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The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance —

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: "The great advantage of a free country does not consist in its requiring higher qualities in its governors, but in its being better secured against their bad qualities and having better means of removing a foolish or wicked minister."

- Thomas Robert Mathus (1766-1834)

THE FALSE GOD OF EFFICIENCY: "Greater efficiency", primarily to attempt to gain more export markets, is the god of a strange collection of people known as "economic rationalists". Worshipers of this god transcend political labels, as witnessed by the fact that both Prime Minister Paul Keating and Opposition leader Dr. John Hewson are both devotees. Any differences are matters of degree, not substance. Both are anti-protection for Australian industries, and supporters of internationalism.

Measured in terms of orthodox financial accountancy, it can be demonstrated that it would be much more efficient to house people in standard buildings similar to army barracks. Allowing people to build houses of different designs on, for example, an ordinary suburban block of land, can easily be demonstrated to be wasteful of both resources and space. Communal kitchens for collective housing can also be demonstrated to be much more efficient in financial terms.

Such an approach to economic organisation might be justified if any group of people were living in a state of drastic shortages. Carefully rationing water to a group of lost travellers in a desert would be commonsense. But the same policy applied to a group boating across one of the great north American fresh-water lakes would be one of madness. There is a degree of madness about the "economic rationalism" being advocated by both the Keating Government and the Hewson Opposition. They completely ignore human and social factors. The sugar industry issue clearly highlights the differences between the "economic rationalists" and those with a basically different philosophy. Two articles in The Weekend Australian of May 9th-10th bring out the cleavage.

The first article by John Hyde, Executive Director of the Institute

of Public Affairs, congratulates Dr. Hewson for standing firm against the revolt in the National Party on the issue of sugar protection. Hyde writes that Hewson "is adamant that there will be no giving in to members and senators who push sectional interests". Nations consist of many different sections, and unless it can be demonstrated that the nation as a whole is suffering because of protection for a section, such as the sugar industry, the destruction of that section in order to advance an international ideology, must be seen as an attack on the whole nation.

Well-known Roman Catholic Commentator, Mr. B.A. Santamaria, assesses the sugar industry issue from a completely different viewpoint, observing that "At serious risk are no fewer than 6,500 farms, relatively small in acreage, in social structure overwhelmingly family farms, employing some thousands of mainly seasonal workers, and the mainstay of prosperous regional centres like Mackay, Bundaberg, Ingham and Innisfail". Apart from the enormous social damage resulting from a savaging of the Australian sugar industry, Santamaria demonstrates that the resulting increase in unemployment would cost the Australian sugar consumers millions of dollars to help pay unemployment benefits. He also confirms our own view, that the Federal Opposition appears to be determined to lose the next Federal Elections.

Genuine efficiency can only be measured, not merely in economic terms, but in terms of human satisfaction. If Australia is to survive, the philosophy of the "economic rationalists" must be rejected at the next Federal Elections. A good start has been made in Wills.

MORAL BLACKMAIL BY "BOAT PEOPLE": Professor Lauchlan Chipman, Professor of Philosophy at Wollongong University, draws attention to the dangers and inconsistencies of new Commonwealth legislation, hastily pushed through the House, to continue detention of 37 Cambodian "boat people" until a decision can be reached on their future. Chipman points out that the Parliament has interfered with the judicial process, and that the legislation breaches international treaty obligations. Mr. Brian Burdekin, the Federal Human Rights Commissioner, also argues that the decision contravened the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. This is the standard, he says, "against which the performance of governments around the world is measured".

It is quite clear, however, that if the provisions of the Convention are applied in this case, it would result in the release of the "boat people" into the Australian community. Experience shows that when their case is finally heard, they will not appear to risk being deported. There are so many illegal immigrants that it could take years to round them up, if ever. They effectively disappear into Australia, which was their original intention in any case. If Australia is to retain any controls over the type of new immigrants, it is essential to enforce the law; those who simply "turn up" by boat should be sent back from whence they came.

