



# ON TARGET

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*The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance —*

Registered By Australia Post — Publication No. VBH 0999

Vol.28, No.45

November 27th, 1992

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:** "There are really two basic questions: Number one: We've got to learn to distribute the abundance we know how to make. Number two: Ultimately we've got to find a way to give people a more rational means of choosing between gadgets and leisure. We have to find a way to satisfy man's need for creative expression during his leisure hours. And just having two more television sets in the house to sit and look at does not meet this need."

- Sir Walter Reuther, President of the United Auto Workers of the United States. Quoted in A Matter Of Life Or Debt, by Eric de Mare.

**THE VICTORIAN REVOLUTION** by Eric D. Butler:

Many years ago the writer found himself at the centre of a heated political discussion, one of those taking part being a dedicated Marxist-Leninist, while others were anti-Communists, or politically neutral. This was during the Menzies era, just prior to a Federal election. When asked who he was going to vote for, the Marxist-Leninist astonished other members of the group by responding: "In the absence of a Marxist candidate, I will, of course, be voting for Bob Menzies." Every student of Marxists dialectics knows why the Marxist-Leninist answered as he did: Menzies represented the thesis against which the anti-thesis could be launched in order to produce that violent revolutionary situation out of which, according to the Marxist, true progress emerges. The dedicated Marxist, and there are still some about, even if these days wearing different labels, fears genuine reform, this reducing tensions in society.

Few will dispute that there is enormous scope for reforms in the State of Victoria, but instead of proceeding in an orderly manner which always bears in mind the human factor, the Kennett Government is making it clear that it is governed primarily by prevailing financial conventions. Irrespective of any possible short-term gains, the end result must be an increasingly violent and poisoned society. Big

changes in the Victorian educational system are long overdue, with particular reference to what the young are being taught. Or, equally important, not being taught. But there is no evidence that the closing of many schools and the sacking of thousands of teachers is related to achieving this highly desirable objective. The central thrust of the Minister for Education's argument for his actions, is that the Education budget is too high, and that it must be reduced in order to help the State's debt situation. Some schools are to be closed because they are "uneconomic". One of the most dangerous myths about education is that bigger schools provide better education than smaller ones. Some of Australia's most outstanding figures came out of small country schools.

It is generally agreed that Victoria's public transport system is one of the poorest in the world. Nothing could be more calculated to demoralise people than to have them standing for hours pretending that they are checking suburban railway tickets. There is an overwhelming case for the introduction of modern ticket machines similar to those used elsewhere in the world. Those modern Luddites, most Trade Union officials, are as much blinded by financial orthodoxy as the politicians, and under present financial rules can think of nothing more constructive than to oppose all changes which will lessen the need for their members to be employed. Those currently employed in what is useless employment at present, would be pleased to retire voluntarily if assured of a basic income for the rest of their lives. Transport Minister Brown's blunt threat that if transport workers will not cooperate with his reforms, he will close the whole transport system down, must sound like music in the ears of that veteran Marxist-Leninist John Halfpenny. Before resorting to such measures, which must have nation-wide repercussions, with further hardships for the great majority of the Australian people, Jeff Kennett and his colleagues should examine alternatives. This would mean, of course, breaking from a dehumanising financial orthodoxy.

It is highly debateable that taking conductors off Melbourne's tram system is desirable or necessary. Many people, the elderly and young mothers, often require some assistance. The tram system, powered by electricity, has a number of advantages over buses, including much less pollution. If the Kennett Government persists in imposing its proposed reforms without reference to the human factor, which means a changed attitude towards debt-finance, it is going to poison Victorian society for a long time to come. Socialism as a system is a complete disaster. But the prospects of living in a society dominated by the Debt Monopolists, with alleged efficiency measured by the balance sheet and completely ignoring the human factor, are not a genuine alternative.

