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The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance —

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: (The Royal form of government) .." is not a new idea. It is as old as human civilisation, and for that very reason provides the surest available means of preserving, not only our civilisation as such, but all true humanity as well. Being British or being loyal to the throne is no mere matter of sentiment; it has to do with a basic ideal of social life, and with a fully enlightened attachment to the highest ideal of democracy that the life of man has ever known. Nor has that ideal essentially to do with a single land or language or class. It is an ideal of universal significance relating to man as such. That we others should find it enshrined in the British monarchy we share is due, not to any claim that the ideal of itself is the monopoly of the British, but to the historical fact that it is in the British monarchical order that a certain universal ideal has been preserved and most highly developed."

- John Farthing in Freedom Wears A Crown

THE PASSING OF SIR JOHN KERR: It is a reflection on the depths to which Australian political life has sunk in Australia that the family of Sir John Kerr, former Governor-General, felt that they should have Sir John buried privately immediately following his death, in case a public funeral provoked a further outburst of a type of malignant hostility which had followed his courageous decision in 1975 to use the reserve powers of the Crown to withdraw the commission of a government which was no longer capable of obtaining from the Parliament the money necessary to carry on the government of the nation. Former Prime Minister Gough Whitlam revealed the type of individual he is by studiously ignoring the death of a man he once described as his friend. Whitlam and those of his colleagues who could not bring themselves to show in any way their sympathy for the Kerr family reflected a destructive meanness of spirit and a lack of traditional civilised behaviour.

Irrespective of how he felt personally, Governor-General Mr. Bill Hayden, a man whose general attitude appears to reflect a more pro-Monarchist stance than in the past, was naturally present at the memorial service for Sir John Kerr, this in itself reflects the reality of the continuity of the institution of Monarchy. Some of Mr. Hayden's reported statements since his appointment as the Queen's representative in Australia, indicate that his experiences as

Governor-General have convinced him of the value of the Monarchy to the national life of Australians.

Even some of Sir John Kerr's most bitter critics have conceded that he had a brilliant career both as a lawyer and a judge. But he committed the unpardonable "crime" of allegedly turning against his former Labor friends, casting them into the political wilderness in a most "undemocratic" manner. Although Gough Whitlam's Minister for Labour, a former Trotskyite Jim McClelland, a master of biting invective, suggests in his malicious autobiography, Stirring the Possum, that Sir John Kerr may have acted illegally in withdrawing Gough Whitlam's commission to continue governing, it is difficult to quote any lawyer prepared to deny that Sir John Kerr did not have the constitutional power to dismiss the Whitlam Government. The general argument has been that Sir John's action was contrary to convention, a view held by even some non-Labor supporters. The fact that this view has been vigorously put forward merely demonstrates that over the years there has been a weakening of an understanding of the traditional role of the Monarchy in the type of constitution system which Australia shares with countries like New Zealand, Canada and the United Kingdom.

As Governor-General, Sir John Kerr was faced with a battle for power between two men, Prime Minister Gough Whitlam, determined to hang on to power in the face of mounting electoral opposition, and Opposition leader Malcolm Fraser with an ego as great as that of Whitlam. Fraser wanted power as soon as possible and with a majority in the Senate was able to block supply. Irrespective of what one thought of Fraser's motives, he was acting in accordance with the Constitution. A national crisis developed as Whitlam refused to resign, making his position quite clear to the Governor-General, while Fraser appeared to be threatening the Governor-General if he did not act to have an election called. Sir John Kerr was a man of vast experience. He knew of the basic issues involved. His was a lonely position, one where of necessity he had to keep his own counsel while hopefully some compromise could be effected. Critics like the bitter Jim McClelland have claimed that all that Sir John Kerr was doing was preparing to spring an "ambush", that he had deliberately misled Gough Whitlam. There is no evidence to support these and equally unfounded charges, one being that the C.I.A. had actually master-minded the whole affair.

Sir John Kerr, the man who rose from a Labor Party background to become the Queen's representative, became a convinced Monarchist, and did his duty aware of the risk of involving the Queen in any party political power struggle. He took full responsibility for his actions, pointing out that there was only one way to resolve a growing and potentially dangerous national crisis, and that was by making it possible for the Australian electors to decide whether they wanted the Whitlam Government to continue or not. The Whitlam Government was eventually dismissed by the Australian electors, in an overwhelming vote of no-confidence. But typical of their kind, Whitlam

and his colleagues were unable to accept graciously the verdict of the Australian people: they in essence refused to accept the verdict of their political masters, the Australian people.

