



ON TARGET

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The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance –

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: "Groups of homo-sexuals – whatever they may perversely choose to call themselves – should not be counted as "families" in the Census while the majority is silent – if it is of no interest to us what others do in the privacy of their bedrooms – and we are fairly tolerant, we will vote a deafening No to any party caving in to the clamor of this minority group whose public role model goals do undermine the social fabric of the family. It was not Adam and Steve who were commanded to 'be fruitful and multiply', but Adam and Eve."

– Letter to *The Australian*, September 24th

TRADE WAR THREAT GROWS by Eric D. Butler:

Most people's memories are notoriously short, more so when the mass media keep bombarding the individual with a mass of comment about the latest crisis in some part of the world. Currently, the U.S.A. is involved in yet another attempt to 'save democracy' – this time in Haiti. How many can recall what happened in Somalia? Even Rwanda is fast fading from the television screens and the print media. It is not surprising therefore that relatively few can recall all the excitement of late last year as the agreement of General Trade and Tariffs (GATT) was allegedly reached. This agreement took years to reach, and was claimed as the beginning of a new era of international co-operation. Impressive statistics were produced to show how the GATT agreement would increase standards of living everywhere. But it is now clear, as many critical commentators warned, that GATT was a dangerous delusion. It could not possibly prevent trade wars between developed nations while they adhered to the dogmas associated with debt-finance.

In spite of GATT, there is a continuing trade war between the U.S.A. and Japan. Last week the Japanese openly defied a threat of sanctions by the U.S.A. President Clinton, stating that they were not prepared to budge on their opposition to an easier access to Japanese markets for American goods. The reality is that the Japanese are experiencing the worst depression since the end of the Second World War. Any reduction in Japan's trade surplus would have catastrophic effects on the Japanese economy with explosive social implications. The ruling Japanese coalition party has

finalised a programme of tax cuts in an endeavour to encourage Japanese consumers to buy more. In an attempt to head off the threat of American sanctions, Japan's biggest car company, Toyota, has announced that there is to be a massive shift of production to the United States. But both Washington and Tokyo know that there is no prospect of little more than a small reduction in Japan's massive trade surplus with the U.S.A. President Clinton is hoping that **any** reduction can be claimed as a "victory" and assist him at the next Presidential elections. The economies of Japan and the U.S.A. between them account for 40 percent of world trade.

However, in spite of the much-publicised "recovery" of the past 12 months, unemployment remains high in all industrialised nations with any credit expansion being used in an attempt to stimulate "growth", having an effect on the inflation rate. The fear of increased inflation was the reason given by the American Federal Reserve for an increase in interest rates. Under present financial rules, price stability for any period is impossible. Now emerging rapidly as one of the biggest players on the international stage, Communist China's Central Bank is now desperately attempting to curb a high inflation rate directly related to the massive increase in the money supply to finance an exploding economy. While shortsighted Western businessmen are rushing to invest in China, China continues to develop not only industrial expansion, but also pushes ahead with its military programme. By the turn of the century, China could be the biggest military power in the world.

Shortly before a recent visit of Chinese army officers to the U.S.A., at the invitation of the Pentagon, President Clinton was threatening to impose economic sanctions against China. But the threatened sanctions were never imposed for the good reasons that the American economy would have suffered from the loss of billions of dollars of exports. It was the famous Marxist leader Lenin who predicted that the "capitalist" enemy would be willing to sell the rope with which "we will hang them". The Western world is increasingly being lured into believing that an as yet relatively underdeveloped China offers a shining prospect for a revived world economy. This is a repeat of what happened with the Soviet Union. Only Australia happens to be much closer to China than it was to the Soviet Union. And China sees itself as a growing Pacific power. Australia's position cries out for a greatly expanded defence programme.

LIBERALS COLLAPSE ON SODOMY ISSUE by David Thompson:

Traditional advice for young business managers is that Business is made up of ambiguous victories and nebulous defeats – claim them all as victories. But for the Liberals to claim their thorough defeat on the Government's "privacy legislation" over sodomy as a victory would have to be the political equivalent of Napoleon claiming Waterloo as a famous victory. The Coalition was thoroughly trounced by the A.L.P. because it had not the moral courage to take a stand on principle and go to the trenches.

