



A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

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The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance –

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: "The love (worship) of money is the root of all evil."
– St. Paul

THE KENNETT REVOLUTION by Eric D. Butler:

Victoria was at one time generally regarded as the most conservative State in Australia. It was the State which produced a Robert Menzies and a Henry Bolte. But the Kennett Government has set in motion a programme which is changing the traditional culture of the State. Its full impact is yet to be felt. An unnamed Liberal Party backbench Member has been quoted as saying that when he joined the Victorian Liberal Party he did not anticipate that it would progressively embrace the agenda of the Labor Party. He was one of the Liberal Party Members who are openly in revolt against the latest manifestation of the "vision" of Jeff Kennett for a new multiculturally "culturally diverse" Victoria: the embracement of the homosexual "community". Jeff Kennett argues that such a step with the homosexuals establishing a mardi gras similar to that conducted annually in Sydney, would bring "hundreds of millions" of dollars into the State. This expression of the Kennett philosophy is an extension of a gambling led economic recovery. The Crown casino, highly profitable for Jeff Kennett's Big Business associates, has become a new type of Mecca, so holy that only a protest by the Returned Servicemen's League, and others, halted the proposal to have the Casino operating 24 hours a day, even on Anzac Day. The Crown Casino is the only public building in Melbourne not subject to the anti-smoking regulations. Nothing must be allowed to stand in the way of the worship of the Almighty Dollar.

All major revolutions depend upon the revolutionaries initially obtaining the support of the "moderates", whose philosophy is expressed in the young girl's statement who said that she thought a little bit of pregnancy would be alright. That was the threat to the British after the Second World war, that if they were not prepared to go half way to Moscow, they could be compelled to go all the way. It is the Federal National Party leader Tim Fischer who is threatening the rural community, which he allegedly represents, that unless they are prepared to submit to John Howard's gun controls, they could face an even more draconian firearms programme.

It was the Fabian Socialist Government of John Cain which made the first major attempt to revolutionise Municipal Government in Victoria by forced amalgamations. Jeff Kennett, leader of the Liberal Opposition, put himself at the head of the State-wide campaign of opposition, stating that no Liberal Party Government headed by Jeff Kennett would endorse forced amalgamation of the State's municipalities. His first major act, after obtaining a monopoly of political power both in the House of Assembly and the Legislative Council, was to impose an amalgamation programme even more far reaching than that proposed by the Labor Government. One of the reasons given was that the bigger Council would be more "efficient" and that they would encourage more investment into the State. Then Jeff Kennett and his advisers started to make it clear that they were proposing a change to the very foundations of representative government; that Councillors of the future must be seen as business managers. This is a cultural revolution.

The programme of economic rationalism imposed by the Kennett Government has had its biggest effect in rural Victoria. The National Party everywhere has been engaged in self destruction under the pressure of a new type of Liberal Party. The British system of representative government was never one based upon mere numbers. It was rooted in the philosophy that a nation consists of different interests, many of them minorities, but that they are all part of the whole and must therefore be effectively represented. For a number of reasons, rural communities have always been regarded as being of special significance in a nation, not only producing the most basic requirement of life, but also fostering the highest civic virtues.

It was a Victorian Liberal-dominated Government which took the first step towards minimising the influence of the Victorian rural community. That government, infected with the disease of collectivism sweeping the world after the Second World War, readily accepted the view that it was "undemocratic" that property owners and members of the rural community should be able to dominate the Legislative Council. One of the more far-sighted Ministers in the Liberal Government, Sir Arthur Warner, came to me and said that many of his colleagues were so shortsighted that they did not realise that there would be long term implications if the voting franchise was altered as proposed by the Socialists. Sir Arthur asked me if I would produce a special brochure on the long term dangers of the proposal and have the League of Rights distribute it. In the course of considerable research I was able to show that all the best qualities of civic virtues were to be found in the country area of Victoria. There was certainly far less crime. The traditional Christian value system was still more firmly upheld in rural communities. By weakening the vote of the most responsible section of the community, the Liberal Party was making it easier at a later date for the philosophy of centralisation and collectivism to be advanced.

The Victorian Legislative Council has become the plaything of naked party politics. Jeff Kennett can ignore the rural community on the firearms or any other issue. Any setbacks he has suffered have not affected his determination to push forward with a revolutionary programme. But his ready support for social destructive policies make it clear that eventually he must be checked if Victoria is to be saved from a complete collapse of the traditional value system and a system of government based upon checks and balances.

TED DRANE "GUN-SHY" ON IMMIGRATION by David Thompson:

Sporting Shooters Association President, Mr. Ted Drane, appears to be the first casualty of the propaganda war that is certain to swirl around Graeme Campbell's newly formed **Australia First** group. What was to have been a political partnership between Mr. Drane's Reform Party and **Australia First** to form the Australia First Reform Party has been abandoned by Mr. Drane for fear of "extremist elements he says have attached themselves to Mr. Campbell".

