



A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

ON TARGET

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The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance –

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: *"Has it ever struck you as odd, or unfortunate, that today, when the proportion of literacy throughout western Europe is higher than it has ever been, people should have become susceptible to the influence of advertisement and mass-propaganda to an extent hitherto unheard of and imagined? ...Do you sometimes have an uneasy suspicion that the product of modern educational methods is less good than he or she might be at disentangling fact from opinion and the proven from the plausible?"*

"We let our young men and women go out unarmed in a day when armour was never so necessary. By teaching them all to read, we have left them at the mercy of the printed word. By the invention of the film and the radio, we have made certain that no aversion to reading shall secure them from the incessant battery of words, words, words...they are a prey to words in their emotions instead of being masters of them in their intellects."

"The Lost Tools of Learning" by Dorothy L. Sayers, 1947

RECORD AFTER RECORD by Jeremy Lee:

Two Australian records have been broken in the last few days: firstly, Telstra has made its biggest profit ever – \$3.9 billion. Secondly, Australia ran its biggest quarterly Current-Account-Deficit in history. The Bureau of Statistics showed an increase of 13 percent in the CAD to an all-time record of \$9.4 billion over the June quarter.

This means that Australia is blowing out on imports over exports by something like Telstra's annual profit every 30 days. The June quarter deficit, reckoning on the new figure for Australia's population of 19 million, was approximately \$492 per head of population, or just under \$2,000 per family of four. The figure will be consolidated into the ever-growing foreign debt.

Ian Henderson, in *The Australian* (31/8/99), added: " ... *The burden of servicing both foreign debt and foreign equity investment continued to climb, with the former accounting for 6.6 percent of export income in the June quarter, and the latter accounting for 9.1 percent ...*"

Treasurer Costello managed – as usual – to make the disaster sound like an achievement, claiming the figures weren't as bad as expected.

Squealer, where are you?

The Editorial in the same issue was somewhat sombre: " ... *We should not fall into the complacency that 'she'll be right' and the rest of the world will gladly keep on financing external deficits ... When previously our external deficit has swollen to such proportions, foreign suppliers of capital have taken fright, sending the \$A down sharply and interest rates up. Remember the 1986 "banana republic" crisis? The millions of novice investors who entered the stock market in the 1990s have yet to experience the stomach-wrenching effect of a sharp fall in the value of their portfolios. They may not be fully aware of the risk that a correction*

in Wall Street, for example, could suddenly make foreigners less willing to keep financing Australia's balance of payments shortfall"

VICTORIAN STATE ELECTION: There has been a long-running battle between the Kennett government and the State's former Auditor-General Mr Ches Baragwanath. The latter claimed that secrecy over many government deals prevented accountable audit.

Receiving Free Speech Victoria's Voltaire Award on August 26th, Mr Baragwanath spoke strongly on the need for open government, including these remarks: *"... Every time government in Australia reduces or abolishes the rights of access to courts to challenge or review the actions of government; every time common law rights, which have served us well for hundreds of years are constrained or removed; every time judicial or audit independence and discretion is threatened; every time rights are unilaterally or, worse, retrospectively removed by government decree or regulation, we should be massing in the streets against such erosions of liberty ..."*

Now another former Victorian staffer, Mr. Stephen Mayne, has called for a Royal Commission into a number of matters he claims were perpetrated by the Kennett Government in its business transactions.

The suave and urbane Jeff Kennett appears undismayed. He has instructed all other members of his party to avoid debating Opposition members, or talking to major media outlets. The following assessment, by Victorian Phillip Butler, provides food for thought:

THE PARTY DICTATORSHIP: Many now think that individual MPs are becoming a total inconvenience when it comes to running a "professional" political party machine. They are no longer there to debate the issues and represent their electors. They are simply "numbers" to carry out the orders of party bosses.

This has been brought home with a thud. Victorian Premier Jeff Kennett has decreed that all Liberal MPs and candidates in this election are not to speak to major media outlets or be involved in any type of candidate forums or debates in their constituencies. They may only speak with their local papers. In defending this "gag", Mr Kennett said he doesn't want candidates running round like "Brown's cows"!

