



ON TARGET

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The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance —

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: "Democracy is frequently and falsely defined as the rule of the majority - a definition quite sufficient to account for the unpopularity with many persons whose opinion is not unworthy of consideration. As so defined, it is a mere trap, set by knaves to catch simpletons; the rule of the majority never has existed and, fortunately, never will exist. If such a thing were possible, it would be the ultimate Terror, beside which the worst individual despot would seem a kindly patriarch. It is under cover of this definition, however, that unscrupulous men in every country are enabled to consequences which anti-social intriguing would bring upon them, by working up a spurious, because uninformed, public opinion, which is the greatest barrier to effective and rapid progress known to the hidden hands of finance and politics. Real democracy is something different, and is the expression of the policy of the majority....."

- C.H. Douglas, Credit Power and Democracy

THE ARROGANCE OF PAUL KEATING CONCERNING ANZAC: Paul Keating's behaviour since winning the Federal elections by a handful of votes, thanks to the follies of the Hewson Liberals, is a striking confirmation of Lord Acton's famous dictum that all power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Demonstrating his domination of his new Cabinet, Keating's first major decision was to allow the Canadian media baron, Mr. Conrad Black, to acquire 25 percent of the John Fairfax newspaper group. This Keating decision was imposed in spite of opposition from the ACTU, the ALP Federal President Mr. Barry Jones, and significant sections of the Labor caucus. The increase in the Conrad Black holdings in the Australian media is another major step towards centralised control of the Australian print media. No doubt Prime Minister Keating feels that his decision will help to ensure that he continues to receive increasingly favourable support from papers like The Age and The Sydney Morning Herald. The Age is prominent in its support for the Keating Republic programme.

But while Paul Keating expresses confidence that an Australian Republic will be established "sooner rather than later", his attempt to

exploit Anzac Day to advance his programme has resulted in the type of backlash which will gather momentum as increasing numbers of Australians come to understand the far-reaching revolutionary implications of what the Prime Minister has in mind. A major feature of his hidden agenda is the abolition of the States. Anzac Day is the nearest annual event of a semi-sacred nature in Australia, and Paul Keating has outraged large numbers of Australians by attempting to claim that Australian prisoners-of-war in Asia would be seen in the future as the pioneers of Australia's growing economic links with Asia. There was the usual anti-British bias with the suggestion that Australians who worked on the infamous Burma railway were the victims of the British neglect in Asia.

RSL Federal President, Brigadier Alf Garland, made the telling comment that the same Paul Keating who claimed that Australia had been subservient to the United Kingdom was prepared to bend over backwards "to make ourselves subservient to Asia because we trade with them". While critical of Britain, Keating said nothing about the Japanese atrocities inflicted on Australian prisoners-of-war. Brigadier Garland went on to say, "... every time the RSL says we should make the Japanese understand that they were the perpetrators of those crimes, the Government claims we are setting Australia back. If we were truly independent we should not be afraid to criticise them."

If Australia wishes to be respected by Asian nations, it should not be apologising for the type of false history promoted by Paul Keating. It should be made clear to Asian peoples that Australians are proud of their heritage of constitutional government and the system of law with its roots in the United Kingdom. And as many Australians as possible should write to Her Majesty the Queen of Australia, pointing out that Paul Keating does not speak for the Australian people. We trust that Paul Keating noticed the huge attendances at this year's Anzac services and the sea of Australian flags, waved generally by young Australians.

We confidently predict that Paul Keating's will-to-power and his arrogance will eventually prove his undoing.

THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL AND THE RESERVE POWERS by David Thompson:

Within the next four months the Prime Minister will be forwarding the name of the person he chooses to become the next Governor-General of Australia. As Sir David Smith, private secretary to the last five Governors-General, points out, this provides an interesting challenge for the insufferable Keating. Will he attempt to further degrade the office, by choosing a person with 'republican' sympathies? Perhaps

even a humanist, feminist, single-parent divorcee who rejects many aspects of the traditional role?

