



# ON TARGET

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*The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance —*

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**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:** "Every advance made by primitive man was due to the inventiveness of some individual who had sufficient freedom from the eternal slavery of bees and ants to work his own idea."

- Ramsay Muir in Civilisation and Liberty

**WHY DEBATE OUR FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS?** by Eric D. Butler:

A press headline reads, "Let The Debate (about Republicanism) Begin", which reminds one of Communist leader Krushchev's famous claims that, Communism being "historically inevitable" we will "bury you". But the Communist leader, having pronounced that the death of Western civilisation was inevitable, went on to say, in effect, that he was prepared to discuss the funeral arrangements under the guise of "peaceful co-existence". This, in essence, is what Prime Minister Keating and his Republican colleagues are saying. It reminds one of the old sales confidence trick where in order to close a quick sale, the salesman simply asks, "Now can we discuss what colour it will be?" Aided by sections of the media and the deep rot inside the Liberal Party, Paul Keating is skilfully advancing the view that an Australian Republic is "historically inevitable" (shades of Marxist-Leninism). The sensible thing to do now is to have a friendly discussion about how best to start implementing his policy: so runs the Keating "line"!

But while Paul Keating is stressing that he is concerned primarily about Australia's future, he is helping to focus attention on Australia's past. The future is rooted in the past and, as Prince Charles has pointed out, any people who wish to extend themselves into the future must go back to their roots. Whoever controls the writing of history controls the future, commented George Orwell. But in attempting to re-write history, Keating has activated a growing number of Australians who dispute his version of history, one of these being Australia's most eminent and respected historian, Professor Geoffrey Blainey. Blainey has bluntly attacked the Keating view that Australia has an Asian destiny. Not surprisingly, there was a shocked

reaction from the Republican ranks last weekend when it was suggested that Victorian Liberal Premier Jeff Kennett was proposing to nominate Geoffrey Blainey to join the group of "eminent" people he has invited to discuss the best ways to start implementing a Republic.

Paul Keating has set in motion developments which are going to change the nature of Australian politics. Traditional Australians have been shocked to realise how deep the rot is inside the Liberal Party. With former Liberal Premiers along with existing present Liberal leaders openly claiming that they support the Republican cause, and with Dr. John Hewson demonstrating with every day that passes that he has no stomach for the real fight ahead, and is prepared to surrender to the Republican assault, a major split in the Liberal ranks is now certain. John Howard and those who support him are the only senior Federal Liberals taking a stand. But we should not be surprised if out of the ranks of the remaining traditional Liberals a new leadership does not emerge. To his credit National Party leader Tim Fischer is standing firm, making it impossible for any realistic alliance between the Nationals and a Hewson-led Liberal Party.

I am of the opinion that Australians are on the eve of some most unexpected and unrehearsed political developments. Generally overlooked is the role which West Australian Labor Parliamentarian Graeme Campbell might play. Campbell openly defied Hawke on the immigration issue and in radio and television interviews has openly challenged Keating's Republican drive. Keating may take the view that with his majority in the House of Representatives he can ignore Campbell and any other Labor Members who think like him. But he has now set in motion political developments which eventually will destroy him. His enlisting of the support of the Japanese Prime Minister to endorse his Republican cause can only result in a wider grouping of anti-Republic support.

Australia is now entering the most decisive period in its history and the future will be decided by relatively few people who know what to do and how to do it. Only in the ranks of the League of Rights will that minority be found, who have had the long training necessary to equip them to provide the answer to an enemy marching behind the banner of Republicanism.

#### DAVID IRVING DECISION ON MAY 11th:

Documents presented in the Federal Court in Perth last Friday, concerning the Government's banning of British historian David Irving from visiting Australia on a lecture tour promoting his books, revealed that the nation's security agency, ASIO, had no objection to the issuing of a visa. Reports also revealed that former Immigration

Minister Gerry Hand's own Department had recommended that the proposed visit go ahead. But in spite of the view of ASIO and the Immigration Department that there was no reason why David Irving should not visit, it was Prime Minister Keating's Department and the Cabinet which wanted Irving banned. This is most revealing, indicating that a Prime Minister desperate about his electoral prospects was willing to do the bidding of the Zionist lobby, as were members of his Cabinet.