EXPEDITIONARY FORCE: Most of those who simply "turn up" on our coast-

line by boat cannot be regarded as refugees in the usual sense. Rather, they are in the nature of an expeditionary force, encouraged by their own government, and offered comfort by the internationalists with such instruments as United Nations treaties to protect them. The real question to be answered is whether Australian law can be effectively circumvented by international treaties, or whether our own Parliament can move to protect Australian interests. Even the Australian legal system bends over backwards attempting to accommodate the "rights" of illegal refugees, and the appeal to the High Court in the present case is still available to them.

We often disagree strongly with Mr. Pdraic McGuinness, columnist for "The Australian", but on this issue we agree completely. He writes: "(Boat people) are effectively exercising moral blackmail on the rest of the world by throwing themselves on its mercy: give us what we want or we will die... The alternative, which is what the churches and the immigration lawyers are effectively advocating, is to abandon any effective control over immigration into Australia. Perhaps this is what will eventually happen anyway"

"BLACKMAIL BY COMPASSION": "It is all too typical of the type of people who advocate extensive legal defences for illegal immigrants that they also believe in all kinds of laws to control the racist backlash they are so determined to engender. It may be, of course, that Australia has no long-term future as a white enclave at the bottom of Asia, and that we will inevitably be swamped by Asian immigration. It is neither racist nor hostile to Asia to suggest that this is not at all what the vast majority of Australians want - like every other country, while change is acceptable we would not want our national identity totally to disappear ...

"Some solution to the rapid turnaround and deportation of such people has to be found. But if deportation is as terrible a punishment as sinking their boats in the first place would have been, some means has to be found for transmitting the message that blackmail by compassion will not work as a substitute for proper application for refugee or immigrant status." ("Weekend Australian", 9/5/1992.)

"Camp of the Saints" by Jean Raspail has prophesied just such a situation. His powerful novel is startlingly applicable. \$10.00 posted.

BRIEF COMMENTS: While the flag issue is boiling away it should not be forgotten that the issue of the republic is closely associated. If the republic is ever to be achieved, the Union Jack will disappear from the flag. The republicans continue to chip away; W.A. Senator McKiernan is now circulating a petition calling for a change to the oath of allegiance used in the citizenship ceremony. He wants new citizens to pledge loyalty to "Australia" and our people, instead of to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Australia. An attempt

was made to change the oath in 1983. It failed when the Democrats voted against it in the Senate.

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A Scottish law commission is preparing to make smacking of children illegal in Scotland. The strap has already been outlawed in Scottish schools following a European Court ruling. Britain must comply with the European Convention on Human Rights, and the Scottish Commission proposes to make it a criminal offence for parents to inflict pain to discipline children. The Director of South Australia's Children's Interest Bureau wants similar legislation here. She says we should look to Norwegian law, which prevents the use of any physical discipline. No doubt the Human Rights Commissioner will point out that we are constrained by the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child!

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The role of Mikhail Gorbachev in the evolving world drama highlights the fact that philosophically the Marxist-Leninists have the same roots as those International Bankers who have been promoting the One World concept for so long. The Australian of May 8th quotes Gorbachev as saying in the U.S.A. that a World Government was essential for resolving international problems. Gorbachev said in Missouri, that "One epoch has ended and a second is commencing. Having long been orthodox Marxists we were sure we knew. But life once again refuted those who claimed to be know-it-alls and messiahs. A major international effort will be needed to render irreversible the shift in favour of a democratic world - and democratic for the whole of humanity, not just half of it". Gorbachev went on to say that "Events such as regional conflicts and a new rise in nationalism also threaten emerging peace", observing that the U.N. could take on the role of a world government.

The Marxists played a major role in the establishment of the United Nations and associated international institutions like the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

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Reports from Indonesia state that a resurgent Islam is becoming a major factor in Indonesian politics, now openly acknowledged by President Soeharto. Islam is now the fastest growing religion in the world and in many areas aggressively anti-Western. What does Prime Minister Paul Keating think of this? Or doesn't he?

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Mr. Greg Sheridan, foreign editor of The Australian, writes in his article on May 6th that with Peacock as Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs, and with Hewson's own involvement in Asia, "there is very little of substance that divides the Government and the Opposition on foreign policy".

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