



ON TARGET

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The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance —

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: "This centralisation of the power of capital and credit is going on before our eyes, both directly in the form of money trusts and bank amalgamations, and indirectly in the confederation of the producing industries representing the capital power of machinery. It has its counterpart in every sphere of activity: the coalescing of small businesses into larger, of shops into huge stores, of villages into towns, of nations into leagues, and in every case is commended to the reason by the plea of economic necessity and efficiency. But behind this lies always the will-to-power, which operates equally through politics, finance or industry, and always towards centralisation."

- C.H. Douglas in Economic Democracy (1920)

THE COLLAPSING NEW WORLD ORDER: According to the economic soothsayers, the world is doomed unless the major industrialised nations of the world can agree to the free trade proposals being advanced through the current General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT) negotiations. December 15th is the deadline. It is stated that unless the GATT proposals are agreed to, the world will be shattered by a growing trade war, with the major nations forming blocs behind tariff and other protective walls. Already, of course, these blocs are forming, with the European Common Market, the Clinton Administration attempting to force the development of the North American Free Trade Agreement, to encompass the USA, Canada and Mexico, while now the first steps are being attempted to create an Asian Common Market, a concept enthusiastically endorsed by Australia's Prime Minister Mr. Paul Keating.

The most astonishing aspect of the grandiose programme to establish Free Trade on a global basis, is that the first major step towards the much publicised New World Order, the attempted creation of some type of United States of Europe, is experiencing major internal conflict at the very moment it is being claimed that with the Maastricht Treaty, it has taken a major step forward. Every day brings reports of a growing fear throughout Europe that Germany will once again be

used as the tool of a centralised power destroying the sovereignty of the member States of the EEC. Anti-German feeling is growing throughout France.

There is little doubt that the Canadian Conservative Party's support for the North American Free Trade Agreement was a major factor in its recent crushing electoral defeat, while in the USA President Clinton is faced with the formidable task of persuading Congress to agree to the NAFTA. Mounting opposition comes from right across the political spectrum. President Clinton is hoping that the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation conference in Seattle will provide a last minute boost for the GATT trade talks, this in turn assisting him to persuade Americans to accept the view that the North American Free Trade Agreement is part of an on-going global programme of expanding Free Trade.

But not only are the French peasants bitterly refusing to be sacrificed as part of the global programme, but right around the world there is growing resistance from groups who see their future threatened. Japanese rice growers are resorting to the same type of violent tactics as their French counterparts. The state of the Japanese economy grows worse by the day. Japanese car manufacturers are resorting to amalgamations in an attempt to grapple with debt problems. Unemployment is at a record post Second World War high, as it is in Western Europe and the USA.

However, in the face of the disasters their own policies have produced, the authors insist that in the Free Trade of their project New World Order, world prosperity will develop. As C.H. Douglas demonstrated over 70 years ago, every industrialised nation is faced with the problem of how to distribute all its production when it distributes inadequate purchasing power. Debt-finance is only a temporary opiate which does not remove the basic problem. "Rationalising" domestic industries destroys smaller industries, but does not increase purchasing power. Organising nations into Common Markets does not overcome the lack of total purchasing power. No type of a World State can be created because of growing social disintegration inside every nation. A permanent high unemployment rate is the certain breeding ground for revolution. This is what threatens the world today. Only a correction to the current debt financial policy can avoid growing disasters. Every step towards more attempted centralisation possesses the seeds of ultimate collapse.

BRIEF COMMENTS: As we go to press, the New Zealand election results have not been finalised, but the overall result is quite clear: New Zealand electors have overwhelmingly rejected "economic rationalism". Approximately one-third of the New Zealand electors voted for the

minor parties. Even if the Bolger Nationalists survive with a slim majority (which is far from certain) there are three of its members who have crossed the floor before and who promise to do so again if policies are introduced they do not like. Even more interesting than the election results are the reactions of the gurus of internationalism who have been loud in their charges that the New Zealand electors have made a disastrous decision. These charges suggest that in fact the New Zealand electors have made a very sound decision, one which Australian electors well might heed.

