



A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

ON TARGET

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The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance –

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: *"Christian theology converged with the nature of reality in the trinitarian constitution; the three estates of the realm... A clear distinction was drawn between matters mundane dealt with by the King's Courts and those spiritual which fell to the Courts Christian... Among the latter was usury, 'the taking from a borrower of a payment solely for the use of money lent to him to be applied by him in the normal way as a means of exchange.' This was prohibited.*

"In this sphere Church law was met by enactment in the King's Court concerning the 'just price'. Whereas Roman law sanctioned the idea that each man had the right to outreach others... a Statute of Edward III clearly envisaged the conception that price should be reasonably related to cost. The wrong use of money was recognised as a source of corruption, and these measures had a profound effect upon the whole range of economic life, embodying the injunction 'whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, do ye also to them'."

– "I Went and Hid Thy Talent in the Earth"
by Hewlett Edwards in *The Social Creditor*, 1950

THE BATTLE IN SEATTLE by Jeremy Lee:

Since our feature on the imminent World Trade Organisation Conference towards the end of November a couple of weeks ago, the full fury of what is now a world-wide coalition has broken with a vengeance on the streets of Seattle. Some of this has featured in television news segments, but the depth and scope of the organised opposition has only appeared in fragments in a large number of reports. A state-of-emergency was declared in Seattle, and the National Guard called in to help over-stretched State authorities.

It is evident that the vast majority of those attending were committed to non-violence, with only a splinter group of anarchists causing damage.

The most distasteful, if not suprising, result was the immediate attempt by President Clinton to identify with the demonstrators. One comment claimed that this was an attempt to boost the presidential hopes of Al Gore, who is wooing the labour movement in the US. Unions were massively represented in Seattle, protesting the loss of jobs and wage levels as a result of free trade.

It is beyond the scope of *On Target* to provide detailed coverage. The best we can do is give selections from the multitude of reports covering the "battle in Seattle":

"... In full-page advertisements yesterday, sponsored by groups ranging from the Rain-forest Action network to the United Steelworkers of America, the charge was that the WTO is emerging as the world's first global government. Beneath a picture of a faceless man, the text is:

"WTO decisions are made in secret, closed tribunals - like the old star chambers - where unelected, faceless bureaucrats sit in final judgement over the constitutional rights of nations. Their decisions affect your job, human rights, public health, food safety, the environment and democracy'. It was clear yesterday the WTO already had lost a public relations battle" (Cameron Forbes, Seattle, *The Australian*, 1/12/99)

"... Thousands of steelworkers are expected in Seattle, to remind Washington that they would be extremely upset if the world "anti-dumping" appears in the WTO's final communique. And it is not just the workers. Manufacturers are standing alongside their workers, seeking to preserve what they believe is their right to protect their industry" (Florence Chong, *The Australian*, 1/12/99)

"...The Clinton Administration yesterday sought to turn wild protests against the World Trade Organisation in Seattle to its advantage and put labour and environmental standards onto the summit agenda.

"The WTO summit, which is intended to launch a new round of trade liberalisation talks, was severely disrupted for a second day as thousands of protesters clashed with heavily armed riot police in the city centre.

"Some trade delegates were virtually imprisoned inside their hotels and the start of the talks was delayed for hours. Police fired tear gas canisters and pepper spray to break up the largely non-violent, mostly young, white demonstrators" (Joanne Gray, Seattle, *Australian Financial Review*, 2/12/99)

"...With organisers numbering in the hundreds, the network co-ordinated the myriad small groups and individuals. A sub-group called the Ruckus Society has been training demonstrators in non-violent protest since mid year.

"The American Federation of Labour-Congress of Industrial Organisations is the largest US labour federation. It made its point yesterday with between 25,000 and 30,000 workers taking to the streets

"US labour federations want a place at the WTO table. They say they are losing their jobs to low-wage labour in developing nations, and are asking for the right to organise worldwide. They also want international agreements against child labour and sweatshopsSteelworkers Union members have been locked out of their jobs at five Kaiser Aluminium plants in the US after going on strike a year ago. They say their jobs have been taken by non-union scabs and gone to such countries as Ghana and Venezuela.

"The Washington Association of Churches' United Church Council is concerned with human rights, child labour, and hunger. It has rallied many mainstream Christians and has brought hundreds of people to the protests from all over America.

Jubilee 2000 is a coalition calling for the cancellation of debts of the world's poorest countries. It is well-funded and well organised" (*The Australian*, 2/12/99)

"...Business groups attending the WTO meeting were taken aback by the protests, which showed they would have to do more to explain how trade creates jobs and cuts costs.

"We assumed everyone understood why trade is good", said Mr Randy Pebble, director of the US Trade Alliance, a grouping of business consortia. "This shows we have to explain why."" (Joanne Gray, Seattle, *Australian Financial Review*, 2/12/99)

Unfortunately, there were no reports of those speaking for the hundreds of thousands of Australians whose jobs have been exported overseas by the insane, blinkered global policies of successive governments – Hawke, Keating and now Howard. But even in Australia there's an awakening – and it's going to be much tougher for men like Mark Vaile, Peter Reith, Peter Costello, old Uncle Tom Cobleigh and All in the future.