The ALP is no different – although it is getting plenty of mileage out of the Kennett censorship. Opposition leader Steve Bracks – one day after the Kennett 'gag' was announced – sacked two of his pre-selected sitting MPs, replacing them with high-profile candidates. His excuse? *"Labor will be taking no passengers. I want the best possible team."* (*Herald Sun*, 1/9/99)

History shows that an all-powerful party relegates the elector into irrelevancy. Both the Communist and Nazi political parties showed this to be so. Consider the latest situation in Venezuela: *"Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez yesterday achieved through peaceful means what he attempted to seize militarily in 1992 – absolute control of his country ... Chavez supporter-dominated constitutional assembly yesterday stripped the country's Congress of its remaining authority ... banning any further congressional sessions ..."* (*The Australian*, 1/9/99)

While commentators cite the present "turnaround" in Victoria as an improvement on earlier gross mismanagement by Labor, the Kennett Government has become a law unto itself, as rationalists flog off assets to foreign interests. The Coalition – with National Roger Hallam at the Local Government helm – destroyed Victoria's Councils.

With the Kennett gag in place, Victorians are now getting a preliminary taste of what could happen Federally if the republic succeeds – a change Jeff Kennett supports. Mr. Kennett's machine controls both Victorian Houses of Parliament. Victoria is one of only two States where the State Constitution can be changed by politicians without a referendum.

Currently, Victorian Liberals could rule without the Nationals: a fact which has kept the Nationals silent as their rural constituencies have been assaulted. If National leader Pat McNamara decided it was time his Party took a stand on a few issues, it could claw back some self-respect.

THE PROSPECT OF EXTINCTION by Alfred King:

Australians are currently being subjected to a most insidious form of conditioning on perhaps the most important issue they face. Many popular TV shows slyly include a guest celebrity who finds the time and the opportunity to let the audience know that he is strongly in favour of the republic. This message is invariably reinforced by the show's host. The subconscious message is: *"I like this programme and the people on it, they are clever and make me feel good. This celebrity is happy and successful in his chosen field. His judgement is sound and I would like to emulate him. It follows then that he is also able to make the best decision about which type of constitution."*

However, when the celebrity tries to explain why he is in favour of a republic, only the vaguest, 'feel good' statement is made. Such as the one recently on "O'Loughlin On Saturday Night": *"It's like the baggy green cap of the Australian cricket team. It's about bringing it on home.... We've grown up and can look after ourselves."* This ABC programme is entirely tax funded. When were we last consulted on whether we wanted our tax money to be used to indoctrinate us in a perverse social engineering experiment?

We've all heard the 'cutting the apron strings' argument ad nauseam. If the self-appointed, self-righteous media elite were sincere in wanting an Australia that is strong and independent and free, they would be raising hell about the following issue. Instead, most newspapers and TV programmes employed the non-coverage method of censorship. *The Australian Financial Review* carried it as a small story towards the back of the paper. The Federal Government launched an international legal challenge against Japanese over-fishing of the blue-fin tuna stock off the southern Australian coast. It reported *"the Attorney-General, Daryl Williams told an international tribunal for the Law of the Sea in Hamburg that Japanese fishing beyond an agreed quota was endangering the depleted blue-fin stocks and should be halted immediately. The southern blue-fin tuna is one of the world's most valuable fish species, capable of yielding up to \$90,000 each at Tokyo's fish markets. An agreed annual cap on the catch of 11,750 tonnes has been in place since 1989, with Japan's fishing fleets permitted 52 percent, Australian fleets 45 percent, with New Zealand taking the rest. But Japan ignored the cap last year harvesting 1,400 tonnes of tuna (worth \$60 million) above its quota and has continued to do the same this year."*

"Canberra has often been accused of pulling its punches in trade related disputes with Japan, and has never launched formal dispute settlement action against Tokyo in the World Trade Organisation (WTO). Earlier this year, Canberra ignominiously backed down from a WTO complaint against Japan's 390 percent tariff on rice imports, after furious protests and veiled threats of commercial repercussions."

