



# ON TARGET

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*The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance –*

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**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:** *"The history of modern political society is in large measure the history of the ordinary citizen trying to exercise some influence upon government – and of his repeated failure to achieve that modest ambition. All governments control the governed."*

– Professor (later Judge) G.W. Keeton, in *The Passing of Parliament* (1952)

## PARLIAMENT REQUIRES MORE THAN "CIVILITY" by Eric D. Butler:

My old friend Sir James Killen, Liberal Member of Parliament and Minister for Defence in the Fraser Government, has announced his intention of seeking Liberal Party pre-selection for the new Queensland Federal electorate of Blair. Sir James' attempted political comeback in the current political climate and some of his reported comments are worthy of some comment. Sir James claims that he is a "fit" 72; he might have listed British Prime Minister Gladstone among some notable politicians who had revived their political careers after the age of 80. One of the more superficial charges levelled against Winston Churchill when it was proposed early in the Second World War that he should take over the leadership of Britain, was that he was "too old". Whatever criticism may be levelled against Winston Churchill – and his record has come under increasing critical assessment over the years – it cannot be disputed that Churchill displayed amazing energy in his conduct of the War and following the 1945 election of the Attlee Socialist Government was able to lead the British Conservatives back into office. If re-elected to the Federal Parliament, Killen would certainly tower in ability over what is beyond doubt the most mediocre collection of politicians ever elected to Canberra. While Sir James correctly mentions some of the major issues confronting Australia – most of them having developed vigorously while he was a Senior Minister in the disastrous Fraser Government – his main concern appears to be the state of parliament itself. In a typically colourful comment, he charges that parliament has "just become an occasional gathering for an exchange of ill-mannered insults". But while most people would like to see more civilised behaviour for their political representatives, they are more concerned about more fundamental issues.

While the old adage remains true, that manners maketh the man, more civilised behaviour in the nation's parliaments will not of itself solve the nation's problems. As C.H. Douglas pointed out in his *Realistic Position of the Church of England* clergy, concerned about a liturgy which certainly reflected a nobler day, almost purr with delight every time a new batch of taxes are imposed – generally under the plea that some sections of society are not paying their "fair share" of the tax burden. Completely overlooked is that under the modern finance-economic system, it is a monstrous lie that crushing taxation is necessary to finance government. As a number of eminent authorities have been warning over the years, government itself is the main threat to the rights and freedoms of the individual. The central problem is how to control government. It is as certain as the sunrise that the re-election of the Coalition Government or the election of a Beazley Labor Government, will not solve any of the problems progressively destroying traditional Australia. I was not surprised upon recently returning from overseas

that all the evidence suggested that the Howard Government is in deep political trouble. Last weekend public opinion polls provided further confirmation. What appeared unthinkable following the last Federal elections, that Kim Beazley could ever lead a Labor recovery, now threatens to become a reality. Public opinion polls show that a majority of Australians now would prefer Beazley as Prime Minister. This, of course, does not mean that current polling figures will be translated into votes at the election which now is certain to take place next year. In the absence of some unforeseen dramatic development, the election itself will solve none of the nation's basic problems. Only a shattering of the present party political structures can have a serious effect on what lies ahead. If Sir James Killen believes that, if re-elected to the Federal Parliament as a Liberal Member, he can achieve any worthwhile change of policy, I am afraid that he is doomed to disappointment. The Liberal Party he joined as a young man has over the years been afflicted with the deadly rot of collectivism in its many manifestations, including support for "globalism", "economic rationalism" and, of course, "multiculturalism".

The reality of the current Australian political situation is that the overwhelming majority of the electors have no trust in any government, irrespective of its label. The only Federal politician I have ever met who has honestly faced the absolute enunciation by Lord Bryce in his classic work on *Modern Democracies* – the natural tendency of all government is to increase its own power" – has been Graeme Campbell, currently leading the Australia First Party. Campbell bluntly says that no politician or government can be trusted, and for that reason includes in his "core policies" a version of the Swiss system of referenda with a binding effect on government. As a result of intense electoral pressure, moves have been made in New Zealand towards such an electoral mechanism, but it is badly flawed because governments are not required to abide by the referendum results.

