



A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

ON TARGET



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The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance –

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: *"This departure from the Christian conceptions would be less serious if Christians were less confused about it. The prevailing idea of justice has become comparative; a matter of 'fairness' in the distribution of rewards and punishments between classes or individuals, rather than that which is based upon Natural Law and the sanctity of agreement between free and responsible men.*

"So much has been heard . . . of the principle of 'no taxation without representation' that we are in danger of forgetting that representation is a secondary thing . . . Consent is the fundamental thing, and it is the implications of consent to taxation which seem to be insufficiently appreciated."

"The Just Tax" by Geoffrey Dobbs, 1964

DEBT-FOR-EQUITY-SWAPS by Jeremy Lee:

Those who can recall the gathering politicisation of the conservation movement at the end of the '80s will remember the first mention of the idea of "debt-for-equity-swaps". The theme was set out in an article in *The Chicago Tribune* (20/9/1987) in an article headed BANKS STRIKE DEAL WITH CONSERVATIONISTS. It said:

"ESTES PARK, Colorado: At the edge of Rocky Mountain National Park last week, some of the world's most powerful bankers advanced a bold new strategy for dealing with environmental degradation in the Third World. Their plan is to use the immense debts owed by many impoverished countries to pressure them into taking steps to conserve their threatened environments Dubbed a "debt-for-nature-swap" the plan calls for outside forces to pay off parts of a targeted country's outstanding debts in exchange for concessions to protect natural regions. The proposal was advanced last week to a largely enthralled audience of diplomats, scientists and conservationists from 52 countries at an 8-day series of presentations The 4th World Wilderness Conference Congress meetings are held every four years in different countries to allow UN officials and a number of major conservation groups to discuss urgent environmental issues. Among those at the Colorado Conference backing the new approach to Third World ecology were David Rockefeller of the Chase Manhattan Bank and Edmund de Rothschild of the European banking empire

"At sessions attended by Rockefeller, Rothschild and other major world figures (Canadian banker) Michael Sweatman advocated setting up a 'World Conservation Bank' to make such deals But many of the Estes Park participants, with equal fervour, laid much of the blame for the current crisis at the feet of these self-same bankers, whose loans have financed so many of the disastrous development

projects While many at the conference seemed enthralled by the smooth presentations from Sweatman, Rockefeller and Rothschild, others were sceptical and noted that it was bankers like them who did so much to cause the very problems they now want to solve. At one session, Dr. Raymond Dasmann, of the University of California at Santa Cruz, told Sweatman and an audience of several hundred, 'Beware of bankers bearing gifts'"

One of the official hosts at the Fourth World Wilderness Conference, Mr. George Hunt of Boulder Colorado, issued his own report, warning of the proposed formation of a World Conservation Bank, capitalised with trillions of dollars. Much of the proposal was contained in the innocent-sounding **REPORT OF THE WORLD COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT.**

Now a press statement issued by Queensland Senator Len Harris (One Nation) warns of the latest developments. He says:

"The cat is out of the world heritage bag – here comes the World Bank's debt swap for our so-called World Heritage areas. These vast tracts of North Queensland are in the process of being officially valued by none other than the chairman of the Wet Tropics Management Authority, Tor Hundloe in conjunction with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

"Also an economist, Mr. Hundloe published his comments in the Courier-Mail in April giving yet the strongest signs of the World Bank utilising our natural resources to help pay off our staggering \$200 billion overseas debt.

"Entry fees are being proposed for visitors to areas defined as World Heritage or of high conservation and cultural heritage value.

"Mr. Hundloe said the World Bank has prepared a report entitled 'Expanding the Measure of Wealth' analysing the dollar-value of agricultural land, pastoral land, forests, national parks, metals and minerals, coal, oil and natural gas. All of these commodities represent the basis of Australia's natural wealth"

Senator Harris's allegations deserve attention. A series of blunt, direct questions should be directed to all Coalition members. The National Party particularly (if there is any life left) should be speaking out against the obvious bastardisation being directed to Australia's remaining family farms. A host of draconian conservation measures are making life impossible for farmers. In Queensland – although it is impossible to get hold of the draft legislation – farmers are likely to have large parts of their farms 'neutralised' when areas 50 metres either sides of creeks, rivers and water-courses are declared environmental areas. Legislation regarding water commodification is equally dangerous.

ABORIGINAL ISSUES HOTTING UP: A former Federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Peter Howson, has written some urgently-needed common sense (*The Australian*, 24/5/2000). Pointing out that 70 per cent of Aborigines now live in urban communities, and that 64 per cent are married (*de facto* or *de jure*) to non-aboriginal spouses, Howson said of the small remainder living in non-urban areas:

"The traditional communities have land, but they have effectively become economic and cultural prisons where the residents are almost totally dependent on the dead-end of social welfare. Tragically, within those communities there is virtually no civil society as it exists elsewhere. As a matter of urgency, that must be restored by proper policing and education"

Speaking of the 'beat-up' surrounding the so-called Stolen Generation, Howson said:

"....*The conclusion of Ronald Wilson (a former High Court judge – ed.) in his Bringing Them Home report that between one-tenth and one-third of Aboriginal children were 'stolen' has lost all credibility in the light of evidence in test cases in N.S.W. and the Northern Territory.*

"*Wilson's claim that the removal of mixed-blood children constituted 'genocide' is absurd. However, that has attracted the attention of the U.N. committee that investigates racial discrimination. Indeed, an international journal has already published an article highlighting the resulting potential for Australia to be hounded as the world's next pariah*"

All of which bears out Ivor Benson's warning that, after the destruction of Rhodesia and South Africa, the multinational guns would be aimed at Australia.

