



# ON TARGET

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*The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance —*

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**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:** "For us all, roots are important, roots in the landscape and local communities; roots in our cultural and literary heritage, roots in our philosophical and spiritual traditions. If we lose touch with them, if we lose track of where we have come from, we deprive ourselves of a sense of value, a sense of security and all too frequently, a sense of purpose and meaning." - Prince Charles.

**DEMOCRATS MISLED ON FINANCE:** We are no devotees of party politics, but the Australian Democrats under the leadership of Queensland Senator Kernot have improved their image as a responsible Senate check on the totalitarian tendencies of the Government. Large numbers of electors have applauded Senator Kernot's determination to attempt to make senior public servants more accountable. At a time when the Democrats and smaller groups in the Senate are threatened with elimination by Prime Minister Paul Keating, it is easy to grasp the politics behind the Democrats' budget proposals. The \$5 billion package proposal, what might be described as a tax-and-spend package, is clearly aimed at winning support from influential sections of the labor movement. Clearly the Democrat package has been carefully prepared by professionals and seeks to demonstrate that the proposed increases in spending to overcome the unemployment problem and increased payments to the lower income groups, can be financed out of increased revenue from taxes, these to be levied on industry and higher income earners.

Even if implemented, the Democrat proposals cannot make any contribution towards genuine economic recovery in Australia. We suggest that the Democrats go back to the drawing board and start with some fundamental questions. They can first consider the fundamental question of whether the Australian economy is over any given period distributing enough purchasing power to meet the total prices of production. They should direct their attention to the question of why the economy requires a progress expansion of debt in order to avoid a major collapse. Taking \$5 billion from one section of the community and

re-allocating to other sections will not only not increase the total amount of purchasing power in the community, but will increase the nation's problems. Financing capital works out of taxation sacrifices present income earners for the alleged benefit of future generations. The Democrats might give some thought to financing any required new capital works out of new financial credits, these repaid at the date of the estimated life of the asset. They might even consider the proposals of the Canadian Economist Hotson, who recently visited Australia, recommending the issue of debt-free credits to Local Government. This would permit a reduction in rates because the present level of debt charges could be reduced.

If Senator Kernot and her colleagues have any problem with understanding how financial credit is created by the banking system, we would suggest that they contact their former Senator colleague Paul Maclean, who has written and lectured on the subject. If they wish to embarrass the Labor Government, they might remind it that it was a Labor Government which created the Commonwealth Bank, and then outline some of the constructive policies of that bank in its early years. With an understanding of debt credit creation, they could see that increased taxation is a backward step in the solution of Australia's problems.

With the Democrats targetted for elimination, they have nothing to lose, but much to gain, by injecting a new policy concept into Australian politics, one which does not divide the community.

**BRIEF COMMENTS:** From Canada comes the good news that while the Canadian Supreme Court has upheld that the Canadian war crimes trial legislation was constitutional, it has rejected the appeal against the non-guilty jury decision concerning alleged war criminal Imre Finta. Jewish reaction has been predictable: critical. Jewish leaders state that as it is unlikely that guilty verdicts can be obtained against alleged war-criminals, the Canadian authorities should follow the American lead of stripping alleged war criminals of their citizenship. They neglect to point out that this procedure resulted in the disgraceful Demjanjuk affair, with an innocent man sent to Zionist Israel and sentenced to death. Only a miracle saved him. But even back in the U.S.A. the former Ukrainian is still being smeared with Jewish demands that he be expelled from the U.S.A. Judaic vengeance rejects Christian charity and compassion.

**THE DEADLY "DESERTIFICATION" CONVENTION** by David Thompson: The latest, and perhaps potentially the most deadly of international treaties, the Convention on Desertification, is now being considered by the Commonwealth of Australia to sign. If ratified, it will give the Commonwealth the constitutional right to override the States in relation to land management issues.

The implications for primary producers are enormous, and could run as far as influencing farm management plans. According to N.S.W. Farmers Lands Executive Officer, Fred Goldsen, the new treaty could give Canberra bureaucrats control over crop types, rotation periods between crops, the number and type of stock permitted, all tree-clearing or forest management, and even fencing techniques.

