



A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

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The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance —

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: "The strength or weaknesses of a society depends more on the level of its spiritual life than on its level of industrialisation. Neither a market economy nor even general abundance constitutes the crowning achievement of human life. If a nation's spiritual energies have been exhausted, it will not be saved from collapse by the most perfect government structure, or by any industrial development. A tree with a rotten core cannot stand. This is so because of all the possible freedoms, the one that will inevitably come to the fore will be the freedom to be unscrupulous; that is the freedom that can be neither prevented nor anticipated by any law. It is an unfortunate fact that a pure social atmosphere cannot be legislated into being ... In order to function, democracy needs a certain level of political discipline among the populace."

- Alexander Solzhenitsyn in National Review (U.S.A.)
September 23rd, 1991.

THE SILENCE OF DR. JOHN HEWSON by Eric D. Butler:

The majority of Australians would, if asked in simple English, agree that the Hawke Government should be removed from office. The Hawke Government has done enormous damage to Australia, financially, economically, and socially. But what is the alternative? After a long delay, Dr. John Hewson, Opposition leader, has presented his "vision" for the future. But when one wades through the mass of material provided by Dr. Hewson and his advisers, including the projections concerning taxation under a General Services Tax (GST), it becomes clear that Dr. Hewson has no intention of addressing the basic issues confronting the nation. Much of the Opposition's propaganda in favour of the GST seeks to tap into the strong anti-government feeling, trusting that this will translate itself into the view that, while it may be difficult to assess what benefits, if any, will eventually flow from the GST, at least it offers a change which may bring improvements. As even some Opposition Members such as former National Party leader

Ian Sinclair, admit, there will be winners and losers under the GST. But there is no suggestion that the total taxation burden will be reduced. The best that can be offered is that the proposed taxation changes will be "revenue neutral". Those who believe this are ignoring realities. There is no known way that total taxation can be prevented from increasing in a nation which accepts as holy writ the present system of debt-finance.

The suggestion that Australia's basic economic problems can be resolved by re-organising the tax collection system is like attempting to prevent a leaking ship from sinking by re-arranging the deck chairs. The Australian ship of State is sinking under a deluge of debt. Adding to the debt problem, now threatening to eliminate at least one-third of Australia's primary producers, is a flood of cheap foreign primary products. The current rural crisis, intensified by drought conditions over most of Eastern Australia, is the worst in the nation's history. What is Dr. Hewson's programme for preventing more farmers being forced off their properties by banks which in many cases were responsible for encouraging irresponsible debt levels? What about those high interest rates encouraged by former Treasurer Paul Keating in order to create the depression "we had to have"? What Australia desperately needs NOW is a survival programme which will enable farmers and the small businessmen to survive.

But Dr. Hewson is silent on such fundamental issues. He offers no immediate programme for the employment of the unemployed, particularly the young, in useful economic activity. Australia's housing industry is, in spite of wishful thinking, in a seriously depressed state. What about adequate finance at a low interest rate programme? There are no physical problems. Why cannot Australia's rail and transport system be upgraded? The reaction from both the Government and the "Opposition" is that the stimulation of increased economic activity by new financial credits, would re-stimulate inflation. If Dr. Hewson and his fellow economic "experts" are unable to implement a financial policy which would enable the Australian people to use their own resources without inflation, then they should be charged with being incompetent - or worse. The programme of internationalism being imposed upon the Australian people is supported by Dr. Hewson and his colleagues. It is a programme of treachery which, carried far enough, will destroy Australia's sovereignty - economic and political.

What is essential between now and the next Federal Elections, is for enough Australians to grasp that Dr. Hewson and the "Opposition" offer no genuine alternatives to the destructive Hawke Government programme, and that they should work to support only those candidates who do offer some real answers. Australians cannot afford to repeat the mistake they made when they elected Malcolm Fraser on the basis that "he could not be worse than Whitlam". The Fraser Government turned out to be much worse.

PROFESSOR BLAINNEY STRIKES AGAIN from David Thompson:

Last month the distinguished Australian author, Morris West, in a cry from the heart, drew attention to the dreadful seriousness of the rural crisis, demanding an action programme to meet the crisis. No discernable response from rural industry groups, State or Commonwealth Government has been forthcoming, particularly to his urgent plea for a moratorium to halt the spiral of debt, which he describes as being "out of control".

