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The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance —

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: "With the best will in the world to find a more complicated explanation of an extremely complicated world situation, I find it impossible to arrive at any conclusion other than that the main cause of the world's economic difficulties at the present time is the same in every country, and may be found in the annexation of public credit by financial institutions. And fundamentally there can be only one cure for this situation - to place that credit at the disposal of those from whom it arises - that collection of individuals which we agree to call 'the public'."

- C.H. Douglas in Reconstruction, 1932

THE SIMPLE ANSWER TO YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT: The intense national discussion about youth unemployment has created more heat than light. This is the result of asking the wrong questions and the acceptance of what the economic witchdoctors of the black magic of orthodox debt finance have to say. According to the economic witchdoctors, everything is governed by money - or the lack of it. A realistic answer will only be provided by asking some realistic questions. For example, are there desirable economic and social activities in which young people could be engaged? A list of such activities could easily be drawn up, starting with an expanded defence system. The state of the world demonstrates that for the foreseeable future the world is threatened with growing instability. Australia needs a strong professional defence system, sustained by an adequate economic infrastructure. A strong defence policy would enable Australia to pursue, where necessary, a strong and constructive foreign policy.

There is an urgent necessity for Australia's transport system, both roads and railways, to be updated. Vast reforestation programmes are essential if Australia's fragile environment is to be protected. But every desirable public project is met with the hackneyed question, "But where will the money come from?" The answer is, of course, that the money required could be created in the same way that it is being created now, by the banking institutions, which have a licence to create money in the form of financial credit. To suggest that desirable economic activities cannot take place because of a shortage of

money, is similar to saying that a book cannot be published because there are insufficient numerals with which to number the pages.

However, there is one important aspect of the unemployment question which one of Prime Minister Keating's senior Ministers, Mr. Kim Beazley, has recently commented upon: even before the current recession, unemployment was growing because of what Beazley described as "economic rationalisation". What he meant was that rapid development in technology means that more production is possible with less human labour. The starting point to deal with youth unemployment is first to ask the question, "What is the true purpose of production?" If it is claimed that "full employment" is the purpose, then obviously every step should be taken to halt the development of all labour-saving technology, to blow up the heavy earthmoving equipment and go back to picks and shovels. But the dynamic of technology cannot be stopped, and the real question is how to take advantage of it.

The truth is that if the Australian production system is designed to produce what the Australian people want, in the most efficient manner, then only a fraction of the Australian labour force is required to operate it. Australia has no production problems. Instead of imposing yet another bureaucratic nightmare, compulsory superannuation schemes, which only aggravate the nation's basic problems, all those over 50 years of age should be invited to retire with an adequate pension, free of all means testing, thus making it possible for industry to more readily employ younger workers. The retirement pension should be seen as a natural right, based upon the rapidly expanding real credit of the nation, with an acknowledgement of the fact that the cultural heritage belongs to all individuals.

It is now over 70 years ago since the British engineer C.H. Douglas pinpointed the basic flaw in the finance-economic system, warning that unless corrected there would be crisis after crisis, with every attempt by the credit monopolists to retain control by increasing centralisation, resulting in progressively greater disasters. Consider the plight of the world today. Civilisation is disintegrating. Deprived of any opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to society, and seeing no hope in a worthwhile future, it is not surprising that increasing numbers of young people are committing suicide or turning to drugs and other forms of antisocial behaviour. Far more than "Youth Summits" are required. A nation which puts the money abstraction ahead of reality is doomed. Either there must be financial reform or progressive disintegration into anarchy.

(Essential reading: The Money Trick, \$7.00 posted, from all League addresses.)

BRIEF COMMENTS: As the internationalists attempt to push forward with their programme for a Federal Union of Western Europe, yet another artificial Federation, Czechoslovakia, disintegrated under the upsurge of nationalism. The YES vote in Ireland in favour of joining a Federated Europe, is but one more example of a people being prepared to

sell their independence in the hope of economic benefits. In the meantime the bloodshed continues in what was formerly Yugoslavia, now in its death throes. As the inevitable centralist pressure grows inside the E.E.C. so will the friction mount until the inevitable break down.

