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The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance –

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: "The natural tendency of all government is to increase its own power."
– Lord Bryce in *Modern Democracies*

PREMIER JEFF KENNETT'S GRAND VISION by Eric D. Butler:

When the history of Australia is written, a special chapter will be required to outline the contribution of the Victorian Kennett Government to the attempted destruction of democratic government. It is ironic that Premier Kennett has recently been in Greece receiving the plaudits of the Greeks because of his strong support of the large Greek community in Melbourne. It was the Greek civilization which gave the world the term "democracy", originally meaning "the will of the people". The basis of Greek democracy was the small city States, local government. But in Kennett's Victoria local government has been wiped out as part of a grand plan which is now emerging into the open. Originally Jeff Kennett sought to soothe the fears of Victorian electors by stating that as soon as possible self-government would be restored to the people; that they could elect Councillors for the new amalgamated Councils his officials were creating. In the meantime his appointed Commissioners (Kommissars) would "reform" the State.

But Jeff Kennett revealed his innate itch for more power when he suggested that the Commissioners administering Greater Melbourne were doing such a good job that they should be allowed to carry on with their work. It was encouraging that a storm of public protest forced Jeff Kennett to back away from his proposal. But now Kennett's top bureaucrat and "adviser", Ms. Proust, whom Kennett has warmly praised in the past, has suggested in a speech delivered last week that there were grave dangers if democracy were returned to Victorian Municipal Councils. Her words should be heeded by all who value freedom: "Democracy is always a risk". Why is it a risk? Ms. Proust fears that it might undo the Kennett Government's hard work in re-shaping local government over the last two years. "A lot of the reforms could be undone by the same sorts of people who were there before coming back and trying to undo reforms." Ms. Proust, like Premier Kennett, conveniently overlooks the fact that "the sorts of people" she obviously despises, were elected by their fellows to represent them. Who, and what does Ms. Proust and her fellow planners represent?

Premier Kennett has shed some light on this question by revealing that his Government plans the establishment of a trade bloc between Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania. Liberal Premier Brown of South Australia is attempting to impose Council Amalgamations upon the South Australians.

Behind this is the concept of Regional Planning eventually eroding the remaining powers of the States. Jeff Kennett is too shallow to understand that his grandiose planning will eventually contribute to the establishment of a totalitarian Australia in which not only Municipal Government, but also State Governments will be swept away. South Australians and Tasmanians should take careful note of what is happening in Victoria, where it has been demonstrated that any government elected with too big a majority is a deadly danger to genuine democracy.

BASIC FUND REACHES \$10,000: Some magnificent giving by a few League supporters have got the League's 1995-96 Basic Fund away to a flying start. \$10,000 has already been subscribed. The "target" is \$60,000. We are painfully aware that along with most of the Australian community, League supporters are stressed financially. However, we are confident that if we all pull together, the League can meet the challenge. The biggest tests are still ahead. All donations to Box 1052J, G.P.O., Melbourne, 3001.

PORT LINCOLN MAYOR FIGHTS BACK: Mayor Peter Davis of Port Lincoln, South Australia, has become the centre of a political storm which reveals the depths to which the opponents of the League of Rights are prepared to sink. Mayor Davis is receiving magnificent local support as witnessed by a flood of letters in the local Port Lincoln *Times*. Responding to Senator Bolkus's outrageous action in stripping Peter Davis of Citizenship Award Rights he has written a challenging letter to the Attorney-General, Michael Lavarch, concerning the Minister for Immigration's action. Peter Davis enclosed a copy of a letter dated September 14th, 1965, by the then Attorney-General, B.S. Snedden, in which the League is described as "a reputable organisation". Mr. Lavarch is asked to carry out a similar investigation to that conducted by Attorney-General Snedden "and report back to me and the Australian community. I ask that you pay particular attention to providing evidence of the, quote, 'most meritoriously racist and anti-Semitic' organisation in Australia and, quote, 'self-avowed racist group'. The quotes are from your Prime Minister. "Please expedite your investigation and report. Your response will be of interest to many people." It certainly will.

With TV7 of Sydney sending a team to interview Mayor Davis and the same channel seeking to interview Eric Butler, we can predict with certainty that another media anti-League of Rights "hatchet" job is under way. National Director of the League, Mr. David Thompson, has decided that in future no further TV interviews will be granted by the League unless conducted live.

LOUD SILENCE FROM MR. JOHN HOWARD: We have to report that, as we go to press, there has been no response of any sort from Mr. John Howard, concerning the League's challenge for him to account for his attack on the League in the most dishonest and derogatory language. Such language is expected from the Marxists, Fabians and others of totalitarian bent (like the Prime Minister and the A.L.P. in general), but not from the Coalition Parties. Unless the Coalition Parties are also to be counted among the totalitarians now?

The Howard attack, which came in July, and again in August, has sent a few tremors through the Liberal Party, with those who have a good grasp of what the League stands for being appalled by the Leader of the Opposition's language. In a letter to Mr. Howard, the League's National Director, David Thompson, invited Mr. Howard to apply the same standards to his comments on the League that he is demanding from the Prime Minister over the Dr. Carmen Lawrence affair. Howard is insisting that Keating must demand that his ministers always **tell the truth**. Will Howard do the same about the League, or will he avert his face, and attempt to dodge the issue? Only time will tell, and we hope to be able to publish Mr. Howard's detailed answers to David Thompson's challenge in full when they are received.

For those who wish to read the National Director's challenge to Mr. Howard, the Thompson letter of August 25th has been published in full in this month's edition of *Intelligence Survey*. Send a donation to our Melbourne office for a copy of the September edition, or subscribe to *Intelligence Survey*: \$20.00 per annum, G.P.O. Box 1052J, Melbourne, 3001.