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Once again Professor Geoffrey Blainey has served Australia well by highlighting the far reaching and revolutionary implications of the High Court's Mabo decision. Pointing out that while he had always been an advocate of land rights, the difficult question was not whether to award land, but how much to award and on what terms. Professor Blainey has suggested that Australians are being rushed into new legislation concerning Aboriginal land rights without assessing what have been the results of the extensive land rights already granted to Australians of Aboriginal background. In his book, Healing a Divided Nation, the Rev. Cedric Jacobs, both of whose parents were tribal Aborigines, argues that only private ownership of land would make it possible for Australians of Aboriginal background to make genuine advancements.

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Russian leader Boris Yeltsin is no saint, but reality demands that the West attempts to help prop him up, if this is possible, because of the alternatives which threaten. The media generally have made little reference to the views of nationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinosky, who ran third in the 1991 Russian Presidential election, polling more than six million votes. Asked during the presidential election how he proposed to feed his vast nation, he replied, "Very simply. I'll move the troops, about 1.5 million strong, into the former GDR, rattle my nuclear sabers, and they'll give me everything." Zhirinosky said that if necessary nuclear weapons could be used against Western capital. Desperate conditions in Russia are resulting in growing support for Zhirinosky. The only other alternative to Yeltsin is the centre-right group, "the whites", with whom the great Solzhenitsyn is identified. In a recent French TV interview, Solzhenitsyn said, "Green shoots are pushing up again through the waste. There is hope." But he says that when he returns to Russia next year, "I may be prevented from speaking on television, because the members of the nomenclature whose hands are blood stained, are still there."

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CAN THE FEDERATION SURVIVE? The former Chief Justice of the High Court, Sir Harry Gibbs, has confirmed, in a public address, that the Australian federation is in very serious trouble. He said that claims by Aborigines and Torres Strait islanders for sovereignty over huge areas of Australia meant the prospect of the dissolution of the federation was greatly increased. Delivering the 16th Annual Sir Robert Menzies Lecture at Monash University in Melbourne, Sir Harry warned that the prospect of a State composed only of indigenous people over which some other power "could gain influence" could be disastrous for the future of Australia.

While there is little that we didn't previously know in Sir Harry's address, it is highly significant that a former senior, most conservative chief justice of the High Court should publicly warn of such matters. So far, it has only been "extremists" like the League of Rights that have referred to the matter of Aboriginal sovereignty. Although Sir Harry appears to have been careful not to say so, this position of the federation has largely been produced by the judgements of the High Court - mainly since he left it - like the Mabo judgement.

THE CONSTITUTION UNDERMINED: Speaking on "Federalism in Australia", Sir Harry Gibbs has also confirmed that the Constitution has been so badly eroded that the Commonwealth can virtually do as it likes, and the States have lost all legal independence. Referring to the external affairs power, he said: "The States are no longer autonomous within any area of legislative power; potentially the Executive Government of the Commonwealth, by entering into a treaty, can give the Commonwealth Parliament power to legislate in any field. The Commonwealth can thus not only impair the legal autonomy of the States in any area apparently left to them by the Commonwealth, it can completely annihilate such power. There will be no legislative power which can be said to be beyond all possible argument outside the Commonwealth power."

The consequences of this simply mean that there are no legal limits to the power of the Commonwealth; the elected dictatorship is complete. Sir Harry concluded: "There are still practical limits caused by the political influence of States and the force of public opinion. Federalism in Australia at present therefore appears to have a political rather than a legal basis."

Clearly the Constitution needs reforming on the question of the external affairs power, but Sir Harry is pessimistic about the prospect of this. The only obvious answer is to find ways for the electorate to recapture the initiative to impose its sovereignty through referendum.

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