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The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance -

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: "The education we have so far succeeded in giving to the bulk of our citizens has produced a generation of mental slatterns . . . a great part of the nation subsists in an ignorance more barbarous than that of the dark ages owing to this slatternly habit of illiterate reading. Words are understood in a wholly mistaken sense, statements of fact and opinion are misread and distorted in repetition . . ."

— Dorothy L. Sayers in Preface to *The Mind Of The Maker*

WORSHIPPING AT THE SHRINE OF THE HOLY DECEIT by Eric D. Butler:

When the Howard Government came to office in March of last year, primarily thanks to the deep seated detestation of Paul Keating throughout the community, one of the first major pronouncements was, horror of horrors, something called the deficit was much bigger than had been anticipated. The "black hole" emerged. Forgotten was, of course, the fact that when the Labor Party came to office under Bob Hawke, they also discovered that the "deficit" left by Treasurer John Howard was much bigger than they had anticipated. After his visit to the Shrine of International Finance, Wall Street, and his Damascus like conversion to the necessity for the de-regulation of the banking system, Treasurer Paul Keating was annointed by the gurus of financial orthodoxy and became St. Paul – "the world's greatest treasurer". One of his main objectives was to get rid of the "deficit", which in the short term he did – but there was a price to be paid. One was an escalation in the nation's foreign debt. This debt was the result of the International Bankers deciding that Australia was a safe place in which to invest.

In Jeff Kennett's Victoria, which he has run like a true totalitarian, the defeat of the Labor Government, which had piled up an increasing deficit in its desperate attempts to survive, resulted first in Premier Kennett also discovering a deficit "black hole" which was much bigger than anticipated. A top priority was to get rid of that deficit. This has been progressively achieved by a drastic "restructuring" of Victoria, the imposition of high taxes and charges, and the selling of public assets. Jeff Kennett now boasts that he has got the State "in the black", and that its credit rating has improved with the International Bankers.

This means that his Government can, at least for the time being, borrow from overseas. Jeff Kennett has demonstrated that government deficits can be overcome, but at a very stiff price.

Confronted with figures demonstrating that the stringent measures imposed have not reduced the size of the deficit "black" hole, Federal Treasurer Peter Costello and his leader John Howard have had to do some doubletalking. Costello pledges his determination to achieve his objective, but it is going to take a little longer than anticipated. Head of the Treasury Ted Evans was given a severe "roasting", but explained that

the problem had arisen as a result of a "missing" \$1.5 billion in company tax. The financial "experts" do not, of course, have to live with the political consequences of the type of mistakes which have now made it imperative that the Government imposes further financial restrictions. The stark reality is that the projections of the first Howard-Costello budget have proved incorrect. One thing is certain: as a result of what has been revealed, the Government must impose further financial restrictions.

But Costello and Howard are taking comfort from the relatively low inflation rate. The programme to force the inflation rate down was first set in place by Treasurer Paul when he spoke of "the depression we had to have". Financial orthodoxy can offer no alternative to inflation except that which helps to produce what Australians are now suffering. Bearing in mind the old adage that there "are statistics, statistics, and damned lies", irrespective of what the real inflation rate is, there is no way in which financial inflation can be "solved" except by a programme of massive restrictions. Even accepting the present rate as authentic, it is not so many years ago that even this figure was regarded as disastrous. Every wage earner knows that the real cost of living becomes progressively higher. Key unions like the Transport Workers are filing claims for increased wages which will certainly have to be at least partly met. Ever since the start of the industrial revolution, prices have progressively increased. As C.H. Douglas demonstrated beyond all argument, progressive price increases, **whatever the rate**, are mathematically certain under the present orthodox financial system. Anyone who doubts this should take a few minutes and read a little on Social Credit.

Many people are encouraged to see that the well known Roman Catholic commentator B.A. Santamaria has, in recent times, been dealing with the problems of finance. He has been dealing with the creation of debt and the cessation of financial credit. While it is true, as several people have commented to the writer, "bob Santamaria appears to have moved much closer to Social Credit", it is essential to point out that while the creation of new credits for public and other necessary works would alleviate the present desperate situation, what he is proposing is a variant of the old Keynesian solution to the depression. But Keynes was forced to admit that the inevitable result of such a programme was inflation. The best that Keynes could offer was "controlled inflation".

