



A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

ON TARGET

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The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance –

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: *"Rather than waiting in disastrous circumstances for the fulfilment of promises that will not materialise, rather than watching out vainly and in distress for the return of work and galloping employment, would it be extravagant to try to make life decent and viable by other means and to do it today for those who, in what might soon be the radical absence of work or rather employment, are regarded as fallen, excluded and superfluous?"*

"There is hardly any time left to include those lives, our lives, in their own, their true meaning; quite simply that of life, its dignity, its rights. Hardly any time to free them from the sweet will of those who scorn them.

"Would it be extravagant to hope at long last, not for some love – so vague, so easy to declare, so self-satisfied, authorising itself to use all kinds of punishment – but instead, for the boldness of a harsh, unrewarding sentiment, a sentiment of intractable rigour which refuses all exceptions: respect?"

– *"The Economic Horror"* by Viviane Forrester, 1996

WRITING OFF DEBT by Jeremy Lee:

The ubiquitous James Wolfensohn, former Australian financier who now heads the World Bank, is expressing sympathy for the arguments of those protesting round the world against globalism. He sounds like the father about to chastise an errant son, who says sadly as he flexes his muscles, "This hurts me more than it does you".

Part of a report in *The Australian Financial Review* (27/10/2000) said: *"World poverty is emerging as a major concern at elite gatherings of economic policy makers, partly in response to the real needs of the growing numbers of poor people but also because of the anti-globalisation backlash.*

"The president of the World Bank, Mr. James Wolfensohn, has even likened the challenge of reducing world poverty to the sacrifices in two world wars of Australian soldiers in 'making our planet a safer place'..... the most passionate appeal for progress on reducing poverty was made by Mr. Wolfensohn at a gala dinner in New York on Monday night. The celebrated Australian addressed a gathering that included billionaires in surroundings that could not have been more palatial. While poverty was alarming today, with 80 percent of the world earning just 20 per cent of its income, Mr. Wolfensohn warned that all but 50 million of the 2 billion people born in the next 25 years would live in developing countries. Mr. Wolfensohn appealed to a sense of duty, but he also suggested that First World nations would be forced to intervene out of self-interest because poverty would become a threat to their security. The challenge was so great that Mr. Wolfensohn appealed to a sense of heroism"

There is something almost surrealist in Wolfensohn's words. It conjures up images of million and billionaires, munching their caviar, as they ponder an uprising of the destitute. It is said that Wolfensohn, when

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approached by a Jubilee 2000 church member with a request that Third World debt be written off, replied by asking whether the Church would also hand its property and investments over to the poor. Wolfensohn had a point, and the church member retreated in silence!

But there is a difference which Wolfensohn ignored. The bankers now create as well as lend the world's money, claiming ownership of real credit in the process. Even if debt was written off the same terrible injustice would re-assert itself if the private ownership of money-creation is not changed.

Each month in Australia the money-supply is increased by billions of dollars, by allowing private banks to create and extend credit on usurious terms. The same happens in all other countries.

If, on the other hand, Australia reassumed control of its own money system, and released the nation's new money requirements debt-free, the result would be a gradual and orderly reduction of debt aggregate.

If the World Bank *really* wishes for alleviation of poverty and permanent improvement, it should publicly recommend that credit-creation be removed from private banks, which should confine themselves to lending. Until such a recommendation, the obscenely rich at their gala dinners are like the alcoholics who will do anything to solve their condition – except give up drink!

A major task is to inform the swelling number of anti-globalists about the true nature of "the root of all evil".

THE POOR IN AUSTRALIA: It is now clear that the Government is completely isolated from the ever-increasing destitution in the community. It keeps its eyes firmly fixed on statistics which hide reality.

The Australian (27/10/2000) reported: "..... In a survey by the Australian Council of Social Service released last month, 67 percent of community welfare agencies reported an increase in the numbers they were assisting. At the same time, government funding fell from 76 percent to 72 percent of their income and fees charged to clients rose from 8 per cent to 11.6 per cent. Thirty-eight percent of organisations reported an increase in the numbers they had to turn away....."

"St. Vincent de Paul was moved to send a letter to all Federal MPs this week expressing concern about the increasing numbers of people – 80,000 in the past year – that the Government is referring to it"

But Mr. Costello says "our fundamentals are sound!"

