



A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

ON TARGET



- NEWS HIGHLIGHTS
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- COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance –

Print Post Publication Number 381667 00258

Vol.36, No.40

October 20th, 2000

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: *"The problem of equating the nation's means of consumption with the nation's means of production would be solved if every addition to price-value resulted in an equal addition to income... what we find...is that the Monetary Income of the nation, derived from the Productive system in the form of Wages, etc., is not equivalent to the price-values created in the same period. The two streams of Prices and Income do not move at the same rate and volume. The stream of Price-values to the shop window moves much faster than the stream of Money-tickets to the shopping public, with the result that the annual collective shopping tickets of the nation, called its Income, are insufficient to meet the collective annual Price-values created in its shop."*

"B.B.C. Speech on Social Credit" by A.R. Orage, 1934

LIKE A CRACKED RECORD by Jeremy Lee:

Surely there can be very few Australians who did not experience a thrill of pride when 150 horsemen, mounted superbly, swept at full gallop into the Olympic arena, each carrying an Australian flag, to mark the opening of the Games.

No sooner are the games over, however, than the small gaggle of flag-changers are at it again. Harold Scruby repeated his usual tirade in *The Australian* (6/10/2000), under the heading IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU HIT THE ROAD, JACK, with an opening paragraph full of wishful thinking:

"According to John Howard the Sydney Olympic Games have put back by a generation the cause of those who want to change the flag. Implicit in this remark is an acknowledgement that a new flag is inevitable. Like the republic, he knows it's not a matter of if but when"

Anyone who can read such an 'implicit' meaning in Howard's remarks must have been playing Bingo when the Games opening was taking place.

The Murdoch press can be expected to continue its flag and republic campaigns. Four days before the Scruby article, another paper in the Murdoch stable (*The Chronicle*, Toowoomba, 2/10) carried an editorial which said, in part: *"....If the Olympics have proved one thing, it is that Australia can stand tall as a sporting country, but more so as a mature, confident, multicultural society. Given that, I think the time has come to consider a change in our flag. I have always been cautious of this in the past, but now believe the time has come to do away with the Union Jack in the corner"*

This is astonishing! Was not Australia "mature" and "confident" before the Games? Of course it was – and is. A large part of its maturity is a grateful acknowledgement of its heritage as it faces the future.

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In a blazing response to the editorial, Flag Association Branch President Mr. John Brett reminded readers that during Bob Hawke's time, "....a corporate organisation called 'Austflag' was formed by a few wealthy and powerful people, who were to run a new competition to select a new flag to present to the Australian people.

"The new competition, with a substantial sum of money for the winner was held by Austflag and a winner found. Then the new prize-winning flag was presented to Australians, who were asked – via polls – to approve the new design. Well, it was an expensive disaster for they could not even reach a 5% approval rate

"After the Republic Referendum last year the approval rate (for the existing flag – ed.) got into the 90% plus area"

Six hundred pounding hooves have probably taken it over 100% by now!

WARNINGS FROM ASIAN LEADERS: Australia would do well to heed some timely warnings coming in our direction. Under the heading CHINA CHIEF: FREE TRADE SET TO DESTROY WEST'S LABOUR MARKETS, *The Chronicle* (Toowoomba, 19/9/2000) reported:

"One of China's top business executives said yesterday trade liberalisation would enable Asia to devastate the labour markets of Western countries.

"After listening to fellow speakers in a World Economic Forum (WEF) discussion on marketing to Asian consumers, Shanghai Tang chairman Mr. David Tang said the world should be more concerned about coping with the impact of lower trade barriers to China in their own markets.

"I wouldn't concentrate on the rest of the world's companies selling to Asia. I would watch out, if I were you, about the WTO," he said'I've never understood why you want to engage us – we've got fantastically low labour (costs)' he told the forum. 'China's going to completely devastate your whole labour force. They have labour costs 15 times, 30 times lower than AmericaAll the stuff you're going to make, we're going to completely destroy in terms of costs,' he said. 'We can make things so much more cheaply than you. I would watch out for your markets being infiltrated by us.'"

Can anyone in the Coalition government (or Beazley's Labor for that matter) hear the astonishingly frank warning given by Mr. Tang?

ANOTHER WARNING: We've just caught up with a speech made by Malaysia's Dr. Mahathir Muhamad on May 5th, 1997, at a meeting of the Southern Africa International Dialogue at Kasane, Botswana. From an Australian viewpoint it was probably the most significant speech made by Dr. Mahathir. After describing globalisation as a form of economic and financial colonialism, with the European Union as an example, Mahathir claimed that Asian nations were a prime target for the global power grab. He went on:

"But we do have the ultimate weapon. People are more mobile now. They can go anywhere. In a borderless world we can go anywhere. If we are not allowed a good life in our own countries, if we are going to be global citizens, then we should migrate North. We should migrate North in our millions legally or illegally. Masses of Asians and Africans should inundate Europe and America. If there is any strength that we have, it is in our numbers. Three-fourths of the world is either black, brown, yellow or some combination of these. We will make all nations in the world rainbow nations.

"This is how we will ultimately challenge globalisation. I hope we don't have to resort to this. But we will if we are not allowed a piece of the action, a piece of the cake; if we are not allowed to prosper in a borderless world"

Again, who among our "representatives" is listening?

CORRUPTION – A WORLDWIDE ISSUE: As we see another government Minister – Peter Reith this time – wriggling like a worm on a hook in an attempt to explain a \$50,000 blow out in unauthorised telephone calls, we should consider why there is such an escalation in corruption across the world. The attempts by Auditor-General Baragwanath to bring in accountability during Kennett's days, and the current investigation into vote-rigging in Queensland are other manifestations.