THE INTERNATIONAL MEDIA AND ABORIGINES: With the Olympics almost on us, the international media is now producing a spate of articles on Australia's Aborigines, many factually erroneous. Dennis Shanahan (*The Weekend Australian*, 22-23/5/00), gave some examples. An article in *The International Herald Tribune*, distributed in Europe and parts of Asia, "....*included claims that 100,000 children of the stolen generation had been put into institutions where they were sexually abused and maltreated by priests and nuns* Charles Perkins outburst about burning cars at the Olympics as part of Aboriginal protests were quoted at length. It is clear that those claims have well and truly entered the international journalistic lexicon and will be used time and time again The wave of publicity has not peaked – that will happen when more than 3,500 journalists and photographers arrive in Sydney for the Olympics This, of course, will not prevent the rest of the world from using facts, half-facts, innuendo and downright smear to blacken Australia's name as a tolerant society....."

TOWARDS A NATIONAL AGENDA by Betty Luks:

In November 1988 I attended a "One Day Workshop" convened by the office of Multicultural Affairs (O.M.A.). The title given for the workshop was "*Towards a National Agenda for a Multicultural Australia*".

All discussion was based on the policy of a "multicultural Australia" and centred on the question of how to impose it on the Australian people – the E.S.B. ones ("English speaking background" ones).

Legislation must originate from the Commonwealth because the Commonwealth Government had the lever (power) to force change through its control of the national pursestrings and tied grants.

Local Government got a mention; it was believed not enough attention had been given to this arm of government and as tied grants were paid to Local Governments it was essential specific, task designated "agents of change" kept check on them to ensure the "tied grants" were used for the specific policy intended.

The Auditor General's Department was to check on this – this process is called "mainstreaming".

The "agents of change" were to monitor the "outcome" and "Multicultural Australia" was about institutional change.

As I travel around Queensland I can see very clearly that this "process of change" is well entrenched within Local Government structures.

The "agents of change" are setting up "networks" right around Australia – even to small communities in remote places.

Local Government councillors and staff are sent on "junket" "training programmes" where such people as Noel Pearson, Aboriginal activist, are the keynote speakers. What the indoctrinated take in is then brought back to the local community and implemented.

"Nebo News", a Local Government newsletter, wrote of the "Positive Rural Futures Conference held in Cooktown, Qld., where Noel Pearson in his keynote address said, *"Reconciliation is for everyone, it is not just black and white, it is multicultural. . ."*

"Working in partnership" was the other key word of the conference and a David Wilson, International speaker, spoke on Heritage and Cultural Development.

The "agents of change" are receiving their training and we can expect to see the process of networking and mainstreaming more clearly as time goes on.

Opinion – THE WOMEN VERSUS THE WIMMIN IN NEW YORK by Antonia Feitz:

Some 10,000 women from 189 countries are meeting in New York this week for a special U.N. session to evaluate progress in women's affairs *after the 1995 big (and expensive) gabfest in Beijing*. As usual, this expensive gabfest has little to do with women's rights or equality and everything to do with furthering the feminist and homosexual agendas.

The delegates have split into two camps. **On one side is the Group of 77 representing a U.N. voting bloc of 138 developing nations** in Latin America, Africa, China and the Middle East. **Opposing them are the developed countries such as Australia, New Zealand, Canada, U.S., and the E.U.** And the reason for the split?

Far from even pretending to work towards advancing the status of and opportunities for women in the poorer countries, *the rich countries are obsessed with gender politics. They're demanding that men and women share equally in household responsibilities, for Pete's sake.* This is an area where no government, let alone the U.N., should have any say. But worse, *the decadent rich countries are demanding sexual 'rights' for minors including private and confidential sexual and reproductive information, counselling and services – i.e. contraception and abortion – through national policies and programmes.*

The U.S. is challenging the G-77 group's insistence that any such programmes should be subject to national sovereignty *allowing countries with traditional cultures to pass*, thanks all the same. The G-77 have also shocked the rich countries by calling on world governments to *"promote responsible sexual behaviour, including abstinence"* (Washington Post, 5/6/2000). In response, the developed group's delegates want the U.N. report to *"intensify research on . . . microbicides and vaccines . . . , provide access to adequate and affordable treatment and care for people with sexually transmitted diseases, H.I.V. ..."*

Aren't feminists pathetic. *If they didn't champion promiscuity in the first place they wouldn't waste such time, effort and money on researching and treating venereal diseases.* What an insult such U.N. reports are to the chaste people of the world. **How grotesque that they focus on sexual 'rights'** instead of such necessities as education and employment opportunities. *Or even clean water.*

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