



A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

ON TARGET

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The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance –

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: *"The strength or weaknesses of a society depends more on the level of spiritual life than on its level of industrialisation. Neither a market economy nor even general abundance constitutes the crowning achievement of human life. If a nation's spiritual energies have been exhausted, it will not be saved from collapse by the most perfect government structure, or by any industrial development. A tree with a rotten core cannot stand. This is so because of all the possible freedoms, the one that will inevitably come to the fore will be the freedom to be unscrupulous; that is the freedom that can be neither prevented nor anticipated by any law. It is an unfortunate fact that a pure social atmosphere cannot be legislated into being. . . . In order to function, democracy needs a certain level of political discipline among the populace."*

- Alexander Solzhenitsyn in *Nation Review* (U.S.A.) 23/9/1991.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ELECTION SHOCKWAVES by David Thompson: The dramatic result of last weekend's South Australian election could act as a wake-up call for Prime Minister John Howard, whose landslide 1996 federal election victory no longer looks quite so impressive. It also sends a message to Queensland Premier Borbidge, who must face a State election next year. And the message which was delivered in no uncertain terms to South Australian Premier John Olsen last weekend was that electors have little patience for politicians or political parties who fail to deliver employment security or economic stability.

As we go to press, the final result of the South Australia election is unclear, with the Liberals expected to retain government by the skin of their teeth, but certainly failing to regain control of the South Australian upper house, the Legislative Council. The result simply confirms what League activists are finding all over Australia; that the difference between the major political parties is now so slight that the electorate is searching for alternative policies.

The important feature of the South Australian election is that the Olsen Liberals actually *lost 13%* of their first-preference support last Saturday, but this swing *did not translate into support for the ALP*. The S.A. ALP gained only 5.4% of this first-preference swing, with the rest of the first preference vote going to a number of smaller political groups. Chief of these was the Democrats, who were able to take second place in six of the 47 lower house seats. But the support for the United Australia Party should not go unnoticed; this new political party of the "right" polled impressively in some electorates, achieving 10.7% in Hammond, and 8.9% of the vote in Frome. The fact that the ALP was able to win so many seats is accounted for by noting that the Democrat preferences flowed to the ALP.

According to psephologist Malcolm Mackerras, the 9% swing away from the South Australian Liberals is the biggest against a one-term State government since NSW voters savaged Labor's Jack Lang with a 15% swing in 1932, showing the extraordinary volatility of the Australian electorate at present.

A careful analysis of the South Australian election shows that voters are fully prepared to savagely punish mainstream political parties, but are reluctant to mindlessly support their Opposition. This is a clear rejection of both mainstream party groups who have betrayed the interests of Australians for so long. This is borne out by polling in other States. In Queensland, for example, the latest Newspoll, which proved to be the most accurate in South Australia last weekend, showed that *a massive 19%* of those surveyed would vote for "other" parties in a Queensland election.

This raises the question of the future of the Queensland National Party government. If a third political force was to appear in Queensland to offer voters a *genuine* choice, rather than the traditional "hobson's choice" between National and Labor, there is every chance that such a third force could win a number of seats. Press reports of secret Liberal Party polling in Queensland indicates that Pauline Hanson's One Nation party is more popular than the Nationals in a number of key seats, such as the marginal Labor seats of Thuringowa, Hervey Bay and Caboolture. At the time the polling took place, One Nation was not registered in Queensland at State level.

The most credible emerging third force in Queensland politics is Australia First, which is now registered in Queensland as a political party. With solid grass-roots organisation and a hard core of most constructive policies, Australia First could provide a potent challenge to the National Party in a number of seats. That approximate 19% of disenchanted Queensland voters are searching for a constructive new home. The election of even one Australia First candidate in Queensland has the potential to electrify Australian politics. If One Nation was to register as a party in Queensland, and co-operate with Australia First in the exchange of preferences, the next Queensland State election could be a turning-point in Australian politics.

Prime Minister Howard is now faced with a new political situation in which he has an extremely large and very edgy back-bench that could be obliterated by a swing as little as 4% at the next federal election. Mr Howard was elected with a swing of around 5% in 1996, but Labor require a swing of less than 4% to topple Mr Howard in Canberra. After last weekend in South Australia, this looks to be a very slim margin of safety. The pressure is on leaders like Howard and Borbidge to achieve results; particularly in the areas of economic management and employment. Under orthodox economic and financial rules, it is more likely that economic conditions continue to deteriorate, leaving Australia in its most volatile political state since World War II. If ever the emergence of a third force was to be successful, it is now. The question is whether Graeme Campbell's Australia First or Pauline Hanson's One Nation can be well enough organised and financed to force a change in political direction that is long overdue.

NATIONAL PARTY FLYING MONARCHIST COLOURS: Following a fierce internal campaign in favour of the existing Australian constitutional monarchy, the National Party has now affirmed that its official policy will be an uncompromising attack on the republican agenda. As a result, party leader and Deputy Prime Minister Fischer has been forced to change his position on the republic. Fischer had previously declared that if Australia was to become a republic, he would prefer a popularly elected president. Mr Fischer now supports the Constitution as it is.

While the League has little in common with the National Party Senator Ron Boswell, it appears that

Boswell has maintained his loyalty to the Crown, and should be supported for this. It may also have something to do with the fact that Boswell must face re-election to the Senate at the next federal election and, irrespective of trendy republican options, it is crystal clear that the Queensland National Party grass-roots are unashamedly monarchist. As he sees his support base visibly disappearing beneath him because of some of the lunatic policies pursued by the Liberals, to which his own leader Mr Fischer refuses to object, perhaps even Senator Boswell can feel the cold winds of political reality. The firearms issue is the most potent of these.