THE JOBS REVOLUTION: Bigger and bigger numbers of people are going to end up on "work for the dole" as a mask for technology-driven unemployment if things go on as they are. No doubt Minister Tony Abbott will claim success.

Robert Gottlieb (The Australian, 1/11/2000) described it thus: "After years of jobs-a-plenty the industrial game is changing, as Australian companies prepare for a massive restructuring during the next two or three years to take advantage of the new technologies."

"The restructuring will eliminate or relocate tens of thousands of blue-collar and white-collar jobs Many trade unions, particularly those in Victoria, have almost no understanding of what is ahead of them and, as a result, they could blow the jobs of thousands of their members....."

Gottlieb gave as one example the case of the automation of the wharves by Chris Corrigan and Patrick Stevedores. Unless other ports and harbours followed suit, huge amounts of shipping would be diverted to NSW, where the danger of strikes would be vastly reduced and low-cost docking facilities would attract vessels. Job losses would be enormous and union power to negotiate wage conditions almost eliminated. High-wage States would lose industries to low-wage States.

No longer would multinationals have to play countries against each other; they could play one State against another inside a Federation like Australia.

So big are the implications of this new technology that we can only get a partial picture of the implications in this picture of the Patrick operation by Andrew Fraser (The Australian, 27/10/2000):" The executive chairman of Patrick Stevedores is far from finished with his vision for Australia's waterfront, outlining

yesterday a radical makeover of the company's Sydney operations, involving robots moving containers round the wharves.

"But he also said that those crane operators who would be required in his vision for the future did not necessarily have to be on site.

"It's not beyond the realm of possibility that he may be at home in his living room,' Mr. Corrigan told a Brisbane business audience. 'Technically, the person doesn't have to be on site at all'..... This new system would be the main way of lifting the capacity of the Sydney operation from its current rate of 114,000 containers per berth per year to 3 million containers per berth per year"

A 27,000 percent increase in handling facilities – all driven by a few arm-chair operators sitting at home!

What will happen to the displaced wharfies? Either jobs in the "New Economy" – that's computers – or work for the dole!

(For new readers: The answer, if we want to build freedom for each person, is Social Credit. C.H. Douglas, the Social Credit founder, realised the implications of technology in the first 20 years of the 1900's, and foresaw that a different way of distributing income would have to be devised in technology-driven economies – the National Dividend. It's a concept way ahead of "work for the dole!" But it can't be done unless the "monopoly of credit", now in the hands of the banks, is ended.)

ROBOTS – FREEING HUMANS FROM WORK: While we're talking of robots, the following was contained in a challenging article by Helen O'Neill (*The Australian Magazine*, 21-22/10/2000): ".....In 1998, a United Nations World Robotic report estimated that 720,000 robots worldwide were already doing the work of up to two million people. In Japan, for example, there is one robot to every six production workers in the motor vehicle industry. Mechanical creatures of all shapes and sizes exist most of these machines are much more useful, working in car factories, food-processing plants and electronics manufacturing centres. Robotic hands are at work in some hospitals, allowing surgeons to be more precise. Other machines are learning how to kill – Thai scientists recently unveiled a fully-armed shoot-on-sight robot designed to work as a security guard"

And they tell us the "New Economy" is going to absorb the world's unemployed! They don't even believe it themselves.

(Meanwhile – if anyone has a robot that writes articles for weekly newsletters, I'm interested! I'm about eligible for the leisure age!)

THE CONTAMINATED FOOD CHAIN by Betty Luks:

It was in 1989 Geoffrey Dobbs wrote of the "Currie'd Egg Row" in Britain ("Cheapness at a Nasty Price" *Home Journal*). The uproar was about the outbreak of *salmonella enteritidis* in egg production; the salmonella being a bacterium which can infect both the gut and the oviduct in chickens without obvious sickness, but can cause food poisoning in humans.

All foods carry innumerable bacteria which our bodies deal with, and our senses are trained to detect food going bad, but when heat-treated poultry excreta or offals, or putrid, ground-up dead sheep are fed to our food sources, we are inviting all sorts of troubles.

