; and certainly that terrorism hasn't been contained.

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We have to agree with Mr. John Howard that Mr. Hawke's reported statement on the Soviet Union and the Asia-Pacific region is a great blunder.

We are not sure what Mr. Hawke means by "constructive" (the Soviet Union should play a "constructive" role in this region of the world), and we doubt if Mr. Gorbachev places the same interpretation on the word "constructive". What might be "constructive" to Mr. Gorbachev would be most likely to be destructive to Australia and her regional allies.

Mr. Hawke has called for the Soviet Union to withdraw from Afghanistan, but has virtually invited it to enter our region of the world.

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The "War Crimes Amendment Bill, 1987" is being stealthily poked through the Parliament. The Senate Committee investigating the Bill has already criticised sections of it which give the Commonwealth the power to put "war criminals" on trial. The all-party Standing Committee for the Scrutiny of Bills is concerned with retrospective legislation which could breach the civil rights of individuals.

Mr. Lionel Bowen, Federal Attorney-General has claimed that this Bill does not contain the element of retrospectivity, but it does. No legislation existed, anywhere, at the time for deportation to, and internment in so-called death camps.

The ethnic communities will not surprisingly be up-in-arms at the legislation, as this will reflect on their groups in general. Such powerful commentators as Michael Barnard of The Age, and Bob Santamaria of News Weekly and The Australian have both raised misgivings concerning the integrity of the Bill. The League of Rights is opposed to the Bill, considering that all manner of mischief could well be done in the name of punishing so-called "war criminals" over 40 years after the event, by using retrospective legislation, and relying on "evidence" from Communist countries! Need we say more.

BASIC FUND: The best Christmas present supporters could give the League would be the filling of the Basic Fund so that we can plan ahead for '88: we don't think we'll have all that much to "celebrate in '88". Since the last report 7 supporters have donated \$715. The Fund stands at \$29,068.

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