The National Party has become the first political party to formally support one of the teams fielding candidates to be elected as delegates to the Constitutional Convention next year, announcing that they will support the "No Republic" candidates throughout Australia. "No Republic" is the campaign title of Australians for Constitutional Monarchy, which will be led by Sir James Killen in Queensland, Don Chipp in Victoria, Doug Sutherland in NSW, Reg Withers in WA, Kin Bonython and Bishop John Hepworth in S.A., Doone Kennedy in Tasmania, and Malcolm Mackerras in ACT.

The second major monarchist group to be fielding candidates in most States is the Monarchist League, which also has a number of extremely able candidates, such as former RSL President Alf Garland and Dr David Mitchell. In Queensland former Senator Glen Shiel and Lady Flo Bjelke-Petersen will lead a Constitutional Monarchist team. In Victoria RSL President Bruce Ruxton leads a "Safeguard the People" team with Vernon Wilcox.

The voting for candidates is by voluntary postal ballot, and closes on December 9th. The voting method will be similar to that of the Senate, under which each candidate must earn a quota of votes, and his preferences then flow on to nominated successors for those voting 'above the line'. We understand that the major monarchist groups will register to exchange their preferences for those who propose to vote 'above the line'.

The National Party should be congratulated for an unequivocal statement of support for the monarchy, and pushed to actively campaign for the "No Republic" candidates for the Convention. We doubt that this particular attack of sanity is sufficient to save the National Party in the longer term, but it is a useful start.

CENSORSHIP OF INFORMATION SUPER-HIGHWAY: The new information technology, originally developed by the United States military in order to communicate in emergencies, known as the 'Internet' offers a breakthrough for the 'underground press'. It is theoretically free of the restraints of censorship, because it is simply too difficult to censor. However, the one-worlders seem to have discovered the vulnerable point of the new technology, and are testing an assault on it.

Bavarian prosecutors in Germany have indicted the managing director of a German service provider CompuServe, Felix Somm, for aiding the distribution of child pornography and banned Nazi symbols. Prosecutors believe that service providers should be held responsible for material that is illegal in Germany and made accessible to Germans, but is located abroad. CompuServe deny the charges, and claim they are no more responsible than telephone companies are for what people say to each other, and that it lacked the technical ability to block out just the German users. The case is being closely watched around the world.

HANSON ON NATIVE TITLE: The Independent Member for Oxley made a contribution to the debate on the Native Title Amendment Bill in Parliament on October 1st, in which Mrs Hanson

referred to the deadly United Nations Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. She referred to the long-held suspicion that aboriginal land claims and native title rights were being used in an attempt to create a separate 'black state' in Australia"

"In conjunction with the Canadian government, the indigenous people of Canada have recently created Nunavut, a separate indigenous state within the nation of Canada. Originally Nunavut was to be a tract of semi-autonomous land of some two million square kilometres. However, a further deal was done, and the two million square kilometres of semi-autonomous land of this state-within-state became 350,000 square kilometres of freehold land. This will be formalised in 1999, and will in effect leave Canada with another country bigger than the State of Victoria within its borders.

"It is imperative that the Australian people know and understand the international forces driving the aboriginal industry and the flawed and divisive concept of native title. It is crucial to realise that the underlying blue-print and inspiration behind the creation of a separate indigenous nation within Canada and the impending creation of an aboriginal nation within our own country is the United Nations Draft Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. . . .

"There is an undeniable link between the events in Australia and Canada. The man who was the architect of Nunavut in Canada is now living in Brisbane, and planning a Nunavut for Australia. ."

The text of Mrs Hanson's speech will be published in the October edition of *Intelligence Survey*, and is almost compulsory reading for those concerned about the native title/Wik issue presently before the Parliament. How is it that Mrs Hanson's speech received almost no press cover whatever? Is this material unimportant, irrelevant, or simply too hot to handle?

Perhaps the press have begun to apply the traditional sanctions to Pauline Hanson which have been applied to others, like Graeme Campbell, who might have something constructive to say. That is, a media black-out that can only be penetrated by initiative and a grasp of grass-roots political action with an 'alternative' media network.

MAHATHIR'S ANTI-SEMITISM: Prime Minister of Malaysia, Mr Mohamad Mahathir has been condemned for anti-semitism because he has noted that a number of those who allegedly manipulated the Malaysian currency, leading to a financial crisis, were Jewish. Speaking to a 10,000 strong crowd of Muslims, Mahathir accused foreign speculators and currency traders of having an agenda to block the prosperity of Muslim nations, and noted that George Soros was Jewish.

Malaysia is a multicultural society that seems to have its problems. Of the 20 million population, about half are Muslims, with Islam as the official religion. Mahathir was speaking in a Malaysian state which the leadership favour strict interpretation of Islamic law. There is no such thing as a Human Rights tribunal in Malaysia, which actively "discriminates" as a matter of state policy. For example, Malaysia has no diplomatic ties with Israel, and Israeli citizens are not permitted entry visas for Malaysia.

Australians may find it strange that our Asian neighbours are apparently quite free to "discriminate", but we are not. Will becoming "a part of Asia" enable us to adopt similar "discriminatory" policies? Is the official Malaysian policy on Israel any worse or better than the old "white Australia policy"? Of course not.