The circumstances in which the 1989 outbreak occurred cast a spotlight on the sort of food being fed to factory-chickens and to other animals mass-produced for human consumption. The public was to learn that a probable source of the *salmonella* in the egg production was the inclusion of poultry-excrement as well as edible parts of their bodies (e.g. guts, feet and heads) in the chicken food.

A media-howl went up from the producers of this dubious food and forced the resignation of the then health minister (named Currie).

Geoffrey warned, "Hens are not carnivorous by nature and neither are cows; but we learn that a particularly horrible disease called BSE (*bovine spongiform encephalopathy*, which drives cows mad), has been traced

to giving dairy cows feed containing the ground-up remains of sheep infected with a disease called *scrapie*. He also noted, "It is only the big corporations that supply the super-markets which have the necessary capital and equipment to grind up and heat-treat these unacceptable items and mix them up with vegetable matter so as to obscure their nature and origin."

He called for, "hormone-fed beef and poultry excreta or offals meat, or eggs laid by hens fed on, and milk and meat from cows fed on ground-up sheep, to all be prominently labelled, and let the super-markets see what profits they can make out of them when the public knows what it is buying!"

Fears that 'mad cow' now in Sheep Flocks: Not surprisingly we read in *The Age*, 2/11/2000, that there are great fears in Britain that the continued practice of using 'recycled species' (notice how this term sounds so much more acceptable than 'dead diseased sheep' or 'offal' or 'manure and feathers?') may have spread to other animals. The headlines bear out Geoffrey Dobbs' concerns as we read, "*Fears 'mad cow' now in sheep flocks*". Unwisely (or greedily), "Britain introduced a ban on animal remains in cattle food in 1988 but stopped short of banning 'cannibalism' for all livestock..."

A judicial inquiry has found that a 'culture of reassurance' by government ministers and officials had misled the British public about the BSE epidemic, forcing the Blair government to review its health regulations. It was also reported "intra-species recycling' could risk a new BSE-like disease in another animal", and "Some experts suggested that the new ban should ultimately be widened to outlaw the feeding of feathers and chicken manure to poultry and even fish waste to fish".

What a revolting thought! One would hope the fish farms in Australia are not feeding their fish kept in fish-lots 'recycled intra-species'.

Surely the British farmers have a strong case against the big corporations who produced and promoted the food containing animal remains, let alone the families of those who have died as a result of eating the contaminated meat!

Instinct and Commonsense the Best Guides: A biologist by profession, in 1989 Dr. Dobbs explained to his readers, "The real cycle of such organic material passes first through the soil, which alone is equipped to deal with its vast array of organisms: bacteria, protozoa, fungi, mites, insects, etc., and then through plants preferably twice, before it is suitable for ingestion by any but 'scavenger' species, as experience, which has settled into unconscious instinct, has long shown."

Implications of Vaccine Brushed Aside: In 1998, our UK sister-publication *On Target*, quoting from *The Daily Telegraph*, 27/2, brought to the readers attention a possible link between the MMR triple vaccine (for measles, mumps and rubella) and bowel disease that could in turn be linked to autism in children. "Within two weeks of this report being publicly aired, which is a breathtakingly short time for any form of investigation, the Chief Medical Officer, Sir Kenneth Calman, strongly defended the existing immunisation policy and the World Health Organisation, eight royal colleges and medical associations were cited to back up his stand." The UK *On Target* went on to report 3,000,000 cattle were in the process of being slaughtered at enormous cost to the farmers and yet the implications for children of the MMR triple vaccine were brushed aside.

Nearly three years later, October 22nd, 2000, the Melbourne newspaper, *Sunday Herald Sun*, carried an article with the headlines *Vaccine Recall Fears* from Peter Kononczuk in London. Britain's health minister has announced the recall of a polio vaccine already used on millions of children because of fears it could transmit the human variant of mad cow disease (BSE). The Medeva vaccine has been used in the UK since the early 1980s and has accounted for a third of the inoculations given to children and travellers. Britain's Medicines Control Agency ordered the recall after it was discovered the vaccine was produced using material from British calf fetuses (calf serum) as a growth agent. It seems the Department of Health had repeatedly "sought and received assurances from Medeva that British bovine material was not being used in the production".

The article reported British pharmaceutical giant SmithKline Beecham will provide a replacement vaccine. God help the little children!

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