



ON TARGET

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The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance —

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: "Let no one tell you the Fabian Society has faded or is only a pale relic of a bygone day. Let no one tell you it is mild, gentle or harmless. Here is the evidence that it has neither declined nor passed away, even if it sometimes chooses to play dead.

"It is not that the Fabian Society is dead, but that our own world is threatened with death. Nearly all the conditions necessary for such demise have been set up, including the barefaced announcement that God is 'dead'."

- Rose Martin, authoress of Fabian Freeway.

REPUBLICANS DRAW THE BATTLE LINES by David Thompson:

The secret movement for an Australian republic came out into the open last Sunday with the formal launching of the Australian Republican Movement (A.R.M.) in Sydney, effectively drawing the battle lines for the Constitutional future of Australia. The gaggle of Fabians, Marxists, humanists and leftwingers in general who have announced their support for the A.R.M. contain no surprises for us so far. Leftwing author Thomas Keneally is President of the movement, with Mrs. Franca Arena, A.L.P. Member of the N.S.W. Legislative Council, Secretary.

We have been aware for some time that for over a year this movement has been secretly recruiting prominent people for their names and finance to launch the 10 year campaign for a republic. The formal launching of this movement could ultimately prove a serious mistake for the republicans. It now provides form, focus and a timetable to what was hitherto only a nebulous type of leftwing ratbaggery. The coming campaign will undoubtedly be one of the biggest in which the League has ever been involved. Fewer movements are better equipped, and none better motivated to defend 200 years of Australian constitutional government, 1,000 years of British constitutional experience and 2,000 years of Christian heritage.

The republican group was about to launch full-page press advertisements earlier this year, but were baulked by the Gulf War. "They thought it would look unpatriotic", remarked one of Australia's best-known executives in confidence to an Age columnist last month. Of course the passing of the heat of the Gulf War means nothing; it is still unpatriotic! Others supporting this movement include former N.S.W. Premier, Neville Wran, authors Donald Horne and David Williamson, and David Hill, Managing Director of the A.B.C. Some of the names also appear on such bodies as the Steering Committee for the M.F.P. (John Menadue, Whitlam's head of the Prime Minister's Department), Ausflag, the "One-World-Or-None" environmental propaganda campaign of 1989, and other like bodies. Franca Arena, Blanche D'Apulget (writer) and Jenny Kee (fashion designer) all sponsored "One-World-Or-None". Others include: Ian Chappell (former cricket captain), Geraldine Doogue and Mark Day (journalists), Malcolm Turnbull (lawyer and merchant banker), Harry Seidler (architect), Faith Bandler (writer), Bruce Petty (cartoonist) and Professor George Winterton (author of "Monarchy to Republic: Australian Republican Government").

TIP OF AN UGLY ICEBERG: The launching of the republican movement follows debate at the recent A.L.P. conference in Tasmania. Although it is quite certain that the republican movement includes leading State and Federal politicians, they are mainly smart enough to keep their heads down for the present. They know that such a movement will dramatically polarise the Australian electorate. The A.R.M. is undoubtedly intended to take the "heat" off the A.L.P. on this issue. The muted debate on John Dawkins' resolution for a republic at the A.L.P. conference confirms the political sensitivity of the issue. But the Dawkins' resolution should be recorded and remembered:

"This conference calls upon the Government to embark upon a public education campaign, culminating in a referendum, which would effect the constitutional reform necessary to enable Australia to become an independent republic on January 26th (Australia Day) 2001."

At the April constitutional conference in Sydney, Mr. Hawke declined to place a timetable upon what he called the 'inevitable' move to republicanism. The new movement provides the timetable, which coincides with Dawkins' timetable, and must place much additional pressure on the A.L.P.

INEVITABILITY OF GRADUALISM: A republic is described by Hawke, Dawkins, Keneally - even Sir Roden Cutler (former N.S.W. Governor) - and many others as "inevitable". This is to be vigorously resisted for the psychological warfare that it is. Perhaps Sir Roden is a victim. The greatest technical stumbling-block to a republic is, of course, the constitutional necessity for a referendum. This will be preceded by one of the most intensive propaganda campaigns ever seen in Australia. A republic is not inevitable unless those proposing it are much better organised (and funded) than those loyal to the Crown. The subversion of the Monarchy has been a gradual process, and takes

the classical Marxist form of the "inevitability of gradualism". This 'inevitability' is implicitly denied by Dawkins himself when he says: "The 'inevitability' of the Australian republic will not come to pass without a concerted campaign of political education over the next decade before the year 2001. The Government must be asked to make a concerted effort to inform Australians about what a republic will mean for Australia and its system of government ...". If a republic is inevitable, why the propaganda? Why squander taxpayers' money browbeating them into a position that they do not support? Because it is the only way a republic can be achieved. The propaganda campaign has already started - "the" republic being referred to as though it already exists, and merely awaits a rubber stamp by referendum.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL ATTACK: This republican movement is not about better, more accountable government. It is a takeover bid for Australia's spiritual and cultural identity. Keneally tacitly admitted this last Sunday, when he referred to the colonial past, and said:

"We came to feel we possessed both an inherent worthiness which would ensure that other, our betters, would look after us, and an inherent inferiority complex which convinced us we were not worthy to manage ourselves, or speak with an independent voice. Both these suspicions were delusions and both have damaged us and have kept and will continue to keep us a stunted nation. If we wish to be a genuine nation, we cannot indulge for much longer our lust for dependence on others... Our future obviously belongs in another part of the world (Asia-Pacific) with different people...."

