



ON TARGET

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The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance --

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Thought for the Week: "Freedom always faces dangers. A free people remains free only through daily acts of courage. A nation's bravery in war cannot atone for timidity in time of peace. We deny our freedom if we don't speak when there is something to be said."

- Former Canadian Governor-General, Vincent Massey.

THE REAL MESSAGE FROM THE REFERENDUM: The centralists suffered a major defeat on September 3rd. There is an encouraging message from the fact that in spite of what could be presented as relatively innocuous questions, that spokesmen for Local Government favoured a Yes vote on the Local Government issue; that sections of the Liberal Party either favoured some of the proposals or were lukewarm about the referendums; and that the self-opinionated media commentators generally favoured a YES vote, at least on one of the questions, the Australian electors recorded the lowest YES response to a group of referendum proposals in Australian history.

The Age, Melbourne, one of the major centres of secular humanism and liberalism in Australia, which boasts of its national intellectual influence, commented editorially on September 5th., that the defeat of the referendums was "A sad triumph for fear and doubt."

While Prime Minister Hawke and other centralists blame the innate conservatism of the electors for rejecting what they keep referring to as "constitutional reforms", and the Federal Opposition, for the overwhelming rejection of their proposals, they studiously ignore any reference to the massive non-party campaign which was a decisive factor in alerting electors to the far-reaching implications of these proposals. Shadow-Attorney General Reith conducted a magnificent campaign, but it was the constitutional expert, Dr. David Mitchell, whose in depth assessment, carried to millions of Australians, both directly and indirectly, via the print media, audio and video tapes, which alerted Church and other community leaders to the real dangers. The role of Professor Geoffrey Blainey should not be underestimated. His Perth meeting, the biggest public meeting seen in Perth since the end of the Second World War, was the biggest meeting on the referendums in any part of Australia. We are pleased

to say that an army of League actionists almost completely dominated the letters-to-the-editor columns of the print media throughout Australia. It was the same grass-roots movement which defeated the ID Card threat, not the Federal Opposition parties. The official Federal Opposition campaign made no reference to the dangerous implications of international treaties. Silence on this vital question leaves a big question mark over the Federal Opposition's intentions about the External Powers.

One of the most significant features of the referendums was the massive vote against the proposals in traditional Labor electorates, specially in NSW. Prime Minister Bob Hawke could not even persuade the electors in his own blue-ribbon Labor electorate to give him a YES vote. The grass-roots anti-YES referendum campaign is heartening evidence that a new political mood continues to develop throughout Australia, preparing the way for one constitutional reform which the electors would welcome: the introduction of the Electors' Initiative Referendum and Recall. If only John Howard and his colleagues could summon up the courage to adopt this type of constitutional reform, they would be certain to sweep the polls at the next Federal Elections.

THE IMMIGRATION DEBATE CANNOT BE SILENCED: While the revelations concerning Mr. Bill Hayden's views of some of Australia's Asian neighbours tended to overshadow the immigration debate last week, it is now clear that the immigration debate is going to continue, and that at long last a vital question about Australia's future can no longer be ignored. Labor's own ranks are starting to crack, with WA backbench Member Campbell receiving open support from some of his parliamentary colleagues. Campbell claims that a third of the Federal Labor caucus privately agree with him. We believe this to be correct.

In spite of the continuing anti-Howard campaign, with Australian columnist Greg Sheridan dramatically stating last week-end that John Howard had to resign "in the national interest", the Opposition leader has tenaciously held his ground and finished the week in a strong position. The referendum result has consolidated John Howard's position at least for the time being.

Professor Geoffrey Blainey returned to the immigration debate with a powerful and devastatingly logical article in The Weekend Australian, September 3-4, appropriately headed, MEDIA BULLIES THE BLIND PUPPETEERS ON IMMIGRATION. Blainey charges that over the previous two weeks there had been a rare event in modern Australian history, with media commentators trying to muzzle a debate.