TEFLON LADY SKATING ON THIN ICE by David Thompson: The incredible course of events surrounding the W.A. Royal Commission on the Easton affair, with Dr. Carmen Lawrence and the question of truthfulness at the centre of it, is worthy of some attention. Her evidence before the Commission is reminiscent of Mr. Allan Bond at a previous Royal Commission, when Bond is said to have answered "I can't remember" hundreds of times. Although the Commission is hearing evidence on other matters, the central question is whether Dr. Lawrence told the truth, or not, when she said that she had not seen the Easton petition before it was presented to the W.A. Parliament when she was Premier.

It should be remembered that eight of Lawrence's former colleagues, seven of them former Cabinet Ministers, have testified that **Lawrence was present in Cabinet** when the petition was discussed prior to tabling it. Dr. Lawrence, in demanding that we believe her version of events, is implying that the other eight are guilty of either lying under oath to the Royal Commission, or of having amazingly similarly faulty memories.

THE KEATING FACTOR: Dr. Lawrence, who is being called the Teflon Lady to whom allegations of impropriety do not stick, has shown that she is determined to ride out the storm concerning her behaviour. Under immense pressure, even from within the A.L.P. to step down as a Minister, Lawrence has defied everyone, and so far prevailed. But her position is due to nothing more than the determination of the Prime Minister to save her. Why does Mr. Keating want to save Dr. Lawrence, and risk the odour of the Lawrence Affair muddying the waters of the next election campaign?

The A.L.P. has invested a great deal in Dr. Lawrence. She is regarded as enormously valuable to the Party, and perhaps the key to an A.L.P. electoral victory next year. Mr. Keating has taken enormous risks to ensure Lawrence's survival, including impugning the integrity of a Royal Commission in the most outrageous way, with the protection of Parliament privilege. Further, Keating has implied that even if Lawrence is found by the Commission to be guilty of lying to Parliament, that "a few fibs" are neither here nor there, and the finding would be treated with disdain.

Keating is counting on the cynicism of the Australian electorate to work in his own favour. He is depending upon the general consensus that politicians are naturally liars, as former Senator Richardson appeared to confirm in his memoirs, to produce the judgement that Dr. Lawrence has done nothing unusual. In doing so, Keating is demeaning the currency of politics still further, and lowering again the benchmark of political integrity expected by the public. Keating has shown that as a politician he is prepared to risk all on his own political skills, to "go for broke". It is this factor which the Opposition correctly fears could rob them of victory at the next election.

The A.L.P. is risking much on Dr. Lawrence because it expects much in return. They expect Lawrence to appeal to women, even though in reality her feminine qualities are never prominent. Further, they expect her to appeal to feminists, who are quick to portray Lawrence as a victim of persecution, not because she may be a liar, **but because she is a woman**. The A.L.P. even expect Dr. Lawrence

to appeal to the homosexual voter, and a proportion of the male vote because of her presentation of carefully contrived innocence, and outrage that her word has been questioned. But most of all, the A.L.P. myth-makers want to present Dr. Lawrence as possibly Australia's first female Prime Minister. Against such expectations, what do a few little fibs matter?

THE ANTI-FRENCH OVERKILL COULD HAUNT AUSTRALIA FOR DECADES: The over-the-top outrage over French nuclear testing in the Pacific rests not upon dangers of the tests, but upon political one-upmanship, and press hyperbole. As yet, we still await a single study of an even pseudo-scientific nature to indicate what the health or other dangers of testing might be. The only studies which have been published **indicate the reverse** – that the tests are, in fact, relatively safe. Even the Government's own study, *The Impact of Nuclear Testing at Mururoa and Fangatau* concluded that there was practically no health risk to the Islanders. The International Atomic Energy Agency could find no measurable radiation dangers, and has said so.

In August, the ABC's *Quantum* programme had to concede that radiation risks were slight from a purely rational, scientific assessment. Where evidence of cancers, birth defects, and other health problems have surfaced, it is clear that these are the results of two factors. First, such records may only recently have been kept, and second, the lifestyle on the Pacific Islands has changed so dramatically since the 1960s. The smoking rate has increased enormously, and **eighty percent** of the food consumed in the region is now imported. The changes in diet alone could produce massive health problems never matched by influences of radiation.

MASSIVE TOTALITARIAN PROPAGANDA VICTORY: It is clear that as a diplomatic exercise, the outrage directed towards the French by the Australian Government has become an embarrassing disaster. The Opposition must share the guilt for this, because instead of telling the truth about French nuclear testing, the Opposition leapt onto the anti-nuclear bandwagon in an attempt to siphon off a few of the "green" votes from the A.L.P. That is, instead of "opposing" a potential diplomatic disaster, the Opposition fostered it in a quite irresponsible way. In so doing, they have helped to align Australia with every revolutionary group in Polynesia who simply wish to destroy France as a colonial power, irrespective of the huge sums of money France invests in the region annually.

The result of the kneejerk reaction to French testing is that Australia has successfully alienated the one useful Western ally in the region, apart from New Zealand. Thus, the subversive "environmental" movements, like Greenpeace, which mainly reflect an anti-western totalitarian philosophy, have been handed a huge propaganda victory simply by appearing on the television screens in every Australian lounge room nightly as having taken the high moral ground against the "wicked French". All we can hope for, is that Australia doesn't need to rely upon a Western alliance which includes the French for at least the next 10 years, and probably longer. It appears to be too much to expect the Opposition to resist the seduction of short-term superficial gains, and tell the truth when it is in the national interest to do so. They have helped to demonstrate to the Asians, as well as the Americans and the Europeans, that Australia is a highly unreliable ally.