




ON TARGET

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The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance –

Print Post Publication Number 381667 00258

Vol.36, No.39

October 13th, 2000

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: *"The social and political order is inevitably affected by the monetary system. Whoever creates a nation's money rules that nation, and, inversely, without the prerogative of issue, no government rules in fact as well as in name."*

"Kings ruled as well as reigned as long as they coined their subjects' money; with the loss of that right, surreptitiously wrested from them by the banks, they lost their independence, since when their policies and those of the presidents and parliaments that have succeeded them in executive authority have been dictated from the wings by bankers. The revolutionary effects of the change have become clearer with the years. A monarch is by definition a supreme authority whose function is to administer justice and promote the common good; a banker is a businessman out to make a profit."

– *"Money and the Modern World"* by Andrei Krylienko, 1995

CORPORATISING THE SNOWY HYDRO SCHEME by Betty Luks:

Presented as a great political breakthrough and a magnificent bid to rescue the Snowy River from extinction *The Australian* (7-8/10/2000) announced the deal between the Federal, NSW and Victorian State Governments, with "John Howard pledging to 'take a constructive attitude' to a groundbreaking two-state pact to save the ailing waterway."

Victorian Premier Steve Bracks said "the deal had historical resonance. To leave behind a legacy of the Snowy River running again for future generations ... is something" he is very proud of. Not to be outdone, New South Wales Premier, Bob Carr conceded, "the river's salvation owed much to Victorian Labor's reliance on Save the Snowy Independent MP Craig Ingram".

Presented as a great achievement for all concerned – a win-win situation for us all – it is only when we read the fine print does it hit home at what cost to the Australian people is the 'flow' of the river to be achieved.

The Snowy River Hydro-scheme is being set up to be corporatised! The next step in the process will more than likely be 'privatisation'.

The States' \$300 million rescue deal approved by Howard "will be administered by a joint venture company between the States... The new body, yet to be named, will dole out money on a range of water saving projects..."

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In his book "*Water's Fall*" Christopher Sheil, visiting fellow in the school of history at the University of New South Wales, explains how the government version of 'corporatisation' works.

"The theory of corporatisation has one objective around which all its other rationales are clustered, or from which all its justifications are derived. It aims to increase the commercial value of public assets... it seeks to increase the rate-of-return on public assets, as measured against, and in competition with, the returns available from other comparable market investment opportunities... In plain words, the idea is to convert water and other public services into valuable corporate commercial activities, which means subordinating public content to commercial imperatives."

Mr. Sheil tells us, "Since the 1990-91 special premiers' conferences, corporatisation has practically become universal." He goes on to list the corporatisation of government bodies once responsible for Australia's water supplies: Hunter, Sydney, Melbourne, West Australia, South Australia, Hobart and Northern Territory water authorities. It was attempted by the ACT government in 1999 but the move was defeated by the ACT's parliament.

PRIVATISATION NEXT STEP? Judging by their track record, the Howard Government's next step will be to sell off the Snowy Hydro corporation – privatise – and examples of this likely scenario are many. In 1991 the NSW government approved the construction of four privately built, owned and operated water treatment plants and has since sold off its public irrigation schemes in the Murrumbidgee, Murray and Lachlan Valleys.

South Australia is streaks ahead in the 'privatisation' of its water resources. Professor Shiel writes, "In 1995 it contracted out the entire management, operation and maintenance of Adelaide's water and sewerage system, including its capital works programme... (the government) has also sold its corporation's manufacturing and fabrication division, and opted for building ten private water treatment plants."

He reminds us that these utilities "have the most natural of geographic monopolies". Quite!

Corporatisation and then Privatisation of Australia's water resources is simply a sneaky way of 'globalising' our water. It is the surrender of our local and community assets and resources to the transnational corporations who are – usually – the buyers of these assets and resources.

We have been warned of the grim state of Australia's environment by *the State of the Environment Report* released in 1996 by the *Environment Advisory Committee*. *The Executive Summary* released by the Minister of Environment, Senator Robert Hill, says that Australians are destroying their environment through population growth, land clearing and the overuse of water resources.

Although Australia "has the highest per capita quantity of fresh water of any nation (primarily because of its low population density not because of its richness of water resources)...this is threatened by the pollution of its waterways by salts, sediments, sewage, agricultural and industrial pollution and algal blooms" warns Dr. Joseph Smith *Healing a Wounded World*. Quoting R. Humphries *Greenpeace Australia News* 3 1992, he writes, "In 1991 (algal) blooms rendered water in South Australia's two biggest fresh water lakes, Albert and Alexandrina, unfit for human consumption and contact, for more than three months. If the Murray-Darling Basin becomes subject to further algal bloom pollution, not only would fresh water for Adelaide, the capital of South Australia, be threatened, but \$AUS10,000 million worth of agricultural production would also be endangered."

It has been said that the shape of global conflict in the twenty-first century may well be based on water.