**"GATT" CONGRATULATIONS PREMATURE** from David Thompson:

As the trade negotiators for a new General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade congratulate each other for preventing an international trade war, and reaching agreement on discussions that have taken six years so far, a number of points should be made. The first is that the European farmers, who have been targetted because of their subsidised produce, have yet to be dealt with. The German, Belgian and in particular the French farmers have obstinately persisted with a most politically incorrect attitude that they do not wish to leave their land! Any cuts in European farm subsidies mean a "rationalisation" of primary producers in Europe. This problem of elimination of farmers has not even been faced in Australia.

The second question is what real advantages exist for Australians? Even Australian wheatgrowers could well have left their properties before they see benefits from the latest agreement. According to the agreement, Europeans will reduce the volume of subsidised exports for wheat and other farm commodities by 21 percent over six years, beginning in 1994. That is, by the turn of the century, European subsidies may have been reduced by less than a quarter. Any export gains made by Australians can only be made at the expense of producers in some other country. The struggle for "markets" continues, driven by rising financial demands, mainly generated by increasing debt.

**FINANCE AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE:** Irrespective of any possible short-term advantages of a GATT resolution, the fact remains that international trade has long since ceased to be an exchange of surpluses. A production of massive surpluses is now the objective of all economies; not to feed the people of that economy, but to export. The "credits" that are received as a result of the exports, are ever more essential to keep domestic economies operating. Trade is now being used as a weapon to destroy domestic economies, and globalise them.

The real purpose of the General Agreement on Tariffs & Trade has been to facilitate this internationalism. For example, in a report from Europe last weekend, a journalist noted: "The 108 nations in the Uruguay Round of trade liberalisation talks hope to reduce by one third tariffs and quotas on imports of products and services including banking." It is clear that the GATT arrangements have the full support of international banking groups. The power of international finance has traditionally fostered a perverted form of "free trade", because this undermines any hope of nations retaining any form of self sufficiency. The idea of the independent nation-state has always been attacked and undermined by international finance. The political front-men, like Prime Minister Keating, who welcome deals like the

GATT agreement, simply oil the wheels of international finance.

The N.F.F., claiming to represent farmers nationally, has been in the forefront in pushing the GATT/international finance agenda - the elimination of protection for domestic economies, with the result that domestic economies are gradually merged with the "global market". Only now is there a general uneasiness in the bush about the "politically correct" stance of the N.F.F. (End of David Thompson comment)

**BRIEF COMMENTS:** Some Canadian Jewish leaders are arguing that it has proved counter-productive to attempt to keep British historian David Irving out of Canada. Banned from entering Canada because of a conviction in a German court (this being appealed), Irving entered just the same and was arrested while addressing a meeting in British Columbia, and was deported. He then re-entered the country and was then released on \$20,000 bail, this being provided by a Canadian supporter. As no court gag was applied, Irving continues to address Canadian audiences before the Canadians decide what to do with him. This affair has provided Irving with enormous publicity for both his meetings and his books.

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**The Sunday Age** of November 22nd had a headline stating that Australia stands to gain \$1 billion in trade from the alleged trade agreement between the U.S.A. and the E.E.C. countries. Australian farmers are asked to believe this type of rubbish. Under present financial policies for Australians to gain \$1 billion in increased export sales farmers in other countries will have to lose the same amount in sales. Not, of course, unless there is to be an expansion of the money supply by \$1 billion. This is not about to take place. In the meantime the French and Belgian farmers are making it loud and clear that they are opposed to their politicians entering into any agreements which will worsen their position. Those who believe that trade wars are going away are in a dream world.

**BASIC FUND:** This week worse than last week. The gloom appears to getting at supporters. (Yes, we cannot present any cheery news on the economy to supporters.) The politicians and economists are not giving the true picture to Australians at all. So, hang on to your assets (except for your donations to the Australian League of Rights' Basic Fund), don't buy anything you don't really NEED, and keep out of debt. Cash is King/Debt is the Devil.

After all that, don't forget your donation, NOW, to the Basic Fund. Some \$995 received in donations last week takes the Fund to \$17,313.

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"ON TARGET" is printed and published by The Australian League of Rights, 145 Russell Street, Melbourne. Subscription \$30 p.a.  
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