Much of it is due to the undisguised bribery of politicians by multinationals. In France, President Chirac is under investigation for organising and receiving illegal contributions to party slush funds. In Germany, police are investigating more than 2,000 corruption cases a year, many linking politicians and industry leaders. Former Chancellor Helmut Kohl is under a cloud for illegal donations to his party. The news has recently broken that President Clinton has been renting out the Lincoln Room in the White House in return for party funds. *The Guardian Weekly* (5-11/10/2000) reported:

".... An initial investigation by the nonpartisan Center for Responsive Politics identified 146 contributors among the 361 listed (the White House withheld the names of 43 'family and friends of Chelsea') who had given a total of \$5.5 million to Democratic campaign committees and candidates, including Hilary Clinton. 'What is particularly shocking is that it appears no lessons were learned from the scandals of 1996, and that the current occupants of the White House are using it as a personal trophy and not the peoples' house'"

Now comes a report by Transparency International, which examines these issues on a daily basis. According to *The Guardian Weekly* (5-11/10/2000):

".... Its Corruption Perceptions Index, which defines the problem as 'the abuse of public office for private gain' ranks 90 countries in terms of the degree of corruption that is believed to exist among public officials and politicians. 'Corruption in Government is rampant in dozens of countries' says this year's report, just published. 'Global corruption has impoverished the Third World – through cartels, transfer pricing and restraints of all description, as well as more conventional bribery and corruption. The situation is so bad that corruption has become a "very real threat to the emerging democracies'"

What is the answer? Is it true that today's human beings are worse than in earlier eras? Probably not. Corruption has always existed, and burgeons when restraints are removed.

"All power tends to corrupt" as Acton said. The answer was applied during Britain's constitutional period. The smaller the government unit, the less tendency for corruption – hence the old advocacy for the decentralisation of power. The added safeguard was the separation of powers, with genuine auditors under the Crown able to check and, if necessary, prosecute offenders. But when government gets bigger, and auditors are beholden to politicians, democracy is put up for sale.

If Lord Acton was right, the greatest corruption the world has ever seen would lie in a global government.

EUROPE IN TROUBLE: The Danes voted "No" to a single European currency. European leaders say the vote has set back their timetable drastically, as a contemplated referendum in Britain on the same issue is hastily put on the backburner!

Meanwhile, Europe has had to lift sanctions against Austria, imposed for daring to elect a leader such as Haider, accused of being from the "far-right". Apparently it was having the wrong effect, swinging Austrian support behind Haider, and resentment against the European Commission for denying the free choice of the Austrian people.

STATE LIBERAL MP's 'GO IT ALONE' by Betty Luks:

All is not well in the ranks of the South Australian Liberal Party. Just a few months ago Peter Lewis MP was tossed out of the party for criticising John Olson, the State Liberal Premier. Dr. Bob Such, Member for Fischer, has now resigned from the ranks of the Liberals (after 30 years in the party) complaining the government is too secretive – keeping their own parliamentary members out in the cold. He claims parliamentary colleagues quite often don't know of the government's moves – until just a few minutes before it is announced to the press.

He says the Liberal State Government is obsessed with privatisation. Already struggling to govern with a minority government, Bob Such warned they won't have an easy passage in their bid to push for the sale of the TAB Authority, the Ports Corporation and the Lotteries Commission.

ADELAIDE INSTITUTE DIRECTOR ORDERED TO EDIT WEBSITE by Betty Luks:

Dr. Fredrick Toben, director of the Adelaide Institute, has been ordered by the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commissioner, Kathleen McEvoy, to remove material from his website which questions the Holocaust on the grounds that its main purpose was to denigrate the Jews. (Readers will recall we reported that Mrs. Olga Scully of Launceston, Tasmania, has been ordered by the HREOC to cease in circulating 'anti-semitic' material.)

Dr. Toben has also been ordered to *"make a written apology to Australia's Jewish Community"* (*The Age*, 11/10/2000). He is reported to have said he would not obey the Commission's orders, *"I shall do nothing, I cannot because I consider the proceedings to have been immoral because truth was not a defence"*.

He highlighted the fact that the only aspect of the website material the HREOC considered, was whether it had caused hurt feelings, not whether it was accurate.

Having spent seven months in a German prison for daring to speak out on a subject that is outlawed in Germany, he has indicated he was prepared to face prison again rather than give up his right to free speech.

The Jewish representatives are considering Federal Court action as the next step in silencing Dr. Toben.

LIFE TOUGH FOR TRADITIONAL ENEMIES OF FREE SPEECH: David Irving Comments – from David Irving's website. YES, life is tough on the traditional enemies of Free Speech in the age of the Internet. How they squirm at the realisation that there is a medium which they do not control! For a long time it irritated me when I heard that people who punched in my name to a search engine got fifty pages of Nizkor effluent before they came to one page of truth. A search of their code revealed no secret mechanisms, then I learned that these enemies used their familiar old one: by paying the search-engine companies, some websites get higher placings on the ratings, i.e. they pop out of the engine first.

Hard work triumphs over evil (and its root, money) however, and our website won an award from an independent company earlier in 2000 as being one of the fifty history-source websites most linked-to on the Internet. As for our meta-tags: they follow standard rules, designed to aid search engines. The engines are clever enough now to weed out all the tricks and devices (like printing the word SEX a thousand times invisibly, i.e. on a background of the same colour). They even weed out more sophisticated tricks.

"ON TARGET" is printed and published by The Australian League of Rights, 145 Russell St., Melbourne.
Postal Address: GPO Box 1052J, Melbourne, 3001. Telephone: (03) 9650 9749, Fax: (03) 9650 9368.
Subscription \$40.00 p.a.