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Whatever effects Rupert Murdoch's campaign is having against the Royal family, particularly Prince Charles and Princess Diana, it may well result in a backlash with the British press precluded from invading the privacy of the Royal Family. There was the spectacle last week of the media erecting a high scaffolding from which to take photographs of Prince Harry at his school sports. Because of the excesses of Rupert Murdoch's tabloid, The Sun, three years ago, a private members' bill in the House of Commons attracted wide support. The Thatcher Government was reluctant to antagonise the powerful Murdoch, so it appointed a committee to ascertain if privacy legislation was a practical proposition. The Government said it would give the press one last chance to get its house in order. It will be instructive to see if the Major Government is prepared to curb the vulgar anti-Royalist activities of the Murdoch media.

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It is generally believed that the Australian Jewish community contributed approximately \$300,000 to the Federal Labor Party's 1990 Federal Election campaign. Zionist leader Mark Leibler has not denied that the Labor Party received substantial Jewish support, but claimed there was no block contribution, that individuals made their own decisions. Zionist leaders have expressed outrage at what they see as a major policy change on the Middle East by Foreign Minister Senator Evans.

No doubt very conscious of the possible loss of Jewish support at the next Federal Elections, Prime Minister Keating is attempting to placate the Zionist lobby. But the affair has demonstrated the excessive influence of the Zionist lobby in Australia's affairs.

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Matthew Franklin, reporting from Tokyo in the business section of the Herald-Sun (Melbourne) of June 22nd, states that "According to figures published by the Nikkei Research Institute, 10 out of 11 major Japanese banks cannot meet Bank of International Settlements requirements that their assets be worth at least 8 percent of outstanding loans". The much-publicised Japanese "success story" is staggering towards a major collapse. Unless Australia adopts a more independent policy, it could be badly affected.

THE TRICKY MR. GREINER ON THE WAY OUT by David Thompson:

The enquiry by the Independent Commission Against Corruption into the appointment of Mr. Terry Metherell to a well-paid public service job has been enormously expensive. It has also been politically disruptive, and Mr. Tenby's report has told us little that was not already

obvious. Even Mr. Greiner himself had admitted "from day one" that Metherell's job was a political appointment, and that such appointments had been made for years. What was different in this case?

Mr. Metherell, a former Liberal Minister, had resigned from the Party, and became an Independent. Greiner, desperate for "numbers" on the floor of the House, cast about for a way of "buying" Metherell out of his blue-ribbon Liberal seat. Mr. Greiner simply failed to sniff the political wind, which would have told him that electoral disgust had reached critical mass, and such skulduggery was regarded with contempt.

Mr. Greiner is not a passionately "political" person. He is more of a technocrat. After an alarmingly close win in the last election, Mr. John Howard was heard to remark that Greiner is a 'pragmatist': not driven by political ideology or philosophical conviction. He is essentially a "manager", and politically pragmatic solutions prevail over philosophic commitment. In many respects he is similar to Dr. Hewson. Both took a degree of business management at Harvard University in U.S.A. Neither seem strongly committed to philosophical positions. Both are "numbers" men - politically and economically. There is very little passion in either.

"POLITICIANS SHOULD NOT LIE": The I.C.A.C. was set up by Greiner as a mechanism to demonstrate that his Government would be "squeaky clean". But Mr. Ian Tenby's standards seem to be a little different from those of politicians. He startled all concerned when he maintained that politicians should always tell the truth: "I do not think it an old-fashioned irrelevancy to say that politicians ought ensure that what they say to the public, the people to whom they must give an account of themselves, is never misleading"

Perhaps the whole affair of Terry Metherell would never have been as expensive, disruptive or politically damaging if the people had the power to recall politicians. If the electorate of Davidson was unhappy with their M.P. turning Independent, they could have petitioned to recall Mr. Metherell to face re-election. If not, Mr. Greiner would have been doubly unwise to try to buy the seat back! Perhaps the 'recall' mechanism could even have been used to impeach a Premier who, while he may not have been "technically" corrupt, had shown a brazen adroitness at political manipulation. Initiative, referendum and recall can solve a multitude of political problems, and perhaps even prevent some. In the end, it would seem that Mr. Greiner has been too clever, by half. Even if he is able to hang on a little longer, the electorate has the final sanction.