Following the news that even Tasmanian front-bencher, Chris Miles, has now agreed to cease to oppose the "privacy" legislation, the Liberals can expect to be treated with open contempt by an already-cynical electorate. Miles, himself a Christian and formerly regarded as a person of integrity, had campaigned hard on an anti-sodomy platform, with strong support from his Tasmanian constituents. The Tasmanian Liberals are understandably dismayed. Attorney-General Ron Cornish had made a strong case for retaining the Tasmanian law, saying "We don't call it gay rights, we call it legalising sodomy here . . . A lot of people believe what is legally permissible is morally permissible. But we believe that **private acts have public consequences**". And the Tasmanian Government points out that not only is sodomy morally repugnant, but a serious public health risk. The incidence of AIDS in Tasmania is the lowest in Australia.

OUTMANOUVRED ON POLICY: In policy terms, Keating and his policy advisers set a trap for the Coalition by framing the "privacy" legislation, and then set the agenda of political debate by challenging the Liberals to uphold individual freedom, rather than "States' rights". The Liberals fell into the trap, failing to correctly redefine the true nature of the issue. The truth is that the "privacy" legislation is **not a matter of individual rights**. It is a matter of political jurisdiction. If Mr. Downer and his policy advisers had held their nerve, they could have at least demanded an acknowledgement that the Tasmanian laws are domestic concerns, and not only outside Commonwealth jurisdiction, but certainly outside United Nations jurisdiction. At the very least, the Coalition could have staged a political "strike", and if they could not bring themselves to vote against the "privacy" legislation, at least abstain. If Queensland National Party backbencher Katter does manage to force a vote in the House, it appears that the Liberals will meekly toe the A.L.P. line, and **vote for the sodomy bill**. They deserve all the contempt of the electorate for political cowardice.

HAYDEN ANNOYS REPUBLICANS:

In an educational video to be distributed to schools, the Governor-General, Mr. Hayden, has strongly defended the existing constitutional system, saying: "For all its shortcomings the parliamentary system is the best we've got anywhere in the world. It is representative, it's accountable, and the people control it ultimately. I can think of **no alternative** that measures up to it and any alternative which might be tried could easily end up in having **some sort of authoritarian control of the community . . .**" (emphasis added).

Hayden previously implied that a republic would create "unstable government" when interviewed by Hawke for a television programme. Since he was appointed Governor-General on the assumption that he was a republican, Hayden has appeared to change his views completely. The weight of the office of Governor-General seems to have an effect on the office-holder, as the experience of Sir John Kerr demonstrated. In his latest comments, Mr. Hayden comes closer to the view expressed by former Chief Justice of the High Court, Sir Harry Gibbs, who believes that a republic could offer totalitarian opportunities for the federal politicians.

ELIMINATING THE STATES AND THE SENATE:

The centralist disease now afflicts local government representative in N.S.W., with the Local Government Association proposing a submission to Mr. Keating in which **80 councils would replace the present 867 councils, the States would be abolished, and the Senate scrapped.** Chairman of the Local Government Association, Mr. Peter Woods, says he hopes that all State and Territorial legislatures would disappear before 2001, and that a new partnership would develop between the Commonwealth and the new "regions".

It is not clear whether Mr. Woods and the Local Government Association speak on behalf of N.S.W. Councils. But it is clear that Woods is a centralist, and is determined to destroy as many as 150 local councils in N.S.W. His submission to the Prime Minister is a dangerous proposal for representative government. It will inevitably result in huge increases in power for the Canberra bureaucrats, no matter how much Mr. Woods denies it. Such a proposal is music to the ears of the Fabian socialist planners, who have spent decades working to produce just such a proposal.

CAMPBELL ON JEWISH LOBBY:

A.L.P. backbencher, Mr. Graeme Campbell, has charged that financial support from the Jewish lobby has directly influenced government policy. Without giving figures, Campbell claimed that the war crimes legislation was a direct result of Zionist Federation of Australia funding of the A.L.P., and that political donations were also driving government proposals for racial vilification legislation, which he opposes. Campbell says: "It is quite clear that the Zionist lobby **can command half the Cabinet**, or half the Shadow Cabinet for that matter, any time it feels like it." *The West Australian* (21/9/94) reports that deputy Opposition leader Costello had acknowledged to Campbell that strong Jewish funding of the Liberal Party also occurs, but that "the Jewish lobby gave the A.L.P. more than it gave the Liberal Party". Costello has not denied his comments.

ANOTHER BLOW TO MILITARY MORALE:

The appointment of Senator Jocelyn Newman as Shadow Defence Minister is a mistake. There is no doubting Newman's ability or courage (in battling cancer, for example), but in order to lift the morale of the military, a **fit man** is essential, one with which the forces can have some affinity, and who can inspire loyalty and enthusiasm. Neither a woman, nor a grossly unfit Senator Ray can do this. The thought of Senator Ray slipping in and out of a tank turret, or fighter cockpit is more likely to inspire mirth than morale. The forces deserve better.

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