



A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

ON TARGET

- NEWS HIGHLIGHTS
- BACKGROUND INFORMATION
- COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance –

Print Post Publication Number 381667 00258

Vol.35, No.31

August 13th, 1999

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: *"Consider the lilies of the field how they grow, they neither toil nor spin. Yet Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these." Matt.6: 28-29.*

"The group exists for the benefit of the individual, in the same sense that the field exists for the benefit of the individual flower, or the tree for the fruit. Groups of any kind, whether called nations, business systems, or any other association, eventually decay and disappear if they fail to foster a sufficient number of excellent individuals."

C.H. Douglas, 1936.

BEATING UP THE REPUBLIC by Merrill Gregory:

The front page headline of Adelaide's sole daily newspaper, **The Advertiser** (2/8/99), screamed "Republican Vote Surges" – Screamed because the print size was 38.1 mm (one and a half inches) tall. Half of South Australia, we are told, is now in favour of change. Only into the article do we read that what is being described here is the opinion poll run by **The Advertiser** itself. *"The results will boost the hopes of the republican movement which has listed South Australia support as critical if a republic is favoured in the November 6th referendum."*

This is what the article hoped to achieve, boost the hopes of the republican movement. The poll found that 40 percent of people were against the republic and 11 percent were undecided. Hence the need to appeal to 'the sheep factor' among some of the 11 percent ("Look, most people want a republic, be on the winning side").

The Murdoch press has never given such a headline to any opinion poll which does not support its globalist anti-traditional Australia agenda. Opinion polls for decades have shown that a majority of Australians have thought that immigration, for example, "had gone too far". Such polls have always been treated as marginal news in the Murdoch press, or ignored, and their objectivity attacked by any number of hack journalists and propaganda men.

The Advertiser poll is statistically worthless. Based on a sample size of 500 city and country people contacted by telephone on a Thursday night, its sample is far too small to enable anything meaningful to be said about the South Australian population as a whole. We are not told if equal numbers of men

and women were contacted, what was the proportion of city to country calls, what were the age-based breakdown of the calls, how were those to be called chosen. A poll run by a pro-republic organisation such as the Murdoch press is worthless in any case, because of the obvious problem of political bias.

Take heart and keep fighting – the republicans are clearly starting to feel nervous if they must resort to such tactics! **Yes!!! Say NO!!!** The people are beginning to ask "why have the rich capitalists and the socialists got together to push us into a republic? Even now, the Prime Minister is being bullied by the republican movement into changing one of the questions to be asked at the referendum. Spread the message – NO. NO. NO!

GENE FOOD LABELLING by Betty Luks:

Australian and New Zealand health ministers recently met in Canberra to discuss the worrying aspects of genetically modified food products, in particular the mandatory labelling of the products. It was reported that 500 food items are believed to contain by-products of modified plants, although, it is claimed, some would use only a small percentage of modified material. The ministers have agreed to require mandatory labelling of food produced using gene technology, and foods containing genetically modified ingredients. While final details will be worked out by October of this year, the new rules will not apply until 12 months after that.

This writer has problems with that. What is to happen to those with allergies, in the meantime? This writer knows of one young man who cannot eat any foods that contain fish or nuts. The allergic reaction that resulted from him eating such foods, would, at the very least, hospitalise him, at the worst, threaten his life. It is reported that certain tomatoes now have a salmon gene – to improve the shelf life of the tomato! How is the young man to know that a tomato he chooses off the supermarket shelf could have a gene that will endanger his life? How do we know his allergies are not the result of genetic engineering? Is food for the body – or is it for the profits of the multinationals and/or the shelf life of the tomato?

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REJECTS DR. TOBEN by Geoff Mourned:

A letter received by John Bennett of the Australian Civil Liberties Union, sent from the Amnesty International Secretariat, London (July 20th, 1999), makes it quite clear that this group refuse to take up the case of Dr. Fredrick Toben, Director of the Adelaide Institute. Part of the letter from Amnesty said that it was Amnesty International's intention to exclude from prisoner of conscience status those who advocate the denial of the Holocaust and it confirmed what had been the de facto interpretation of the prisoner of conscience definition contained in Article 1 of Amnesty International's statute.

The writer of the letter, Matthew Pringle, Researcher, Central Europe/Western CIS, implied that Dr. Toben had been "engaging in activities aimed at diminishing the rights and freedoms of others. The decision of Amnesty International not to adopt Dr. Toben as a prisoner of conscience is consistent with, and inherently derives, from this position."

This comment endorses those organisations that want to "diminish the rights and freedoms of others" by endorsing attacks on freedom of historical research and who are, under the terms of this statement,

"cleared of blame". By implication, it endorses 'racist' attacks on the German people who have been held collectively guilty of Nazi atrocities, and says nothing about the selective attacks of 'racism' levelled against those who want to preserve their own national identity.

ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WERE GLOBALISTS by Betty Luks:

Australians have had the story of 'the utopia to come' by way of the 'globalisation of all things' through 'free trade and market economics', rammed down their throats for a number of years – just as we can be sure the Asian peoples have had their own versions rammed down their throats. But, according to Chalmers Johnson, president of the Japan Policy Research Institute in San Diego (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 5/7/99), the Asian version is being somewhat modified and the 'fairy godmother' – Capitalist America – is being turned into the 'wicked stepmother'.

Surely Asian bankers and businessmen have been just as greedy, ruthless and ambitious as their American (and Australian) counterparts, and were willing to enter into the 'globalist utopia'? But, the story they now tell, in seminars across the nations, goes something like this:

"With the end of the Cold War the US decided it had to launch a rollback operation in East Asia if it was to maintain its global hegemony"...The campaign worked in two phases. Phase one was "First, a major ideological barrage" by American professors of economics (who had "never faced a 'market force' in their lives") to soften up the Asians. Then came phase two. Once the Asian economies were more or less 'naked' and very vulnerable, the hedge funds were let loose on them. The hedge funds easily raped Thailand, Indonesia and South Korea and then turned the shivering survivors over to the IMF, not to help the victims, but to ensure no Western bank was stuck with non-performing loans.

The IMF was then let loose upon them, insisting the Asian nations reform their social infrastructures and economies. Then it all got out of hand, and one of the biggest hedge funds got greedy and the US had to bail it out, thus bringing the shady scheme out into the open.

And so, (the sorry tale continues), the final straw was when Vice-President Al Gore gave a speech in the Malaysian capital denouncing its head of state for trying to protect his country from international speculators. At the end of it all Chalmers Johnson observes, "*The Americans do not seem to understand that their message of free trade and market economics is in serious disrepute.*"

CAPITALISM AND THE SOCIAL BODY: Capitalism is the term coined in the mid-1800s to refer to an economic and social regime in which the ownership and benefits of capital are appropriated by the few to the exclusion of the many, who, through their labour make capital productive. Contrary to its claims, capitalism is the mortal enemy of democracy and the market. Its relationship to democracy and the market economy is much the same as the relationship of a cancer to the body whose life energies it expropriates.

In a healthy Market economy, enterprises are human scale and predominately locally owned. Economic exchanges are shaped and controlled by people through the expression of their cultural values, their purchasing decisions, their democratic participation in setting rules by which the market will function, and their ownership of local enterprises.

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What measures we do have relating to the depletion of our forests, soils, fresh water, fisheries, the disruption of our climatic systems, the unravelling of our social fabric, the decline of our educational standards, the loss of legitimacy of our major institutions, and the breakdown of family structures, give us reason to believe that the **rate of depletion of our living capital** is even greater than the rate of decline in net beneficial output.

Governments do not compile the indicators that reveal the truth of what is happening to our wealth and wellbeing. And the power holders, whose financial assets are growing, experience no problem.

It is time to acknowledge the obvious fact that capitalism is a disastrous failure for reasons inherent in its values and institutions. To create a world in which life can flourish and prosper we must replace the values and institutions of capitalism with values and institutions that honour life, serve life's needs and restore money to its proper role as servant.

Those of us who recognise our collective folly for what it is cannot limit ourselves to taking stands against harmful policies and practices. We must advance awareness of the viable and attractive alternatives it is within our means to choose.

A COMMON AGENDA: The shrinking of the world through increasing interdependence, overwhelming common problems and modern communications systems presents us with unprecedented opportunities which could be of advantage to us all.

SEAD (Scottish Education and Action for Development) is about to celebrate 21 years of highlighting what people in Scotland and worldwide have in common. SEAD has long believed that people throughout the world need to come together to tackle the systems which increase poverty and destroy environment. By learning from each other and taking action we have the ability to become citizens again.

The power of "ordinary people" should never be underestimated. Iniquitous, intimidating and (to most people) incomprehensible they may be, but the international monetary system, and transnational corporations are shaped by people. They did not descend from a superior planet. People create these institutions that control so many lives, and people can dismantle them with the power and will.

Residents of Easterhouse, Glasgow, initiated an anti-dampness campaign to build sustainable housing in one of Europe's most deprived areas; an illegal community radio station is started under a hospital bed in a South African township; the crofters of Assynt reclaim their own land; people on Nicaragua's Atlantic coast decide through consultation to reject an unsustainable deforestation project which would have created jobs in an area of high unemployment. These are just a few of the many examples SEAD's work has discovered of people taking control and making change.

Sead's concept of "Mutual Solidarity" is a valuable process of people world-wide learning from each other, sharing information, expertise and ideas.

Excerpts from 1998 Schumacker Lectures, printed in "The Social Creditor" Australian address: 3 Beresford Drive, Draper, Qld., 4520.

"ON TARGET" is printed and published by The Australian League of Rights, 145 Russell St., Melbourne.
Postal Address: GPO Box 1052J, Melbourne, 3001. Telephone: (03) 9650 2749. Fax: (03) 9650 9368.
Subscription \$40.00 p.a.