The true purpose of production is consumption, and the financing of consumption must be seen to be as important as financing producing. "Reforming" the tax system, which the Howard Government is moving towards, can only worsen what is happening. Australia has only had one inflation free era, and that was during and after the Second World War, when a system of Consumer Discounts was operating. Its major weakness was, of course, that the system was financed out of taxation. What is required, among other steps, is a system of consumer discounts financed out of new, debt-free credits. Home keeping allowances for mothers who want to nurture their children, instead of being regimented into the work force, could be financed in the same way. The age of retirement could be reduced with those retiring voluntarily being paid an adequate social dividend.

None of these steps are likely to be undertaken by the Howard Government. It will continue to worship at the Shrine of Financial Orthodoxy. Australia's future depends not upon trying to make the unworkable work, but to stop the worship of Mammon, which mankind was warned about a long time ago. Unfortunately, man is a slow learner and often only takes constructive action when he finds events too much to bear any longer. There is evidence that a growing number are starting to change their thinking.

CORRECTION ABOUT DR. LILIENTHAL: In our January 24th issue Dr. Alfred Lilienthal was mistakenly referred to as a Zionist. This distinguished American Jew is in fact an **anti-Zionist**. His major work, *The Zionist Connection*, is compulsory reading for all students of the Middle East. \$28.00 posted from all League addresses.

THE "ABORIGINAL" BATTERING RAM by David Thompson:

The international campaign against Australian independence is certain to be stepped up in the next three years, with Australia's Aboriginal people used as a type of political battering ram. Foreign Minister Downer refused to sign a trading treaty with the European Union because of a clause linking trade relations with human rights. The Aboriginal lawyer, Noel Pearson, immediately seized on this as indicating that Australia was about to wipe out "native title" claims on pastoral leases, but did not want to suffer the embarrassment of being in breach of "human rights" agreements with Europe.

Within days the United States human rights report critical of Australian treatment of Aborigines was seized upon by activists like Charles Perkins, who proposes to issue a copy of the report to every United Nations embassy in the world. The U.S. report cites higher Aboriginal imprisonment rates, inferior access to medical and educational facilities, lower life expectancy rates, high unemployment and "general discrimination" against Aborigines.

What are activists like Perkins demanding? Do they want better health, housing and education for disadvantaged Australians? Perhaps they do, but such questions are secondary. The Aboriginal industry is demanding "justice" in the form of native title, and **Aboriginal sovereignty**. The refrain is now becoming familiar. Charles Perkins is quoted as saying, *"There is no excuse for anyone, white or black, to be existing in abject poverty in this country."* On Australia Day, Governor-General Sir William Deane noted *"the appalling state of Aboriginal health, a tragic story of sickness, suffering, dying and death of fellow Australians"*.

There is no disputing that many Aboriginal Australians are seriously disadvantaged. But non-Aboriginal Australians are fully justified in asking what happened to the **billions** of dollars poured into Aboriginal affairs in the last 20 years? Given that so much money has been hurled at the "problem", why are few results evident?

The reason for this is that the funds have been handed over on the basis of Aboriginal "self-determination". That is, governments who insist that the funds be administered according to usual accountability are accused of paternalism. Aboriginal groups insist that they are capable of administering their own affairs. The waste has been appalling. ATSIC, the Aboriginal "governing" body, virtually admits guilt for much of the waste. \$400 million was set aside over five years to prevent black deaths in custody, but more than \$65 million of that money was spent on buying land and rural land management. Hardly any of the funds went to the States who administer the prisons.

The living conditions of Aborigines would improve dramatically if they were treated as **people with problems**, rather than as cannon fodder in an ideological campaign. But the Aboriginal industry insists that, as an article of ideological faith, their "rights" to land, recognition, and "justice" are essential to Aboriginal well-being. Any suggestion that Aborigines can successfully assimilate into the mainstream of Australian life is greeted with horror.