It should be pointed out that a number of the Premiers have quite deliberately chosen State Governors in an attempt to demean the office of Governor. We recall South Australian Premier Donald Dunstan's choice of Sir Douglas Nicholls, an Aborigine. An honourable and most decent man, Nicholls clearly found the office of Governor to be a challenge to his capabilities, and in his admirable attempt to do the office justice, was constantly and subtly undermined by Dunstan and others and made a figure of fun.

THE OFFICE OF "PRESIDENT": As Sir David Smith notes, Keating's selection of the next Governor-General offers Australians a chance to see how the republican process might work, if a "President" is to be selected. Will the Prime Minister submit his choice for Governor-General to each House of Parliament, for a two-thirds majority to approve him/her? Would he be content to submit the next vice-regal appointment chosen by the Commonwealth Parliament to the Queen? Or will he perhaps attempt to prevail upon Bill Hayden to serve for another term?

While the more crass republican sympathisers like Phillip Adams gleefully claim victory for their cause on the basis of a few (possibly shonky) opinion polls, no clear alternative to Monarchy has yet been proposed. The clearest proposals come from republican banker Malcolm Turnbull, and constitutional lecturer Professor Winterton. They broadly claim that all that is necessary for transition from Crown to republic is to change the names of the title of Head of State from "Queen & Governor-General" to "President" in the Constitution.

This is essentially dishonest, in that neither explain that one of the main republican targets are the Reserve Powers, which give a Governor-General or Monarch opportunities to modify the excesses of a Prime Minister. The republicans don't necessarily want a republic, but the likes of Turnbull, Keating, Wran, etc., want the Reserve Powers scrapped because they are a clear barrier to the centralisation of power.

THE LAST SQUADRON OF BOMBERS: It cannot have escaped the notice of Keating, etc., that the President of Pakistan, Mr. Ishan Khan, does have some reserve powers at his disposal. Last week Khan sacked the Prime Minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, and appointed a caretaker P.M. Khan cited maladministration, corruption and fraud, adding that the Prime Minister "subverted the Constitution, behaved like a King, trampled upon provincial rights", and led the country toward economic

collapse. No wonder Mr. Keating would like to get rid of those reserve powers! Irrespective of the merits of the Pakistani case, the Constitution gives the Pakistani President authority to dismiss any government, and the power to appoint the military chief of staff. The latter is also most important. The Queen is Constitutionally the Supreme Commander of the Australian armed forces, and as such, can exercise final authority.

As C. H. Douglas points out in "The Tragedy of Human Effort", physical force is the last sanction in the physical world. When the military forces of the world are spent, the last squadron of bombers will carry the day, and the problem of sanctions is to obtain control of that last squadron. It is clear that the "republicans" want to wrest that control from the Crown.

LEAGUE'S BASIC FUND FILLED:

We are very pleased to be able to announce that, due to a late surge of donations, the League's financial lifeline, the Basic Fund, has reached the target of \$60,000. The National Director, Mr. David Thompson, thanks those who have contributed, which has often been something of a sacrifice, considering their economic circumstances.

As is usual, rural supporters were substantial contributors, which is a healthy indicator of the instincts of rural people, considering that in comparison they are suffering more than most other sections of the community.

The re-election of Keating's ALP administration moves Australia into a new political situation, in which the Opposition is practically mute. The role of the League becomes even more significant, especially as Keating is emboldened to boast that the republic could arrive as early as 1996.

We note that late contributions to the Fund are still coming in. These, and any further contributions will go towards the League's strengthening defence of the traditional Monarchy. We note that there are a significant number of supporters who have not contributed this year, and close the Fund with the observation that the fire that destroyed valuable video-tape masters has added a significant financial strain. In the depths of the present recession, we rate the filling of the 1992/93 Basic Fund as an outstanding success.

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