The new Convention, originally designed to address problems of expanding desert regions in Africa and other hot arid regions, has obviously been seized upon as an opportunity to eliminate State management of land in arid and semi-arid lands. However, this is easily extended to include land use in all range-lands as well as special problem areas such as the Western Lands Division of N.S.W., the high-country cattle grazing in the Snowy Ranges, the salt encroachment in wheat-belt Western Australia, and the salt and waterlogging problem in the irrigation areas such as the Murray-Goulburn. Once the external affairs power has been invoked, the Commonwealth can use the new treaty, along with the Native Title Act, to rob the States of their right to regulate land use without formally changing the Constitution. Since the High Court ruled in the Tasmanian Dams case that there are virtually no limits to the issues that can be dealt with under international conventions, this latest Convention is of the greatest significance for farmers, graziers, and miners.

RINGING THE ALARM BELLS: The greatest difficulty with such a threat to land use, is not discovering that the threat exists, but convincing others that it is real, and should be actively opposed. For example, being interviewed on radio about the Desertification Treaty, Mr. Goldsen was asked why Australia would want to sign such a treaty. He didn't know. Again, asked why we need more than the many effective land-care systems already in place, he again "didn't know"! What was N.S.W. Farmers doing about it? First, they didn't think the treaty could be stopped, so in order to try to minimise its impact, they helped to secure a representative to visit at the negotiating table in Geneva! Mr. Goldsen fails to explain how even the most reasoned argument with an international bureaucrat in Geneva can be any more useful than reasoned argument with a rabid dog.

This issue is of such vital importance that it cannot be ignored. The only answer is that Members of Parliament must be tackled about the new treaty immediately. As yet, none of them even know it exists, let alone its significance. Additional pressure must be mounted from the level of State Government, and even local Councils. It is proposed that the new treaty be signed and ratified by mid-year, although such timing is unlikely.

The principle is that all land-use decisions are best made on the spot and preferably by the primary producer himself. Local councils may have a limited role to play, and State agricultural bureaucracies useful for offering advice and research services. Nation-wide bureaucracies are of little help, but international bureaucracies an absolute menace, and capable of doing only more damage.

**THE SYDNEY BY-ELECTIONS:** As we foreshadowed last week, the results of the two by-elections held in Sydney last weekend were significant for the support given to Australians Against Further Immigration. Described as a "surprise result" by the press, A.A.F.I.'s. Robyn Spencer took 14 percent of the primary vote in Warringah, won by Mr. Tony Abbott. Mrs. Spencer, from Melbourne, doubled her A.A.F.I. vote in the Warriwa by-election a few months ago - also in Sydney.

In Mackellar, Mrs. Bronwyn Bishop suffered a 5 percent swing against the Liberals, which may cool the ardour of the Bishop-for-Liberal-leadership faction, and further increase Hewson's breathing-space as Liberal leader. Again, A.A.F.I. polled well in Mackellar, with around 9 percent of the primary vote. It is interesting to note that two other single-issue candidates stood in Mackellar - the Greens, and a republican party candidate, Peter Consadine. Consadine received less than 1 percent (509 votes) - only 9 votes more than the lowest polling candidate, an eccentric independent. As we have long suspected, there is much more support for limiting immigration and abandoning multiculturalism than there is for a republic! The A.A.F.I. also eclipsed the Green vote by several thousand votes.

We note National Party leader Tim Fischer's opinion (with which we agree) that the A.A.F.I. vote must be taken seriously, as sending a message to Canberra about immigration and multiculturalism. Their by-election strategy has been astute, and considering that in three cases out of four interstate candidates were fielded, their results have been most impressive. As Fischer remarked, if the Warringah result could be repeated in a half-Senate election, the 14 percent would be enough to win a Senate seat. If Prime Minister Keating is annoyed by the West Australian Green Senators, one or two A.A.F.I. Senators holding the balance of power could well push him over the edge of rational behaviour completely.

The role of A.L.P. backbencher Graeme Campbell in the Sydney by-elections has been carefully noted by the A.L.P. back-room strategists. Campaigning in Sydney last week, Campbell flayed the A.L.P. policy on multiculturalism, and the 'bi-partisan' immigration policy. While the press affects to be surprised by the A.A.F.I. vote, Campbell, who has listened carefully to grassroots rumblings about the issue for many years, is not surprised.