How richly has this country of ours been blessed! On top of everything else, we have excellent stocks of one of the world's most valuable fish just off the Tasmanian coastline. These fish are in Australian waters and therefore belong to Australians – right? Wrong! It seems our logic is too simplistic on this one. Japan is thousands of miles away, there are many countries closer to us than Japan, and yet they have the right to take more of these fish than we do! One wonders how we could possibly prostitute ourselves more. In the liberal free trade doctrine there is nothing that is not for sale. Furthermore, Australia cannot even sort out this simple issue itself. Gentle reader, please raise your hand if your local polliwog has asked your permission to take away the sovereignty of Australia over its fishing grounds and give it to an unelected body based in Hamburg? Some would call it treason.

Again we see a vivid illustration of how the surrender of our own interests has been developed to a fine art by our so-called 'leaders'. We can't even use the international court to its full potential, for fear of upsetting those who are already taking advantage of us. Western business schools teach the aim of negotiation to be a win-win situation. Orientals still see the desired outcome to be: we win, you lose, we defeat you. There is no room for anaemic, counterproductive liberal thinking in their tactics. That's why Australian coal and iron ore is exported to Japan at rock bottom prices, and then we buy back goods we once made ourselves at premium prices. Every time, without exception, they win and we lose.

Recommended reading: *"The Asian Mind Game"* by Chin-ning Chu. Available from all League book stores \$23.00 posted. This book unlocks the hidden agenda of the Asian business culture. It reveals the Asian mind-set that influences every aspect of Asian behaviour. It has long been recognised that the Japanese see

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free trade doctrine as something far more for foreigners to practise – but not for the Japanese to do so. A great deal of publicity has been given to covert discrimination against manufactured imports practised by the Japanese.

We are the suckers of the global economy. While our leaders see the system in terms of the liberal ideal of the world economy in which everyone plays the game in accordance with the rules, the Japanese see it as an opportunity to exploit us. This is a cultural reality. The ideal is the enemy of the real, so let's get away from liberal ideals and deal with realities. We should respect Japanese culture, and they should respect ours. Bureaucrats at the WTO cannot change cultural differences. The Japanese never look at the world from the point of view of their competitors and would not put their (competitors') cause above that of their own people. They will always see their interests as different from ours, and will not deviate from the pursuit of those interests, whatever our pleas to them to behave as 'world citizens'.

And, too bad if that means the blue-fin tuna is fished to extinction.

A SHAMEFUL PIECE OF HISTORY by Phillip Butler:

If one was to believe everything that passes for 'history' today, it would be believed that it was predominantly the Jews who suffered during WW II. Those who publicly question the 'politically correct' versions could find themselves labelled 'anti-semitic' or 'fascist'.

Over the years this publication has been critical of the ruthless and inhuman treatment handed out by the victorious Allied powers, especially the treatment meted out by the Eisenhower-commanded US armed forces to those who fled westward before the advancing Soviet armies.

All too many of these helpless people were forcibly handed back to the Soviets, they were 'repatriated' to the Communist powers from whom they had fled. They knew what their fate would be (the dreaded gulags or the firing squad) and many committed suicide rather than be forcibly returned.

The August, 1999, edition of *The Canadian Intelligence Service* carries excerpts from a column on the subject by Peter Worthington, a courageous and highly respected Canadian journalist. Worthington's column appeared in the *Toronto Sun*, 13/7/99, under the heading: *Tolstoy: Apologise for Britain's Shame: "In light of Britain's declared determination to bring 'war criminals' to trial for atrocities committed in Kosovo, historian Nikolai Tolstoy has urged in a letter to British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook, that Britain formally acknowledge and atone for its 'war crime' of forcibly sending men, women and children back to the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia and certain death after World War II."*

Tolstoy has increasingly exposed aspects of this forced repatriation, a policy which sent tens of thousands of Russian prisoners of war, White Russians, Cossacks, Serbs, Slovenians, Croatians, refugees, women and children back to virtual execution.

He points out that British Governments pressed for German and Japanese Governments to compensate British victims of their wartime atrocities, and is now urging the Blair Government "to make some public attempt to atone for what happened in May and June of 1945 when British soldiers in Austria committed savage crimes against Russian soldiers and civilians."

This is especially pertinent in light of Britain's outrage at atrocities in Kosovo, its demand that perpetrators be brought to trial, and fresh confirmation of the facts of forced repatriation after WW II "which no one seriously challenges."

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