



A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

ON TARGET

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The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance –

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: *"I suppose no one is naïve enough to believe that the claim to be Chosen People is now either the sole possession of the Jews or the Germans. Read Nicholas Murray Butler's **Age of the Americas**. Or consider the title of an article in an American magazine: **America-A World Idea**. There is, in fact, an American myth; and the world had better appreciate that fact.*

"It is profoundly significant that while the Jew and the German claim to supremacy is based on race, the American claim is based on exactly the opposite ground – that 'race' is nonsense. Yet the USA is politically Jewish."

– "Programme for the Third World War" by C.H. Douglas, 1943

REFUGEE CONFUSION AND CHAOS by Jeremy Lee:

Under arrangements with New Zealand there is now no bar on New Zealanders travelling to and settling in Australia. According to *The Weekend Australian* (23-24/10/2000): "....Under the travel agreement, migration from New Zealand, even of those originating in a third country is not counted against Australia's annual intake, so the influx is effectively hidden"

The article went on to say that of the 72,000 people who left New Zealand in the year to August, 36,821 came to Australia. 33% of those arriving in Australia were not New Zealand-born.

New Zealand has its own problem with illegal immigrants, and has recently announced an amnesty for long-term illegals, who will now be in a position to move to Australia quite legally.

Meanwhile, four Indonesians were given three years jail – of which they are expected to serve 18 months – for transporting 152 Afghans, Iraqis and Iranians to Ashmore reef at the end of last year.. Will this deter others? *The Australian* (13/10/2000) reported: *"Indonesian fishermen who brought a human cargo to Australia did so fully expecting to be caught and jailed, because the money they earned from one trip to Ashmore Reef was more than they could make in years of subsistence fishing at home"*

REFUGEE DUMPING: Following our recent report of problems in Brisbane comes this from *The Advertiser* (Adelaide, 12/10/2000): *"Nearly 600 refugees and illegal immigrants 'dumped' in Adelaide over the past six months had placed significant strain on the city's housing and social welfare agencies, Human Services Minister Dean Brown said yesterday.*

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"Refugees pouring into the city from detention centres at Port Hedland in WA and Woomera in South Australia had soared over the past month until 40 to 50 were arriving each week, Mr. Brown said outside ParliamentMr. Brown said that the States were 'sick of the cost shifting'. 'They're sick of the Federal Government sitting back and just dumping their illegal immigrants into various capital cities round Australia,' he said....."

It is quite clear that Australia has been so neutralised by quasi-human rights thinking, devised in ivory tower think-tanks which are immune to the results of their own policies, that it has "lost the plot" over the illegal immigrant crisis. It appears to be throwing its hands in the air, after washing them of any responsibility for the debacle called immigration and refugee policy.

POLITICALLY INCORRECT? Following the Human Rights Commission line that "truth is no defence" when it comes to controversial comments on race, one wonders whether two prominent Australians will be asked to explain themselves before the non-elected "thought police".

The Australian Financial Review (6/10/2000) reported: "The Federal Minister for Reconciliation, Mr. Philip Ruddock, yesterday was condemned by all non-government parties and two Independents for his comments on Aboriginal disadvantage.

"Mr. Ruddock had been reported in two international newspapers – *The Washington Post* and *Le Monde* – as saying that one reason for Aboriginal disadvantage was their late contact with developed civilisation..."

Mr. Ruddock was supported by backbenchers in the Coalition. Funny how all the "right" and "wrong" thinking is divided on party lines!

Meanwhile, the former Governor-General, Bill Hayden, gave an equally "incorrect" speech at the University of Tasmania on October 11th. After warning of a backlash against the clumsy and divisive tactics by advocates of the Aboriginal cause, Mr. Hayden went on (*The Australian*, 12/10/2000): ".... Telling non-indigenous Australians that they are the heirs and successors of, and apparently not much different from, their allegedly mass-murdering, racist, repressive ancestors of our not-so-far-back colonial past adopts the subtlety of sabre slashing,' he said. Mr. Hayden said the 'brainwave' of a treaty caused anxiety among non-indigenous people, who would never accept separate nations in which they would be foreigners.

"If there is one thing that causes non-indigenous Australians to jump as though the proverbial bungee has gone off under them, it's telling them their nation is going to be dismembered,' he said ..."

Well said! We wonder whether Bill Hayden has come across Geoff MacDonald's widely read *Red Over Black*, which warned of the very divisions now being pushed by some aboriginal activists?

ALL DRESSED UP AND NOWHERE TO GO: Once again the visionary free-trade aspirations of the Howard Government and its Minister for Trade Mark Vaile appear to be no more than wishful thinking. A just-concluded meeting in Chiangmai, Thailand, saw the Australian dream of a free-trade area vigorously rebuffed by leader after leader. Chief opponent was Malaysia, but that country was not alone. *The Age* (Melbourne, 7/10/2000) reported: "..... Malaysian Trade Minister Rafidah Aziz did not pull any punches. Asked if she thought the proposed wider free trade area would develop, she said 'No, not from our perspective, no.'"

Her negative response was echoed by the Philippines and Indonesia. Perhaps they were alerted by an analysis suggesting the agreement would boost Australia's trade by \$34 billion. At whose expense? It seems Asian nations are tired of being asked to co-operate in their own destruction.