I would not vote for any political candidate who would not give me a firm written assurance that he or she would, if elected, work and vote for the introduction of the type of mechanism outlined by Campbell. A national campaign on this issue is one which could unite a nation searching for some stability and certainty. While all supporters of Constitutional Monarchy appreciate the contribution of Sir James, who has brought some intellectual muscle to bear on the Monarchy issues, they can only view his attempt to re-enter Parliament as a type of Quixotic and well meaning project which is doomed. Joining a Liberal Government at present would be like surrounding one with the stench of a decaying corpse.

If Sir James wants to make some major national gesture of a dramatic significance, he could always run as an Independent Liberal, pledged to support C.I.R. He might be surprised at the support he would get.

### NATIVE TITLE AND CIVIL WAR by David Thompson.

The warning (advanced by the League) that Australia could end up facing a form of terrorism, which could even escalate into a civil war if the issue of native title continued to be manipulated has been met with disbelief, and the traditional Aussie attitude that "it can't happen here, mate". The League has warned that the pattern of transforming Rhodesia to Zimbabwe, which began with the formation of black terrorist groups, and eventually escalated to a form of guerrilla war, is now being followed here, even if only in its earliest stages.

While Australian circumstances are very different from those of Rhodesia in 1965, the elements of a similar conflict certainly exist here. This was driven home when news of an amazingly inflammatory speech given by Mr Noel Pearson, of the Cape York Land Council leaked out last week. Pearson was addressing Cape York Aborigines last September, and perhaps in friendly territory felt free to express views that he might be most reluctant to express otherwise. However, the *Cape York Unity News* (30/11/97) published the following remarks by Pearson, who was speaking in the context of what might happen if the native title amendment bill were passed by Parliament:

*"If they tear the law up and they tell the law to get stuffed and the (High) Court to get stuffed, I tell you there is no other answer than war. If they tear up Eddie Mabo's victory with this 10-point*

plan, then you know we would be kidding ourselves if we think that this political and legal strategy is the right strategy.

"Most of the country want to feel good about Mabo but we (have) got this miserable moral cockroach running the country and he's got no sensitivity to these things whatsoever. . . This federal government basically despises black people. They hate black people. . ."

If the boot was on the other foot, and Pearson happened to be a white pastoralist making military threats about war against the blacks if the bill was scrapped, the condemnation would be deafening. But to Pearson's comments, which constitute an incitement to racial hatred at the very least, there has so far been little response. Talk of declaring war on white Australia has been either disregarded, or shrugged off with the "can't happen here" indifference.

Pearson's comments must surely rate as one of the most dreadful cases of deliberate sedition ever uttered in anger in Australia. If true, these statements should ring around the nation as a clear warning that we are not dealing with a few disgruntled part-aboriginal agitators, but with the first emerging signs of organised terrorism.

National Party MP De-Anne Kelly's claim that Queensland pastoralists were stockpiling illegal semi-automatic rifles in anticipation of attempts to intimidate them by native title claimants were rejected with disgust by some graziers in the region. But language such as that of Pearson will certainly encourage such activity. There can be little doubt that Pearson's inflammatory comments will run like an electric current through young, disaffected aboriginal groups. (See *Bulletin* letter).

**RELIGION OF "GLOBAL WARMING":** The international pressure placed upon the Australian Government to adopt "greenhouse targets" designed to limit global warming has been intensified at Kyoto, in Japan, where the global conference on greenhouse gas emissions is being held. The rationale for the pressure has little to do with science, and much more to do with religion. That mankind is gradually destroying his environment by permitting the levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere to rise to dangerous proportions has become an article of faith, rather than the findings of any scientific measurement of the facts.

Last week another Australian scientist who prefers to deal in reality rather than superstition, Brian Tucker, alleged that there is a lot of "nonsense" involved in the global warming debate. Tucker is a senior fellow at the Institute of Public Affairs, and was chief of the CSIRO's division of atmospheric research from 1972 to 1992. In a feature article in *The Australian* (3/12/97) Tucker refers to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which was set up by the World Meteorological Organisation and the UN Environment Programme in 1987. This panel has projected the image of a worldwide scientific consensus on global warming, and yet, Tucker points out, tended to bend the truth with its Second Assessment Report in 1996.

