



A WEEKLY COMMENTARY



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The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance –

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"A Blessed and Holy Christmas Season to all of our Readers"

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: *"During the last three centuries the Western world has seen the growth of a damaging division in the way in which we see and understand the world around us...We are only now beginning to understand the disastrous results of this outlook. The Western world has lost a sense of the wholeness of our environment, and of our inalienable responsibility for the whole of creation.*

"This has led to an increasing failure to appreciate or understand tradition and the wisdom of our forebears accumulated over the centuries... It is as if tradition represented the enemy of man's lofty ambition; the "primitive" force which acts as an unwelcome reminder – deep in our subconscious – of the ultimate folly of believing that the purpose and meaning of life on this Earth lie in creating a material form of Utopia – a world in which Technology becomes a 'virtual reality' God; the arbiter of virtual reality ethics – and thus the eventual murderer of the Soul of Mankind.

"To my mind, tradition is not a man-made element in our lives – it is a God-given awareness of the natural rhythms and of the fundamental harmony engendered by a union of the paradoxical opposites in every aspect of nature. Tradition reflects the timeless order, and yet disorder, of the cosmos and anchors us into a harmonious relationship with the great mysteries of the Universe..."

– H.R.H. Prince Charles, "The Sacred in Modern Life", 1996

DEATH AND WEALTH TAXES LINKED TO GST REFORMS by Betty Luks:

Last March 3rd, 2000, *On Target* republished a letter "Death Tax Linked to GST" which first appeared in *The West Australian* (February 3rd) by a Frank Starceвич.

Mr. Starceвич claimed that tucked away in the fine detail of A New Tax System was legislation that would lead to death duties and wealth taxes through the proposed taxing of trusts as companies. The legislation is known as "Entity Taxation".

He wrote, "Money left in a long-term trust through a will to protect assets on the possible divorce of children attracts 47 per cent tax on the estate when paid to children. A husband and wife leaving the

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home to the children with the surviving spouse entitled to live in it, is taxed at 47 percent of the rent value of the home. Allowing a family member to live in a house owned by a trust company is also 47 percent of the rent value."

(On March 10th we wrote of "Option 2" which will be, according to the *Australian Financial Review*, 27-28/11/1999, a fundamental change to the method of calculating income tax, but more on that another time).

The accuracy of Mr. Stareceвич's letter was questioned by a reader so we then published material from a speech by Kelvin Thompson MHR (*Hansard*, 8/6/1999), in which he quotes the then Deputy Prime Minister Tim Fischer as saying, "he would not support any crackdown on trusts that amounted to a de facto reintroduction of death duties." The matter quietened down because of the uproar of the GST and aftermath.

It has now come to the fore again as the National Farmers Federation Council, *Farm Weekly*, 23/11/2000, "...called for the government to withdraw the Entities' Taxation proposals, saying the approach being taken is draconian..."

According to NFF president Ian Donges, "In reality, it is a wealth tax and actually taxes unrealised gains...In fact, including unrealised gains under the 'profits first' rule will mean double taxation."

PGA economics chairman, Lynne Johnston said, "The Federal Government, prompted by the Ralph Review into taxation reform, is attacking discretionary family trusts as if they were tax avoidance vehicles, when they are merely common-sense arrangements that protect the structure of the farm business."

She went on to say, "The Government is putting budget surplus records and debt reduction in front of the livelihoods of many small business operators."

It would seem Mr. Stareceвич was not wrong in his original assessment!

Question: When are these farmers going to wake up to the fact that in the scheme of things they are meant for the scrap heap and taxation is a means of accomplishing this?

Why on earth do they still put their faith in the National Party, or, for that matter, the National Farmers Federation?

A wealth tax and death duties are policies straight from the socialists' manifesto! When are these people going to come to grips with the fact that under the present financial regime further taxes are absolutely certain – as certain as night will follow the day.

Instead of the oppressive taxes under which we labour, the citizens of this country should be receiving dividends! But this is not going to happen until the people understand the proposals of Social Credit and want them strongly enough to insist upon them.

THE PROBLEM OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH: Another serious problem is the Christian Church's response to social matters. How many times, having approached your minister of religion to ask questions about government agendas and/or financial policies, have you been met with indifference, even hostility?

The root of this problem lies in an idea that the Churches accepted long ago, that is, that the organised Church is to be concerned with the *person and his 'salvation'* only – not with social matters. This

implies that the *source* of all social disorder and the present social disasters are in unregenerate man and any corporate social action is futile. The consequences of this view are all around us.

The idea is stated thus: human conduct cannot be changed without first changing human nature, i.e., changing men's hearts'.

That men are *responsible* for their actions as *individuals* is a certain teaching of Christianity, but, is not Peter Costello responsible for the decisions he makes as the Federal Treasurer? Is he not responsible for the policies he pursues as a Liberal politician? If the system he participates in is wrong, surely it is the system that must be changed? We were told we cannot serve God *and* Mammon ... Mammon is a system, a man-made system!