The League of Rights was the only movement in Australia which campaigned openly in support of Sir John Kerr and his distinguished role as the Queen's representative, stressing the protection provided by the heritage of Constitutional Monarchy. It is well to reflect deeply on this issue at a time when Fabian Bob Hawke and others announce their intention of working towards "reforming" the Federal Constitution. The only reform necessary is to devise ways and means of preventing power-hungry politicians from devising more ways and means of subverting a Constitution which is basically sound. We salute the passing of Sir John Kerr, a distinguished Australian who steadfastly remained faithful to the nation's constitutional heritage.

THE HORSHAM DECLARATION: A widely representative audience, with some of those present travelling over a hundred miles, made history on Tuesday, April 2nd, in the Horsham Town Hall, when a ten point resolution was carried without one dissenting vote. The resolution was handed to all those arriving at the rally, enabling them time to read and to consider. The chairman then allowed adequate time for questioning by all those attending. Federal National Party Member for the Mallee, Mr. Peter Fisher, was present but neither asked any questions nor voted. Some members of the Uniting Church who attended were incensed by the attempt of the local Uniting Church Pastor to sabotage the rally by advertising before the rally that if people wanted to know about the background of the League of Rights, a document could be obtained at the office of the Church. The document being made available was the notorious and discredited Senator Boswell statement in the Senate in 1988. Organisers of the Horsham Rally had supplies of the special February 1989 Survey, exposing the Boswell and associated smears, distributed on all seats in the Horsham Town Hall before the rally started. Extra supplies were available for those who wished to take away to distribute.

Mr. Jim Cronin, the South Australian primary producer and miner, who has evolved the Bank Watch campaign, spoke first and drew attention to the recently published book, Bank Watch, which outlined what everyone could do concerning banking practices. This book is now available from all League bookshops for \$4.00 posted.

Mr. Eric Butler said that his role was to outline a short-term programme which, while not adequate for solving all of Australia's long term problems, would unite the maximum number of people in favour of steps which would provide immediate relief to all sections of the community and, most important, lift national morale. "The first essential," said Eric Butler, "is to take steps to stop the nation from bleeding to death."

Third speaker, Barry Tattersall, gave a brilliant exposition of how Australia's political system had been designed to operate, with electors effectively controlling their elected representatives, but how this had been perverted by the modern rigid party system. Barry Tattersall's exposition is so clear and readily understood that his address is to be published in booklet form as quickly as possible, for wide national distribution.

Of the many highlights of what in retrospect will be seen as an historic national event, none was more inspiring than the six young people who said they had to leave before the finish, but who before they left clustered round the literature table and between them bought approximately \$200 worth of books, borrowing one from the other to obtain the widest possible range of books, and then taking a quantity of League Surveys for general distribution. Our congratulations to the local organisers who by hard work made the Horsham Rally a successful start for what will develop into a national campaign.

BRIEF COMMENTS: The tragedy of the Kurdish people highlights yet one more example of the problems of multicultural societies. Approximately 25 million people of Kurdish background have long sought to become a nation. While President George Bush is belatedly attempting to provide humanitarian support for the Kurdish people, he cannot wash his hands of some responsibility for the current tragedy. The Kurds clearly believed that, with Bush's open appeal to the people of Iraq to overthrow Saddam Hussein, they should seize the opportunity to stage a major revolt. But the Washington policy makers do not really want that revolt to succeed, fearing that the dismemberment of Iraq would leave the Middle East more destabilised than ever. The reality is that the military defeat of Saddam Hussein has, as we warned, increased, not decreased, the Middle East crisis.

NEWS & VIEWS, the monthly organ of the Queensland Immigration Control Association (P.O. Box 172, Chermside, Qld., 4032), reports that there are 40,000 overseas students in Australia: they have paid as much as \$16,000 each, or \$350 Million a year. They understandably want proficiency in English, now the "international" language. Why have not overseas countries arranged English courses in their OWN countries; abolished frauds and invited teachers of English in? Everything under their own control..

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