He points out that they are attempting to ridicule and silence a point of view held by the majority of Australians. There is no doubt that a large number of people are becoming disgusted at the manner in which the commentators in the media are attempting to bully them into

accepting their point of view.

Professor Blainey selects Laurie Oakes as an example of how the media commentators operate, mentioning a recent article by Oakes in The Bulletin. Oakes charged John Howard with being "divisive, dangerous, opportunistic," by inference suggesting that the Australian community's attitudes are so precarious that a few comments from John Howard are sufficient to produce a great national division. The truth is that the Howard view reflects that of the great majority of the Australian people.

Professor Blainey writes, "We must cultivate good relations with the nearer Asian nations. But surely it is folly to argue that such relations will necessarily arise from taking in even larger numbers of Asian immigrants. Fiji's relations with India are far from harmonious even though Fiji was swamped with migrants from India. Nor is a big inflow of Asian migrants essential to promote foreign trade. Japan to its great credit, is king of trade. Where are its new Asian migrants?" A very telling point which the advocates of multi-culturalism never face. It is the media bullies who are fostering anti Asian sentiment. Most of these bullies were in favour of referendum proposals which they thought could be won. But they are not in favour of a referendum on immigration, well aware that their views would be overwhelmingly rejected.

The immigration question is going to be a major factor in the run-up to the next Federal Elections. The tragedy is that the blinkered views of Mr. John Howard and his colleagues on economics, leaves them at a disadvantage as Labor positions itself to promise the taxpayers some of their own money back in the form of massive tax-cuts just prior to the elections.

MAKE NATIONAL WEEKEND A VICTORY CELEBRATION: The League's Annual National Weekend, starting with The New Times Dinner on Friday, September 30th., will be the celebration of a year of tremendous League achievements, with a promise of bigger offensives to come. Years of hard and dedicated work are bearing fruit. This is one National weekend which every League supporter should make an all-out effort to attend.

One of the men who made a major contribution to the Referendum victory, Dr. David Mitchell, will be proposing a special Loyal Toast at The New Times Dinner and presenting a Paper at the League's Annual National Seminar the following day, Saturday, October 1st. With former undercover agent Patrick Walsh from Canada the guest of honour, and other highlights, The New Times Dinner will be another spiritual feast. Bookings should be made immediately. No one is booked unless the tariff of \$22 has been paid. As far as possible,

guests will be seated as requested. The venue is the YWCA, Elizabeth Street, Melbourne. Guests may arrive from 6 p.m. onwards. Pre-Dinner sherries will be served. Alcoholic beverages may be obtained at the tables. No Dinner bookings will be accepted after Monday, September 26th.

Speakers for National Seminar on Saturday, October 1st: Mr. Eric Butler, Dr. David Mitchell, Mr. Jeremy Lee, Mr Patrick Walsh.
Venue: YWCA, Elizabeth Street. Entrance, \$5.00.

Accredited actionists must not miss the National Action Seminar on Sunday, October 2nd. An inspiring programme covering what has been achieved and what is planned.

BRIEF COMMENTS: While it is true that Mr. Clyde Holding has not been an outstanding performer as Immigration Minister, it would appear that the real reason for Holding's demotion is that Prime Minister Hawke has a long-standing commitment to ACTU President Simon Crean to bring him into the Federal parliament at the next Federal elections. But before Mr. Crean can be elected in Melbourne Ports, one of the safest Labor electorates in Australia, Mr. Holding must be persuaded to stand down. Hawke desperately needs to keep his promise to Crean in order to maintain the present close relationship between the Labor Government and the ACTU leadership. Melbourne Ports has a large ethnic vote and given the present standing of the Hawke Government as measured by public opinion polls, a by-election is not feared. The big question to be answered is: What will Holding require as his price for standing down? Keep tuned for further developments.

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Back in 1983 when the first Hawke Government came to office, Australian families faced a marginal tax rate of 30 cents in the dollar. Now they face 40 cents in the dollar. The Hawke Government has eased the tax pressure on Big Business while Middle Australia is subjected to greater pressure. The Fabian-Financier strategy is polarising Australia with progressive economic centralism.

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