Mr. Justice French, who heard the Irving appeal last Friday, has reserved his decision on the matter until May 11th, although the judge indicated that because of his heavy work load, the finding might be a little later than the 11th. Irrespective of the Federal Court's decision, it is certain that the Irving affair is not going to go away. With ASIO's assessment, along with that of the Department of Immigration, favouring the visa being issued, where does this leave the Opposition and the Democrats, who supported the ban? Who briefed them? If just one Opposition Federal Member of courage can be found, some explosive questions can be asked in the next Federal Parliament.

#### **BRIEF COMMENTS:**

Regular readers of League journals will recall the role of Federal Labor Member Alan Griffiths, a lawyer, in calling for the infamous all-Party investigation into the Australian League of Rights. Mr. Griffiths has been elevated to the position of Minister for Industry, Technology and Regional Development, in the first Keating Government. The Australian Jewish News of April 30th provides the interesting news that top Zionist activist, Mr. Michael Danby, editor of Australia-Israel Publications, has taken up the post as co-ordinator of Mr. Griffiths' Melbourne ministerial office. Mr. Danby is reported as saying that despite his new post, he would remain active in the Jewish community and continue his association with Australia-Israel Publications. He was confident that it would continue under the leadership of Dr. Colin Rubenstein in Melbourne and Jeremy Jones in Sydney. Jeremy Jones is one of those pressing to make any criticism of the "holocaust" a crime.

#### **ON THE EDGE OF CONSTITUTIONAL REVOLUTION** by D. Thompson:

The legal can of worms opened up by the 'republican' push has not received the attention that it warrants. The truth is that even the proposed "minimalist" republican constitutional changes are massive changes, and strong legal divisions are appearing over whether it can be done at all without completely dissolving the Australian Federation. The opening paragraph of the Constitution clearly states that

the colonies had "agreed to unite in one indissoluble Federal Commonwealth under the Crown...".

If a referendum for massive constitutional change is proposed, some legal authorities argue that simply a majority of Australians in a majority of states is insufficient to effectively dissolve this partnership of Crown and colonies (States). It is argued that for such serious changes, a majority of people in every State should be required. Victorian Premier Kennett obviously has constitutional advice to this effect.

Further constitutional changes are being urged by the more revolutionary "Aboriginal" spokesmen, in order to acknowledge, and attempt to redress past injustices. Even Mr. Keating proposes that Constitutional changes should include Aboriginal 'reconciliation', and appointed Ms. Lois O'Donoghue to his Republican Advisory Committee. But what "Aboriginal rights" will be recognised? Prior "ownership" of Australia? Will it take the form of a Treaty? Is the Mabo case a forerunner of what is to come, with potential native title to be extended throughout Australia, including private property? Professor Henry Reynolds claims that recognition of Aborigines as Australia's indigenous people is the least that might be expected from a republican constitution. He argues that native title, based on prior occupation, should be constitutionally protected. Thus, the issue of 'land claims' is removed from the control of the States, and effectively nationalised.

THE FUTURE OF THE STATES: As with the Aboriginal issue, talk of radical Constitutional change brings every aggrieved opportunist out of the woodwork. The question of Western Australia even seceding from the Federation has also been raised, with Wilson Tuckey, MP, canvassing the option of WA remaining a Crown State, and separating from Australia. In a 1933 referendum, West Australians voted in favour of secession by a majority of more than two to one, and the issue is periodically revived.

Any possible legislation for a referendum on a republic could also face challenges from the High Court. The legal and constitutional argument could go on for years, without any suggestion that the republic could provide better government, or improved economic circumstances. Any suggestion that it will do so is simply deceitful.

It is also deceitful for the issue of republican constitutional change to be debated in a vacuum. It will impact on every part of Australian national life, and supporters of the Australian flag must be aware that the flag is threatened by republicans.

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Telephone: (03) 650 9749 Fax: (03) 650 9368