



A WEEKLY COMMENTARY



ON TARGET

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The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance –

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: *"...his logic was a little lacking. Would the pure-minded visitors from Bongo-Bongo be hurrying up the hall to read what Adolf Collins has to say? Come to think of it, his logic was more than a little lacking because in the great majority of the Commonwealth countries, freedom of speech and human rights are as rare as cold beer in the Sahara.*

"Try opening your mouth wide in Ghana. Or Nigeria. Or Malaysia. Or Pakistan. In most such blessed lands you would end up in the clink or be fed to the crocodiles faster than you could say 'wealth' let alone 'Commonwealth'.

"Only in the United Nations itself could you find a greater group of pirates, killers, swindlers, scroungers and hypocrites. Instead of being down on their knees giving thanks for the help they get from the West, the Commonwealth folk never cease howling that we've done them wrong..."

– "Here We Go Again: Battle Against Censorship", Doug Collins, 1998

DAUNTING HORIZON by Jeremy Lee:

The excellent performances of our athletes, and the magnificent opening ceremony for the Olympics has partially obscured the quite horrendous events now gathering to confront Australia as we move to the last quarter of 2000.

We must now accept that oil prices are not going down in the near future. In fact, we are now being warned that average prices in capital cities will top \$1 a litre in the next few days.

Why this should be so when Australia produces 70% of its own requirements at a cost of about \$9 per barrel is only mystifying to those who have not yet realised that our Federal Government is now simply another corporation, acting in concert with other corporations. Escalating oil prices have proved a real bonanza for the Commonwealth.

As this article is being written the Australian dollar has fallen to its lowest ever – below US54 cents. It will probably go lower – some predictions even tipping below the 50 cent mark.

The 'gurus' are surprised, reiterating the nonsense that Australia has had an unprecedented wave of prosperity that should have forestalled such a fall. Others are beginning to face the truth. Looming on the near horizon is another Asian calamity like the August 1997 meltdown. The Korean Stock Exchange, for instance, has fallen by 8% in the last few days. This time, Australia will not escape the tidal waves. Robin Brumby, writing in *The Australian* (20/9/2000), commented: "....Any regional financial crisis will come at a time when Australia is looking especially vulnerable, as our dollar goes

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goes into freefall, foreign debt piles up (and gets more expensive to service with a lower dollar) monthly current account figures continue gloomy, and oil prices rise"

This is an accurate picture, but one we have not noticed Treasurer Costello openly revealing to Australians.

GLOBALISTS MOVE FROM MELBOURNE TO SYDNEY: As anticipated in last week's *On Target*, the global glitterati have shifted from Melbourne's Crown Casino to Sydney's Homebush. *The Australian Financial Review* described it thus on September 15th: "After spending massive amounts of shareholders' funds to bankroll the Olympics, some of Australia's top CEOs aren't about to miss the chance to spruik their brands a little further when the carnival kicks off tonight.

"Attending the opening ceremony will be the biggest collection of corporate heavies under one roof in this country since, well, this week's World Economic Forum in Melbourne. Among others, expect to see local heroes like Telstra's Ziggy Switowski, Frank Lowy, AMP's Paul Batchelor, BHP's Paul Anderson, Westpac's David Morgan, Fairfax's Fred Hilmer, News Ltd's Lachlan Murdoch, Seven Network's Kerry Stokes and Foster's Ted Kunkel.

"Between them they have spent several hundred million dollars to have their names up in lights for the Games. And for the next fortnight they'll be doing some serious schmoozing"

CONTINUING RIPPLES FROM FORUM: Debate about the World Economic Forum and globalism continues to grow. Klaus Schwab, the WEF's founder, was asked in an interview (*AFR*, 15/9/2000): ".... Is the Forum elitist, as the protesters would claim?"

"I feel it is relatively easy to say the people meeting in Davos – the rich and the powerful – are ganging up against mankind. But our motive is to improve the state of the world"

Considering the World Economic Forum consists of 1,000 dues-paying members which include many of the world's transnational giants, Schwab's altruism sounds less than sincere.

Tony Walker, in another article in the same issue, argued that politicians would be hard at work getting their minds round the growing opposition to globalism: "..... Indeed, John Howard groped in his dinner speech to the World Economic Forum to explain the phenomenon and his words were careful, and largely non-condemnatory. 'To some, globalisation is a mere stalking horse for all that is not right in the world,' he said. 'The collective responsibility we all hold, in government and business, is to convince people otherwise.'

"Of course, when politicians are faced with the inexplicable, such as the anger of people about their lot in the midst of the most protracted boom in Australian economic history, they fall back on the need to improve the message, as if basic policies and actions for which they are ultimately responsible are in no way at fault"

Paul Kelly, after describing protesters as ".... a broad coalition of the old and new left, workers, greenies, students, Trotskyites, aid groups, students, feminists, academics, anarchists, socialists and, significantly, the trade union movement" (*Weekend Australian*, 16-17/9/2000), went on: ".... The 10,000-strong protest movement had two victories this week: it drew public attention to its anti-globalisation cause, and it ensured that the World Economic Forum (a talkfest of the most senior corporate executives to visit this country) won't come back to Australia. The WEF's usual Asian locations, Singapore and Hong Kong, are a safer bet without our democratic excesses"

What an admission! The day seems to be approaching where these global-elite gatherings won't be possible in any democratic country.

MORE PROTESTS: The next round of protests is following hard on the heels of Melbourne. *The Australian Financial Review* (19/9/2000) gave this picture: "Forget the Prague Spring. Czech

authorities are bracing themselves for what they fear could be a much more violent 'Prague Autumn' of protests as anti-globalisation activists turn their attention to the biggest event in the financial world's calendar, the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank which begin in Prague this week.