In a report published in *The Age* (8/7/96) Mr. Drane is expressing concern about Australians Against Further Immigration spokesman, Denis McCormack, and the Australian League of Rights. "*Certainly I don't want to get on the same platform or be at the same meeting as the League of Rights*," he said. It is clear that Mr. Drane has been subjected to the political blowtorch on the question of immigration and multiculturalism. By ducking the issue he has failed the first political litmus test, and Mr. Campbell's **Australia First** are fortunate to have discovered Mr. Drane's weakness in this area now rather than in the heat of an election or by-election campaign. If Ted Drane cannot sustain "enemy fire" on the questions of immigration and multiculturalism, now is the best time to find out.

Graeme Campbell's support for those campaigning against Mr. Howard's draconian new gun laws has been invaluable to groups like the Sporting Shooters Association. But as time passes, and some form of political accommodation is reached with shooters, the firearms issue must eventually begin to fade in political intensity. When this occurs, the other issues that Graeme Campbell and **Australia First** are addressing **will still remain**. Campbell is stressing a programme to rebuild Australia's industrial base. He points out that the economic issues will remain critical long after the gun debate has eased. There is not much comfort, after all, in owning a gun if you lose the farm/business/job.

The editor of *Quadrant* and political columnist Robert Manne is clearly concerned about Graeme Campbell's new group. Manne points out that if it is possible to marry the backlash against the Howard gun controls with support for rebuilding the industrial base, lower immigration, abandoning multiculturalism and citizen-initiated referenda, **Australia First** can become a potent new political force. If Mr. Drane has no stomach for longer-term issues that grip grassroots Australia, he will have to go his own way.

The last election campaign taught Graeme Campbell and his Australians Against Further Immigration colleagues that a single-issue party cannot attract the support required to make a strong political impact. Many other shooters, to whom the firearms issue is presently the highest on the political agenda, will understand the political reality of this, and **Australia First** can expect strong support from shooters' groups, Ted Drane notwithstanding. Much of the support for Mr. Drane's Reform Party in recent months was, in fact, support for Graeme Campbell as the leader of Australia First Reform.

THE LEAGUE AND AUSTRALIA FIRST: Mr. Drane's allegation that the League of Rights is aligned with *Australia First* is rather disingenuous. The League regards political parties as a blight on the political landscape. But it is certainly not a secret that the League has offered a public platform to Graeme Campbell on two occasions, which he has accepted. It is certainly not a secret that the League is interested in **issues** which can restore political sovereignty to Australia.

In the last election campaign, the League was in strong agreement **with the issues** on which Campbell and the AAFI were campaigning. On this basis, we did as much as possible to draw attention to what Campbell was saying, and the issues for which he was providing leadership. We shall continue to do so while ever Campbell and *Australia First* stand firm on the key issues. The fact that it is almost essential for any group standing candidates for political office (particularly the Senate) to have a party structure is a reality that must be faced. What is vital is that the party structure exists as **a means to achieving results on the issues that count**, rather than becoming an end in itself.

For Mr. Drane to use the League's support for Campbell's programme as an excuse for abandoning his relationship with Mr. Campbell, says more about Mr. Drane than Campbell and *Australia First*. The truth is that Mr. Drane obviously has political ambitions of his own, and if he is tainted with "extremism" on issues such as immigration, such ambitions may be jeopardised. This is a decision for Mr. Drane. Now that he is out of the way, Graeme Campbell and *Australia First* can make their case to the electorate in clear terms, without having to defer to Mr. Drane. Campbell has already demonstrated that he is not afraid of the immigration and multicultural issue, nor of being accused of "racism". Much of his support, and that of others like Pauline Hanson, is due to respect for his determination not to be intimidated on these issues.

News from other parts of Australia indicates that there is massive support for a nationwide movement led by Graeme Campbell. While the firearms issue may be the **catalyst** for this, other issues are also important. Clearly politicians fear this, and are already smearing *Australia First*. Liberal Member for Groom in Queensland, Mr. Bill Taylor, has charged that *Australia First* had its origins in anti-Semitism and neo-Nazism. Taylor has been stung by the gun control backlash in his seat in which Liberal and National Party Members are deserting to join *Australia First*. A branch of *Australia First* has been formed in Groom, and it is clear that such support is available for Mr. Campbell across Australia. Campbell was suspended from Parliament for a day after refusing to withdraw the charge that Mr. Taylor had lied about Campbell's links with the La Rouché CEC.

Ted Drane has freed Campbell and *Australia First* of a weak link. Campbell is now free to get on with the job of establishing *Australia First* as a powerful new political force which can offer leadership on the issues now undermining Australian sovereignty. The League supports Campbell on these issues.