You can be sure that the frightening powers involved in the control of water has not escaped the notice of the One Worlders. Water is the first necessity of life, but is easily centralised; and yet one of the first conditions on which we live upon this earth is that it should be to a large extent, decentralised. History records the control of water was the basis upon which the first centralised State arose on the banks of the Nile.

We were told "God sends the rain on the just and the unjust" but such an arrangement is not what the One Worlders have in mind. They would prefer that the rain should be gathered into one place – or under centralised control – and then 'delegated' at their pleasure.

South Australians – in particular – are at the end of the water life-line (the Murray River); the corporatisation and privatisation of water resources should be of serious concern to them.

A DARK MOMENT FOR AUSTRALIA by Nigel Jackson:

The case of Mr. Konrad Kalejs, Mr. Antanas Gudelis and other Australians in danger of being extradited to Latvia, Lithuania or elsewhere to face charges of war crimes and genocide relating to WWII. The following public statement was sent to Prime Minister John Howard with a request urging him to appoint an impartial and independent legal tribunal to assess the situation.

Yesterday, the three main newspapers read in Melbourne (30/9/2000) announced that Latvia has pressed such charges against Konrads Kalejs and that his extradition to Latvia now appears likely.

The *Herald Sun* quoted "prominent Jewish businessman Joseph Gutnick" as saying that Mr. Kalejs "must not be allowed to flee Australia and escape justice". Such a statement appears to equate justice with condemnation.

The *Age* quoted "Australia Israel Jewish Affairs Council executive director Dr. Colin Rubenstein" as welcoming the Latvian decision and urging the Australian Government "to act expeditiously to ensure that Mr. Kalejs is available for extradition to Latvia the moment a request is in hand from Latvian authorities." The *Australian* also published Dr. Rubenstein's views.

None of the three newspapers included any statements by Australians opposed to extraditions such as that proposed for Mr. Kalejs, nor any statements by Mr. Kalejs himself or by spokespeople for the Latvian and Lithuanian communities in Australia.

Nor did these newspapers show any sign of concern at the possibility that the proposed treatment of men in their late eighties in such a context might not only be unjust and inhumane, but even likely to cause a deep blot of dishonour on the record of Australian justice.

The reports were characteristic. It is fair to claim that the whole issue of proceedings against so-called "Nazi war criminals" has not been adequately discussed in the Australian media and other intellectual forums during the past year or more.

Many substantial reasons can be adduced to show that men like Mr. Kalejs should not be subject to

such extraditions. They are too old and frail to be able to adequately defend themselves. The events concerned happened too long ago and in a context of war, in which ordinary human behaviour cannot be expected. Many of the witnesses that defendants might need are dead. Disquieting reports have occasionally appeared which suggest that Latvia and Lithuania may have been under improper pressure to proceed with actions against Mr. Kalejs and others. These matters have been brought to the attention of the Prime Minister and not satisfactorily answered.

Distinguished Melbourne barrister Dr. I.C.F. Spry has published a major argument against such extraditions, but it appears to have been ignored by the Government and the major media alike.

Under the circumstances a prima facie case can be mounted that Australia is in the process of witnessing a bi-partisan acquiescence by Government and opposition (for ALP justice spokesman Mr. Duncan Kerr has also applauded the moves towards extradition, as reported in *The Australian*) in a campaign initiated for their own interests by the Jewish lobbies in Australia and overseas.

In this case there is the possibility of very great corruption at the highest levels of government in Australia in a matter which could set precedents involving the civic rights of all Australians.

There is an old saying that justice must not only be done but must be seen to be done...

These serious concerns cannot be lightly laid aside. Thus, I suggest that the Prime Minister should establish an independent Australian legal tribunal, chaired by someone of the calibre of, say, former High Court chief justice Sir Harry Gibbs, to assess the whole situation... I call upon the Prime Minister and the Australian Government to ensure that our nation creates no "Australian Demjanjiks".

THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST MR. KALEJS:

What a pity Mr. Kalejs does not have 'the ear of government' as does Michael Danby, Federal Member for Melbourne Ports, as he "unrelentingly pressures the government" to extradite Mr. Kalejs to Latvia. The following letter appeared in *The Australian Jewish News*, 22/9/2000.

"... With the support of the Opposition, I have unrelentingly pressured the government to expedite the treaty that would legally allow Australia to extradite Kalejs. This was recently approved by parliament with Labor Opposition support. We must not rest until Kalejs, an officer in the SS, who has been convicted to a criminal standard of evidence for war crimes in Canada and the United States, is forced to leave this lucky country...

"It is laughable to portray Kalejs as too infirm to face charges. He was pictured in Melbourne's Herald Sun just three Saturday's ago, ambling around the suburbs of Melbourne near his home...

"I urge the nearly 10,000 people who have signed the petition calling for the deportation of Kalejs, to join the wife of the President of the United States, Hillary Clinton, and write to Prime Minister John Howard..."

Michael Danby, Federal Member for Melbourne Ports