The Church has failed to recognise the role of mechanisms:

A consequence of this view, which is very important, is the idea that there is nothing wrong with our Social Mechanisms and that if men were only good enough these mechanisms would work perfectly. Tell that to the man who has taken his poorly performing car to a technician. If only he was good enough, the car would run perfectly!

We are responsible:

We must recognise that no matter how good-hearted and well intentioned we think we are, good intentions alone are not enough!

We are responsible for the woes that are befalling us. We have not taken the time and the trouble to understand the ways in which the Social Mechanisms are set up and operate towards these evil ends. Just as metals can be used to produce either a plough or a gun, so systems can be designed to either serve man or control him.

Another fatal omission of the Christian Church:

Another omission of the Church of the 20th century is that it has failed to appreciate the role, and investigate the objectives, of the Social Mechanisms.

Some questions that could be put to the Church are:

"Why lay down that the State must 'consult the common good' and 'safeguard private property' when the money mechanism makes these objectives impossible?"

"Why does the Church go on condemning usury, which it has done for the best part of 2000 years, while the Churches themselves are inescapably committed to it?"

As an example, Thomas Robertson claimed (*Human Ecology*) the Vatican has a large portion of its capital in the form of Italian Government fixed-interest bearing-bonds which constitute the most grievous form of usury.

Just in case you think I am targeting the Catholic Church only, I refer the reader to an article circulated by the Christian Alternative Movement last April. "Crucified Bank Customers at St. Paul's Cathedral": "This Maundy Thursday a full scale crucifix will be erected outside St. Paul's Cathedral and victims of banking malpractice from the various British high street banks will get up on the cross to graphically protest about the way they treat their customers. *The Church of England owns more than £ billion of high street bank shares. Furious customers ... will launch a campaign to persuade the Church ... to either take responsibility for the actions of the banks they own or divest themselves from them completely...*" (emphasis added).

But, as was said last week: AUSTRALIA IS WAKING UP!

As the dollar sinks, the GST bites, the Foreign Debt spins out of control and our children lose their way, the big crunch is fast approaching. But, all of a sudden, things are beginning to happen! Dick

Smith is drawing big crowds and hurting the multinationals; communities are opening their own banks when the 'gang-of-four' pull out of town; there is a major revolt against party-politicians; corruption in high-places is being exposed; Left and Right are crossing boundaries and beginning to work together – in fact Australians – are fighting back!

And the League of Rights and its supporters will be there; involved with those who are fighting back!

MORE DANGEROUS LEGISLATION WITH WIDER SCOPE by Geoff Muirden:

There are very real dangers in the so-called "Racial and Religious Tolerance" bill to be presented to Parliament next year by Victorian Premier, Steve Bracks, which would enable anyone to become an "informer" reporting on people acting in any politically incorrect way in the "privacy" of their own homes.

This could enable any visitor or member of the household to report what was said or done, and what was even more chilling was the comment in the *Herald Sun*, Thursday, 7/12/2000, item headed "**Abuse ban in homes**", written by Felicity Dargan, that, "defences might not be available to persons accused of vilification" which immediately opens the door to wrong and lying accusations which could not be disproved, since "truth is no defence", which is the case with the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission.

The entire bill, in its form as suggested in that article is totalitarian and Communist in its nature and intent, seeking to abolish privacy and establish a spy state, where rules of evidence to even prove statements made about people would be abolished.

It is a disgrace that such a bill can even be considered and should already have been thrown out because of its oppressive nature.

One particular significant comment was that by a Steven Moore, that fisheye cameras in black boxes and modern digital TV cameras already have the capacity to spy on users. So while you are watching TV, the TV is watching you, just as in "**1984**".

Those reading this are invited to get in touch with Victorian Premier Steve Bracks, Member for Williamstown, by his address, or send a phone call, fax or e-mail to oppose this evil legislation. Steve Bracks works at 1 Treasury Place, East Melbourne, 3002; phone (03) 9651 5000; fax (03) 9651 5298. Home page: <http://www.premier.vic.gov.au> and e-mail: steve.bracks@parliament.vic.gov.au Or contact his electoral office at: 101 Douglas Parade, Williamstown, Vic., 3016, phone (03) 9399 9022; fax (03) 9397 7227.

Dr. Denis Naphthine, Leader of the Opposition can be contacted at www.robertclark.net

Further to the above *Herald Sun* article, John Masanauskas, *Herald Sun*, 11/12/2000, explains that Racists (are) to face prison according to the proposed legislation. "Victorians could face jail for inciting racial hatred under legislation being considered by the State Government. In the meantime, the government will spend \$1million consulting the public on the need for racial vilification laws..." It seems Mr Bracks told ethnic media representatives "the states rich ethnic diversity requires racial vilification laws."

One would think if 'the rich ethnic diversity' was the resounding success the multiculturalists would have us believe, there would not be a need to legally force Australians 'to shut up'!

Certain groups, including the Catholic Church have opposed the proposed law "for fear that it might stifle genuine debate on religious issues."