"This was condemned in some informed quarters for removing the caveats from background documentation prepared by scientists world-wide, and for technical weaknesses, bias and political influence in the most widely read part of the report," he wrote. "Perhaps its main scientific conclusion was that 'the balance of evidence suggests a discernible human influence on climate'. But this does not mean that the evidence was overwhelming; indeed, some disconcerting aspects of the evidence have not been resolved.

"The retiring IPCC chairman, Dr Bert Bolin, (reportedly) publicly refuted claims by many environmentalists that any floods, droughts, tropical cyclones or other extreme weather patterns are the result of rising temperatures. Adamant there has been some human influence on climate, he conceded '*man-made increases in temperature are so small as to be barely detectable*.'" (Our emphasis).

Why, then, do august global scientific panels skew the evidence and leave out inconvenient evidence to arrive at a certain result: that *mankind has cause significant global warming*, and worse is to come unless we make radical changes to industrial society? Quite clearly, someone (or some group) has a vested interest in the paranoid warming scenario, and is determined to frighten the rest of us into

compliance. In the process, we are forced to submit to ever-tighter controls upon our activities, until we will no longer be permitted to even have wood fires. What is Tucker's answer?

"Politics and the urge to make policy has clearly outstripped scientific justification. It is time for genuine debate to replace the specious assertions and reckless proposals with which the general public has been bombarded," he wrote. That is, he offers the explanation of 'ineptitude', rather than 'conspiracy'. But this does not explain the general ridicule or suppression of the views of those who do not accept the "greenhouse" religion.

**CORRUPTION IN PNG:** That the process towards self-government for Papua-New Guinea, embarked upon by Andrew Peacock, and completed by Gough Whitlam, was too early is now becoming increasingly more apparent. Whether or not the PNG Prime Minister is guilty of racketeering, etc, the levels of corruption at the highest levels are amazing. In the words of one PNG observer, Peter Ryan, some of PNG's public life resembles "a slum run by gangsters".

Ryan edited the encyclopaedia of Papua and New Guinea, and has come to know PNG intimately over 50 years. He reports, in an article for *The Herald Sun* (3/12/97) that the depths of corruption are indicated by the fact that of 109 parliamentarians, over 90% have been investigated for corruption.

During the gold boom, one MP bought gold illegally using rigged scales, and smuggled it out of the country to Asia. Altogether over \$40 million in gold went unaccounted for.

"Vast areas of PNG's priceless tropical forests have vanished as Asian loggers bribe ministers and officials to wink at national forestry regulations. Ditto with fisheries. . .

"The Rural Development Bank, meant to help small farmers, is rorted as a cash-kitty for some politicians and their relatives. . .

"Australia's large and long-running overseas aid programme was meant for the welfare of ordinary villagers, for the schools and health services they so desperately needed. It became the piggy bank of the corrupt elite. . ." Most of Australia's \$4 billion in aid to PNG has been wasted.

During the last election, many of the corrupt politicians were campaigning as born-again Christians in a Christian-oriented country. Few know that PNG is, by definition in its Constitution, a Christian country. Australia bears some responsibility in all of this. Not only did we hand over a territory grossly unprepared for self-government, but we continue to pour huge sums of foreign aid into the hands of corrupt officials. If Australia fails to accept responsibility, and act to retrieve the situation, we cannot expect neighbours like Indonesia to sit back and watch indefinitely.

**DRUG-ASSISTED DEATHS:** It is reported that the commonly-prescribed anti-depression drug, Prozac, was found in the hotel room in which the rock singer Michael Hutchence was found dead. Robert Lusetch, in an article in *The Australian* (1/12/97) claims that both Diana and the driver of the car in which she was killed, were taking Prozac.

"Although it has been described as the world's most-prescribed anti-depressant, in 1990 (manufacturer) Eli Lilly was forced by a variety of public-advocacy groups into admitting that, in a small number of cases, those taking the drug could experience suicidal fantasies. . .

"By 1975 the FDA (US Food and Drug Administration) 35,230 adverse reactions to Prozac - the most serious being hallucinations, aggression, hostility, assault, manslaughter and suicide - resulting in 2393 deaths. . ."

Although the evidence that such drugs are deadly continues to mount, it appears that huge multinational drug companies have the financial clout to ensure that they continue to be prescribed. When someone like Hutchence takes his life with a firearm, the weapon is blamed. But when it is a leather belt, there is never a single call for the banning of leather belts. But nor is there another demand for an examination of the role of the drug.