The rejection of assimilation is based on the recognition that it poses a threat to native title, because it destroys the argument that the mystical relationship between Aborigines and their land is essential for their well-being. The truth is that "self-determination" has produced few real benefits for either Aborigines or other Australians. The answer from the Aboriginal industry is that Aborigines need even more "rights" than other Australians, and can lay claim to economic, financial and political privilege on the basis of their race and past "oppression".

Such is not the answer to "reconciliation" between the two groups. The only answer is to insist that all disadvantaged Australians should be assisted to improve their circumstances. If some choose to pursue an Aboriginal culture, let them do so. Few Aborigines continue to live in "traditional" lifestyle, and would lose

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little by "assimilation". But their cultural masters, the leaders of the Aboriginal "industry" have much to lose. They risk losing the battering ram that the Aboriginal activists need to wrest "sovereignty" from the crown. If the completely unnecessary disadvantaged state of Aborigines is necessary to embarrass Australia internationally in the pursuit of Aboriginal sovereignty, the "industry" will accept that state.

ASIAN "RACISM" AND AUSTRALIA: In December last year, *The Advertiser* in Adelaide published the results of an "opinion poll" of senior Asian executives' attitudes to Australia following the issue of Pauline Hanson's maiden speech in Parliament. The results showed that 55.8 percent of Asian executives (70 percent in Korea) believed Australians were "racists".

What the poll, *The Advertiser*, and presumably the *Far Eastern Economic Review*, where the information was first published, all failed to mention is that in Asia "racism" is accepted as almost normal. Attitudes of racial superiority or inferiority (if that is what "racism" is) are perfectly natural in Asia, and cause long-running conflicts in many Asian countries.

Perhaps a primary example of racial/cultural problems is erupting to the north of Australia at present. The world's largest Muslim nation – Indonesia – is presently racked by another of its regular round of serious violence. Last week an ethnic Chinese woman shouted at Muslim youths who were making a noise at a nearby mosque before dawn in the present month of Ramadan. A mob attacked the woman's house, and then began burning churches, buildings and cars, as well as beating ethnic Chinese. The targets of the attacks, the Indo-Chinese population, are mainly Christian or Buddhist. This ethnic minority settled in Indonesia mainly since World War II, and although the Chinese make up only 4 percent of the Indonesian population, they control more than 80 percent of the nation's wealth, leading to the sort of racial/cultural friction which led to the military coup in Fiji.

On December 6th, *The Advertiser* published an illuminating letter from one Denis Dragovic, from Singapore, who dealt with the issue of Asian "racism". Noting that most Singaporeans claim that there is no "racism" in Singapore, Dragovic wrote: *"The fact that foreign labourers from Thailand, India, Burma and Bangladash, having paid up to \$9,000 to work in Singapore, are paid \$16 a day, a fraction of what a Singaporean doing the same work would get paid, is lost on them."*

"When a Malaysian Indian Congress (a coalition member of the Government) official said 'foreign workers are here to work. They should not be allowed to mix with Malaysian women', nothing was heard because such comments against people from that region are not seen as racist."

"There is amazing hypocrisy not only in Singapore but the whole of South-East Asia. I have travelled around most of the world but as yet I have not experienced more racism or seen a more racist region than South-East Asia. With the same conviction, I have not seen a more diverse and racially tolerant country as I see every time I return to Australia."

"As ill-advised and misguided as are Ms. Hanson's remarks, they do not compare to the racism so evident in this region. The fact that racism depends much on the eye of the beholder would explain why opinions such as this are widely-held and printed, but not seen as racist. . . ." (Emphasis added)

In a self-righteous editorial a few days later, *The Advertiser* (10/12/96) announced that *"Racism is a cancer and a virus, a cancer which can destroy a society, a virus which can breed genocide . . ."* The (anonymous) author is obviously not about to preach such sentiments in Asia. But has he/she stopped to think about what he/she writes? It does not take a medical genius to conclude that prevention of cancer is much more efficient than attempting to cure it. The prevention of viral infections (or heart disease, etc.) is a far superior answer than treating the victims of disease. If "racism" is a cancer and a virus, then when do we propose to treat it intelligently – **prevent it with effective immigration policies?**