Meanwhile, the US continues to say one thing and do the opposite. South Australia's *Stock Journal* (12/10/2000) said: *"Despite its free trade rhetoric, the US Government has confirmed that it paid a record \$30 billion in assistance to its farmers in the last financial year The US is not alone though. An OECD report released earlier this year found agricultural trade support in all OECD countries was approaching levels not seen since the mid 1980s"*

They all get massive assistance – except Australian farmers, or what's left of them.

THE FUEL PRICE RACKET: A letter circulated to his constituents by Federal Member Patrick Secker, Member for Barker, attempting to defend Coalition policy on petrol pricing, made the following points:

- Since coming to office in 1996 the Coalition has not increased petrol excise and apart from the usual indexation in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) which was introduced by the Labor Government in 1983.
- The Coalition reduced excise for petrol and diesel by around 6.7 cents per litre after the introduction of GST on July 1st, 2000.
- This excise reduction, combined with the abolition of Wholesale Sales Tax and the reduction of diesel excise on transport of 24 cents/litre, together with the introduction of GST means the price of petrol need not rise as a result of the GST package.
- The ACCC found that average petrol prices fell between June 30th and July 1st, 2000, with the introduction of the GST.
- The Fuel Sales Grant Scheme pays a grant of 1 or 2 cents per litre to petrol retailers in regional and remote parts of Australia. This means country motorists generally pay less fuel tax than city motorists.
- The cost of petrol falls by around 10% for business who get a GST tax input credit.

In a heavily-emphasised box Mr. Secker had added: **"HIGHER PETROL PRICES DO NOT BENEFIT THE COMMONWEALTH BECAUSE EXCISE RATES REMAIN THE SAME AND THE STATES RECEIVE ANY INCREASE IN GST REVENUE AS A RESULT OF PRICE INCREASES"**

There now! Isn't that comforting? And you thought our Federal Government had stopped loving us! However, a Royal Automobile Association (RAA) report contradicts Mr. Secker. It says:

"Pre GST the Commonwealth collected excise of 44.2 cents per litre for itself and the Territories. It retained 36 cents and passed 8.2 cents to the States and Territories.

"Under the new tax system the States and Territories receive the GST instead of the 8.2 cents excise. The Commonwealth now retains excise of 37.5 cents per litre (plus 0.64 indexation in August) and at a pump price of \$1.00 the GST is 9.1 cents per litre instead of the 8.2 cents of the old state and territory excise.

"The Australian Tax Office set the current excise rate It reveals that excise going to the Federal Government on 30/6/2000 was 36 cents per litre and has since risen to 38.14 cents per litre.

"No matter how it's dressed up, if motorists were paying the same amount of tax on petrol today as they were paying on June 30th, 2000, petrol would be 3 cents per litre cheaper."

The RAA report went on to reveal another windfall gain it had received, apart from excise. It said:

"The higher the world oil price the more tax the government collects under the Petroleum Resource

Rent Tax. It is a tax on Bass Strait oil, which takes 40% of the difference between the production costs of oil and the selling costs. The Budget estimate is based on a price of around \$US25 a barrel with estimated revenue of A\$1.28 billion over the next year. The current world oil price, however, is over \$US30 a barrel.

"Based on a world oil price of \$US30 per barrel the Government revenue from the *Petroleum Rent Resource Tax* will be \$1.75 billion – a windfall of \$470 million over budget estimates."

The RAA report concluded: **"If we paid the same petrol tax as Americans, we would be paying 63 cents per litre for fuel."**

Surely, Mr. Secker's constituents – and a lot of other Australians – would dearly love to see his refutation of the RAA report.

CORPORATE PIRATES by Antonia Feitz:

It was reported in *The Weekend Australian* that highly profitable corporate giants – including Microsoft, Optus, General Motors, BHP, Ansett, Boral and Email – have stung South Australian taxpayers for packages worth more than \$200,000 in industry assistance to 'encourage' them to set up in that State and provide desperately needed employment (14-15/10/2000).

Various South Australian governments have spent \$660 million on such industry 'assistance' over the past 10 years. Seeing as caving in to the corporations hasn't done South Australia much good anyway, the governments would have been better off supporting and developing local small business and telling the giants to go jump.

But they don't. SA's Treasurer, Rob Lucas, said, *"If other States are prepared to make offers to move companies out of South Australia, what do we do? Do we just say, 'no, we won't do it', and lose the jobs for South Australians, or do we negotiate?"*

Just as the corporations pit one country against another, forcing governments to introduce labour market 'flexibility' and drive down wages, so they pit Australian State governments against one another, making them bid for their business. Of course, any premier with integrity would tell such corporations to go jump and expose their venality on TV. With the political will, States could re-establish functioning economies despite all the propaganda to the contrary.

And still politicians, bureaucrats, multinational CEOs and newspaper editors profess to be puzzled as to why people loathe and detest globalisation. Because they are ideologically blind, they can't understand why people object to the emasculation of elected governments, or to the power of unelected, wealthy corporations to exact tribute from taxpayers. After all, Australia is enjoying record prosperity so they say.

In demanding taxpayer-funded "assistance", and threatening to pack up and go if they don't receive it, these corporations are no better than crude stand-over merchants. As they have no regard for Australia other than its profit-generating potential, they have no regard for the Australian people. They are alien parasites.

They should be ashamed of themselves, but they undoubtedly think exploitation of taxpayers is savvy business. Tyrants always do.

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