Afterthought: What a golden opportunity the ALP is missing!

CORPORATE FUNDING FOR THE PARTY: There is now no pretence about where party funds are coming from. It remains as true as ever that "he who pays the piper calls the tune". Here's one example:

"Corporate heavyweights have bolstered the debt-ridden NSW Liberals coffers by a further \$300,000 at the first Millennium Forum fundraiser at Sydney's Westin Hotel.

" New Liberal donors include Mr Kerry Packer's PBL., Adler Corp., Merrill Lynch, Wood Coffil Funerals, property developer Australand Holdings, Deutsche Bank, Delta Gold, and Chubb Security ...Each of the 60 new sponsors signed in past weeks has paid from \$10,000 to \$175,000 for sponsorship entitlements to the Millennium Forum, reducing the party's \$3.6 million debt by more than one-third" (*The Australian Financial Review*, 2/12/99)

So what's the *quid pro quo*?

RECORD SUICIDE LEVELS by Alfred King:

In the same week that Australia recorded yet another record current account deficit, increasing fears of another interest rate, figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics' "*Causes of Death*" Report show that young men are killing themselves at a greater rate than ever before. Suicide is the main cause of death for men under 44. These two news items are not unrelated.

Men aged 25 to 44 have the highest suicide rate of all Australians: 37 out of 100,000 committed suicide in 1998. The highest suicide rate for women is also in the same age range. In a scene reminiscent of the Treasurer telling us recently that the Australian economy is in great shape, *The Age* quotes the Federal Health Minister, Dr. Michael Wooldridge as saying, "*it was pleasing that there had been a slight decline in last year's suicide total*" (men and women)!

In recent years we have also seen the reintroduction, through increased immigration and imported goods to our country, of fatal diseases that had previously been eliminated from Australia, and record numbers of abortions while large numbers of infertile married couples are forced to go overseas, paying \$20,000 to \$30,000 to adopt and provide a loving home for a child. Dr. Wooldridge's title would more aptly be the Federal Death Minister.

The Liberals want government departments to be run along commercial lines. They can start with their own government. If the minister responsible for increasing the health of Australians produces the opposite result, he should be sacked with no pension. Perhaps, if he and the rest of 'our' government were made to live under the same conditions as the rest of ordinary Australians he might have a clue, at least, of the terrible destruction that is being exacted on our people by their (small l) liberal internationalist policies. In the natural world, the feedback we get from the decisions that we make, tells us whether or not we are on the right track. In our present political system, elites make our decisions without consulting us. It is the people who have to suffer the consequences, and when they turn out to be the opposite of that predicted by the elites, they blame the people! There is no honesty in the outworking of liberal ideology.

The fact is that the greatest source of stress in our lives today is debt-finance. It produces many different manifestations. At one end of the scale, it is literally killing us. Finance is a man-made system. It should be used for the benefit of people by giving them access to the productive potential of their own country. As C.H. Douglas has rightly pointed out: there is a conspiracy to deny each person access to the productive potential that resides in credit. Money is merely a token that allows a person access (consume) to the production of his nation. Money (credit) is issued against the productive capacity of a nation. It belongs to the nation as a whole, not to any one individual or elite group.

This fact is perverted under the debt-finance system, which is in the control of men who have claimed ownership of all money in society, plus their 5%. This can never be repaid because the extra 5% does not exist. What becomes of a debtor who cannot repay his debts? The borrower (the Australian people) is the servant to the lender (the Reserve Bank /IMF/ World Bank).

In material terms, we in Australia need have no problem whatsoever in providing all we need, and indeed, prosper. We could provide this in a fraction of the current working week, and would have plenty to share with each other and those in need overseas, leaving time over in which to pursue the higher things in life than mere commercialism. But our access to the necessities of life is being strangled, with the resulting massive stresses in our society. Let our people go free. Let us live.

IN BRIEF: An encouraging story from the UK this week demonstrates the dramatic effect even one (determined and well equipped) person can have. Sir Cliff Richard is a 'born again' Christian who isn't afraid to share his joys with others. His most recent record is called *Millennium Prayer*: it is a rendition of the Lord's Prayer set to the tune of *Auld Lang Syne*. The prospect of release of this religiously discriminatory record brought the full weight of the establishment's opposition against it. Sir Cliff's record company, EMI, refused to release *Millennium Prayer* in Britain: and Britain's most listened to radio station, Radio 2, which normally plays middle of the road music and would have been a perfect medium, refused to play it. The commercial radio stations also refused to play it. At this point, things looked very bleak for the success of the record.

Not to be beaten, Sir Cliff went to Papillon Records, a small independent company, and persuaded them to release the single. It very quickly went to number one, and has enjoyed massive sales. How money talks... EMI are now extremely keen to release the single in Australia in time for the Christmas rush. Readers may well enjoy this record themselves.

Recommended reading: *"I'm Only One"* \$3.50 posted.

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