Such pathetic insecurity cannot go unchallenged. It was Australians who pioneered this country under harsh conditions, and Australians who defended it in time of war. Certainly they were European (specifically British) values and standards that underwrote our development morally, but to deliberately denigrate and deny such a heritage is a distinct sign of immaturity and insecurity. A nation is much more than a geographical entity ("a part of Asia") - it exists in the context of time and culture. The deliberately Christian origins and influence of the Monarchy underscore this and are a primary reason why they are attacked by the Fabians and humanists. It is not merely a traditional form of government that must be defended (until something demonstrably better offers itself) but the very identity of the nation.

It would be a bad mistake to assume that the republicans want change for the sake of change. They have not even bothered to argue that a republic would provide a better system of government. Where is the evidence of this? No, this change is a means to an end; to cut Australians off from their roots, so as to more readily fit them into the emerging international structure. The regionalisation of the world (as with the European Community) is proceeding, and it is proposed to fit Australia into the developing United States of Asia as a formal regional sovereign entity - a preparation for Lenin's world State. A nation cut off from its identity, history, culture and traditions is merely flotsam on the tide of history and could scarcely resist the erosion of any remaining sovereignty into a regional power bloc.

FLAG ALSO A TARGET: It is not only the Monarchy that has become a target. The symbols of a rich political and spiritual heritage must be swept away. God Save the Queen was swept away overnight by Whitlam,

but the flag has proved a much tougher target. It is more popular than ever, and as a symbol provides a powerful emotional rallying point for loyalists. This must be intelligently exploited. The campaign to save the Union Jack on the Australian flag must go into top gear.

LIBERAL TASK-FORCE UNCONVINCING: The formation of a special task-force to fight for the preservation of the monarchy by the Liberal Party is most encouraging. It would be uncharitable to suggest that the Coalition badly feels the need for an electoral fillip if they propose to carry the baggage of an electoral liability like the consumption tax into the next election. But if the Liberals are serious, they will need to sharpen their performance considerably to be effective. John Howard's debate with Professor Winterton on the A.B.C.'s. 7.30 Report a few weeks ago was apologetic and unconvincing in support of the monarchy. The Liberals will have to do much, much better than this, but should be encouraged strongly.

THE CALL TO ARMS: Our message to supporters is simple. Clear the decks for the next great battle - a battle that can and must be won: a constitutional monarchy, Or a humanist republic. It is quite clear that any future republic would reject the Christian origins of our heritage, and must be essentially humanist. The churches must be challenged about their position. The next 10 years will produce another generation of Australians who will qualify in a referendum on a republic. This generation is a prime target for republicans, naturally. Every effort should be made to see that it gleans some understanding of its heritage, and the contribution of permanence and stability provided by the Monarchical system. This may be difficult in the present educational environment, but not impossible. The best tool to begin this process that we have yet seen is a new, brief, powerful cassette recording, The Voice of the Australian Flag. Produced by a group of Queenslanders, this brilliant tool is a most valuable service to loyal Australians at this critical time. At a time when one of the fastest-growing movements in the Soviet Union is is back to a monarchy, each supporter is called upon to equip himself appropriately for the campaign. This means securing essential resources. While other material and strategy is developed specifically to meet the challenge, the following are of immediate value: Freedom Wears a Crown by John Farthing - the Australian edition with an introduction by Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen, \$10.00. The Voice of the Australian Flag cassette tape: \$10.00 for two copies (you will need a minimum of two).

DID THEY DIE IN VAIN? from The Sunday Age (Melbourne), July 7th: "I take issue with your editorial stance and with your premature approach to a few graphic artists to sketch replacements for the national flag.

"A people so immature that it cannot accept its own history as enshrined in its national flag - and surely ours is the most beautiful national flag in the world - is unlikely to build a confident future.

"All our institutions are derived from the British Isles. Freedom did not come to us from continental Europe, nor will it come from Asia. Why change the institutions which have preserved that freedom so successfully until the present?

"One hundred thousand Australians have died this century in defence of that freedom and of those institutions. If they could speak now, would they really want us to change the flag they died under?

(N.J. Clark, Headmaster, Mentone Grammar School, Melbourne, Vic., 3194)

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