"Fresh from their attack on the World Economic Forum in Melbourne earlier this month, thousands of demonstrators have pledged to maintain their rage in the picturesque Central European city This time the target of the protesters will be the world's top capitalists – the estimated 18,000 bankers, finance ministers and central bankers who are expected to attend the first annual meeting of the IMF and World Bank to be held in post-communist central Europe"

Eighteen thousand bankers in one gathering! Things are certainly hotting up!

CARDINAL WARNS OF IMMIGRATION DANGERS: The Catholic Archbishop of Bologna, Cardinal Giacomo Biffi, has advocated the barring of any more Islamic immigrants into Italy. His remarks have caused a political storm. Further Islamic immigration could, he said, threaten Italy's identity.

"....Europe must return to Christianity or Islam will win" (*The Courier-Mail*, Qld., 16/9/2000). "Cardinal Biffi's views outraged leaders of the country's 1.3 million Muslims as well as government ministers and civil rights groups"

With over a million Muslims in Italy, Biffi's warning may be too late. It should be a cause for reflection in Australia, which recorded over 200,000 Muslims at the last census in 1996, with a rise through immigration and illegal boat people since then.

UNITED NATIONS IN MORE TROUBLE: We thought the UN had enough difficulties. Now comes the news that former Foreign Minister Gareth Evans – Fabian and one-time Humanist of the Year – has been appointed joint-chair of a study into how to improve the United Nation's ability to intervene in national crises. *The Australian Financial Review*, 15/9/2000, reported: ".... *The International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty* was launched at the UN's New York headquarters yesterday, receiving \$2.5 million in funding from the Canadian and British governments and several private groups, including the Carnegie Council on Ethics and International Affairs and the Rockefeller Foundation"

COMMON CURRENCY: The Editorial in *The Wall Street Journal* (18/9/2000) canvassed the possibility of a common currency between Australia and New Zealand. This was the subject of the lead article in May's *New Times Survey*, the League's monthly intelligence journal. The Editorial went on: ".... But consider one other possibility. If the case for a common currency between the two is strong, the case for using the US dollar is even stronger ..."

Treasurer Costello is playing sceptical about a common Anzac dollar. Perhaps he knows what the next step is intended to be?

LATEST U.N. MEMBER: The latest nation to become a fully-fledged member of the United Nations is Tuvalu, about half way between Hawaii and Australia. Total population – about 10,000, or less than one-third the size of Kalgoorlie. Its vote will be the equivalent of India's with 1 billion people.

ANOTHER SIDE TO THE COIN: The following article was sent to *On Target* by an elderly Queensland reader, one of several who travelled to Melbourne for the protests against the World Economic Forum:

"The S11 blockade at the Crown Casino in Melbourne against the World Economic Forum as seen through the eyes of a League supporter may be of interest to other League supporters.

"There were consistent reports of about 10,000 protesters, but the media played the numbers down to much less, and quoted the police presence at about 2,000. This could be correct as concrete and wire mesh barricades were erected right round the Casino, which occupies two city blocks on the banks of the Yarra river. Except for the river front there was an unbroken line of police surrounding the whole Casino. In addition to these police there was a tactical response force of about 200 police (at least we *think* they were police but they could easily have been imported KGB thugs).

"The peaceful intent of the crowd was always evident and encouraged by the many marshalls with loud-hailers. There were a few in the crowd who tried to initiate violence, but they were quickly over-ridden by the crowd who would start to chant 'NO VIOLENCE - THE WORLD IS WATCHING'.

"In spite of media reports the only violence was initiated and committed by the tactical response force which moved round standing in front of crowds all day, intimidating them. On the first and second mornings they viciously attacked the barricade at the entrance to the Casino. They failed to break the barricade on the first morning but with their numbers doubled broke it on the second day. They attacked at the double, belting with their batons and kicking some people on the ground. I saw one woman with a policeman's foot on her neck. It appeared to me that they had instructions to break the barricade at all costs.

"The most encouraging aspect of the protest was the presence of thousands of young people, many from universities in WA, SA, NSW, QLD and VIC.

"A lot of them were from the Green Movement who were upset at the multinationals' disregard for our environment. However, they were all keen to learn and I always had a ready audience. The Socialist Party was very evident and moved round during the three days telling us that they would fix everything when they gained control! The Communist speakers were there telling us that the answer is World Communism. I spoke to a Russian Communist who said the trouble with Australia is that we are not controlled enough and that all wages should be the same; so he was there because the WEF delegates are being paid too much. I tried to counter the various speeches by small self-interest groups by saying that parties divide and issues unite, so let's put aside our differences until we have regained democracy, and dealt with the main issue of opposing WORLD CENTRALISED GOVERNMENT. My message was short and to the point. 'We have lost democracy when we accept the practice of political parties requiring their candidates to sign an agreement to only vote as directed by the party, etc. To start retrieving our democracy we must only vote for Independents, putting the major parties last. Then when we have regained some independent representation we have a hope of regaining free speech, and our differences can be debated openly.'

"The S11 bringing together of a multitude of Australians who, in the main, were seeking knowledge about the plight of Australia and looking for answers was, I believe, a wonderful opportunity for League supporters to help them find their way. I know that there were other League supporters there, although I did not run into any at the rally. But I believe that had League supporters been encouraged to be there as individuals our message would have reached many thousands more willing ears than was the case. However, perhaps we can learn from this and in the future encourage our well-equipped supporters to attend as many 'protest' gatherings as possible, to spread the word and motivate new informed supporters. It is not necessary that we all be great orators. Just talking all day one-on-one or to a small group is a very effective way of by-passing the mainstream media. Just remember that 6 to the power of 6 is 60 million." - Ted Paterson