A week later, Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Blainey delivered a stinging attack on the lunatic policies destroying the country, in a wide-ranging Sir Robert Menzies' lecture to the Liberal Club of Melbourne's Monash University. Blainey again condemned the continuing encouragement of immigration in times of "depression". Yes, "depression"! As reported by The Australian (29/11/1991) Blainey again roasted the Government, and the ethnic lobby's clamour for endless family reunions, increasing the nation's overseas debt, and taking urgently-needed funds from essential services such as hospitals. He provided figures: "Of the adult migrants who arrived since Christmas two years ago, about 36% are unemployed. This is economic lunacy."

Blainey also attacked economic and trade policies, saying that the radical conservationists, some aborigines, and the Commonwealth Government itself was strangling development and stifling exports. He said that when an American group (Greenpeace) sabotages efforts to improve the economy by opposing off-shore oil exploration, it should be rebuked by the Prime Minister.

"FREE TRADE" CONDEMNED: Blainey strongly condemned the programme of reduction of tariffs to expose industry to international competition, predicting that by 1995 some sort of protection would have to be restored. "By then hundreds of our factories will be closed and their machines, shipped away, will be working 24 hours a day in South-East Asia. Other nations will have the factories, we will have the unemployment."

One of Blainey's strongest broadsides was reserved for the lack of national leadership, saying: "Canberra has ceased to speak or think for the nation as a whole. . . . Created to solve problems, created especially to circumvent the Melbourne-Sydney rivalry, Canberra is now itself a problem. It is an expanding oasis of prosperity presiding over a parched economy . . ."

A DEAFENING SILENCE: When one of Australia's most respected living historians and one of our most successful authors deliver clear, ringing warnings - almost prophecies - about imminent disaster, some response from the nation's leaders is appropriate. What has Mr. Hawke's response been? Dr. Hewson's response? Or Premiers Greiner, Goss, or Lawrence? Not even a peep of acknowledgement - in fact, a deafening silence. A sullen, arrogant determination to persist with policies of disaster, in defiance of increasing national economic and social chaos, is all that is forthcoming. We recall only Victorian

Opposition Leader Kennett, asking of the programme to eliminate tariffs. "What if we are wrong?" Now, even Kennett seems to have thrown in his lot - under pressure - with Hewson's computer-calculated panacea, the GST. It is only inexorable events, in the shape of further disasters, that can penetrate such blinding arrogance.

(end of David Thompson item)

BRIEF COMMENTS: Harsh realities were forcing some politicians to change their views on the policy of dismantling all forms of protection for Australian industries. Victorian Liberal leader Jeff Kennett has openly expressed doubts about the anti-protection programme, but presumably in the interests of "party unity" has recently attempted to "play down" his differences with Federal leader Dr. Hewson. But prominent Victorian frontbench Liberal MP, Mr. Roger Pescott, has now come out strongly disassociating himself from the Federal Opposition's pledge to phase out all protection for manufacturing industry by the year 2000. Mr. Pescott is the State Opposition's spokesman on industry. Mr. Pescott has been critical of the "level playing field" argument, pointing out that other nations' industries do not operate on level playing fields, but effectively protect their industries. Every opposition to the internationalist policies of both the Hawke Government and the Federal Opposition should be encouraged.

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As anticipated by the former Democrat Senator, Paul Maclean, the Martin banking inquiry proved to be little more than a whitewash of the present banking system and debt-finance. Needless to say, the banks have expressed their general satisfaction with a report which at best merely taps them on the wrists. The "reforms" suggested are mainly cosmetic. Once again Australians are told that the establishment of more foreign banks in Australia will be of great benefit.

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Prior to the Gulf War, Assad's Syria was formally condemned as a state backing terrorism. But all that changed when it was necessary to bring Syria on-side with the USA. Virtually absolved by President Bush of any involvement in the PanAm 103 destruction, Syria is now regarded as a major ally in Bush's Middle East "peace process". But now it is revealed that Assad used at least \$US1 billion of the money given to Syria by Saudi Arabia during the Gulf war, to buy sophisticated Scud missiles. As yet there is not the slightest glimmer of the prospect of peace in the Middle East, which depends primarily on the policies of Zionist Israel.

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Victorian State National Party MP for East Gippsland, Mr. Bruce Evans, appears to be rather old-fashioned. Mr. Evans objects to a National-Liberal Party proposal that all Members had to accept Coalition decisions and not criticise Coalition Members. Mr. Evans says he wants to be free to represent his electors. He may be forced to sit as an Independent Member for the remainder of his term in Parliament.