



A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

ON TARGET

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- COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS



The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance -

Print Post Publication Number 381667 00258

Vol.37, No.15

April 27th, 2001

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: *"Many crooks in a big way are Saviours, although through the ages, at long intervals, there have been Saviours who were not crooks. These latter can generally be identified by the fact that they are unpopular until a long time after their, in the main, violent death..."*

"Al Capone saved both the whisky business and the American sufferers from the local urge to mind other people's business and provided the excuse for setting up the American Gestapo, Herr Schickelgruber-Hitler-Rothschild in saving Europe from Bolshevism and providing the opportunity for America to reconstruct Europe and Signor Mussolini disposed of plenty amidst poverty. The list is in no way exhaustive.

"The technique of this saviour business is simple and was well understood by Robin Hood, who took all you had, and gave you back your car fare..."

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

OUR DISAPPEARING DAIRY FARMERS by Jeremy Lee:

The Queensland Country Life (19/4/01) carried as its front cover the pictures of 28 dairy farmers who have been forced to abandon dairying since deregulation. The cover looked more like a Memorial Roll than an agricultural journal. Queensland is losing an average six farms a week. Since last July some 600 farm jobs have been lost, and the milk vats have gone dry on almost 240 farms across the State, with a fresh exodus expected once the new financial year arrives.

The National Party, self-proclaimed front-line fighters for the bush, have taken no stand, other than vague promises to try to do something about it if re-elected.

One enterprising couple on the Atherton Tablelands have created a booming market for organic, bio-dynamic products such as yogurt and cottage cheeses. They now produce 800,000 litres of raw milk a year, selling through 100 outlets from far north Queensland to Townsville. Dispensing with chemicals, pesticides and antibiotics, they use a range of homeopathic remedies to treat animal diseases.

In a chemical-laden, genetically-modified disaster world, their leadership is the wave of the future, for those who can survive the current onslaught.

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"ON TARGET"

April 20th, 2001

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TAMIL ILLEGALS: Following a call from Sri Lanka, Australian authorities have finally caught up with a boat-load of illegals at the seaside village of Coral Bay, south of Exmouth. The caller claimed they were Tamil guerillas, who had been involved in killing thousands during the 30-year uprising in Sri Lanka.

Despite being forewarned and setting special surveillance operations, the landing of the boat people was not detected, and they were picked up wandering in the bush – after starting a major fire – next day. Had it not been for the warning, they would probably still be there (*The Australian*, 26/4/01).

AUSTRALIANS INCREASINGLY ANGRY: A special report on marketing trends by AustraliaScan researchers is available to banks, insurers, food and drink companies, car makers, media groups and government agencies for a cost of \$20,000. Reporting on the findings, *The Australian* (Media Section, 25/4/01) said: "Certainly, multinational companies are spooked by the resurgence of public interest in Australian made and owned products with food and pharmaceuticals on the frontline. Kraft has taken to full-page print advertisements reminding peanut butter buyers that its brand is made from 100 percent Queensland peanuts and supports Australian farmers and families. . . . Sixty percent of the 2,000 annual respondents believe globalisation is dangerous and a threat to our way of life . . . public concerns about food poisoning were up 17 percent in a year (71 percent), genetically-modified foods up 12 percent (63 percent), electro-magnetic radiation up 10 percent (49 percent) and gambling addiction up 7 percent (34 percent) . . ."

All of which goes to show that those who have been working so hard on these issues have made a considerable impact.

BANKER'S WARNING – A FATE WORSE THAN DEBT: In a major article (*The Weekend Australian*, 21-22/4/01), Robert Gottlieb interviewed David Murray, CEO of the Commonwealth Bank. Murray's conclusions were bleak. The crisis is not over, and the dollar can be expected to fall as low as 40 cents: " . . . Murray says there has been a long-term structural decline in the dollar because Australia has a big current account deficit and is no longer an attractive place for overseas business investment, and domestic savings are low . . ."

Murray's identification of the problem is getting close. A nation can't close much of its farming and manufacturing, driving its foreign debt into the stratosphere, without facing nemesis.

But Murray's solutions are woeful – more productivity and higher immigration. It's the orthodox globalist mantra. At the time of writing, another city is under siege of protests against globalism; this time Quebec City, where the leaders of 34 nations are assembled to try and expand NAFTA into "The Free Trade Area of the Americas", encompassing 800 million people in nations with a combined \$US22 trillion in goods and services.

The only trouble is, apparently, the people don't want it! However, as our beloved Treasurer in Australia keeps telling us with that portentous gravity of his, "there's no turning back from globalism".

He'd have made a fitting leader for the Gadarene Swine!

CAN THE FABIAN TORTOISES REGATHER? Brisbane City Councillor Terry Hampson is behind a move to re-constitute the Queensland Branch of the Fabian Society, according to an article by Tony Walker in *The Australian Financial Review* (20/4/01) " . . . It was at the Paddington Workers' Club in Brisbane on the evening of April 5, where a heterodox group of Labor Party activists and their fellow-travellers met to reconstitute the Queensland branch of the Fabian Society – after a 16 year break . . ."

There's only one problem, as the article ruefully recorded. The Fabian programme is now so mainstream that it raises a question over the need for a re-vamp of the Fabians. Perhaps it's merely *kudos* they want. "... *They would be encouraged if they looked to Britain and saw the influence of the Fabians there . . .*" Tony Blair is a long-standing Fabian, as is Gordon Brown, Chancellor of the Exchequer. The Fabian Society is officially represented at the British Labour Party's National Conference.

But here in Australia? With both major parties virtually the same on globalism and internationalism, and the Howard Government following a path that could have been honed on a Fabian anvil, what role can a revamped Society play? Perhaps they are simply positioning themselves for some perks should Beazley's Labor Party win the coming election?

THE STENCH OF CORPORATE POLITICAL FUNDING: We wrote last year of the ominous trend, descending from the international sphere to the local level, of multinational corporate funding of political conferences and party functions. We pointed out that 80 corporations had paid thousands of dollars to be "observers" at the Liberal National Conference.

In a major two-page spread on April 20th, *The Australian Financial Review* had an in-depth look at the depth of the 'patronage' of political events by corporations. Many avenues for payment were hidden from the Australian Electoral Commission, which is to record and make public all political donations. The article started:

"Australia's leading companies are channelling millions of dollars to political parties in ways that ensure they do not have to disclose it to the Australian Electoral Commission as donations.

"An investigation by The Australian Financial Review has revealed that Australia's system for disclosing political donations is in disarray, with glaring discrepancies between the level of donations declared by political parties, the amounts that big corporates say they are donating and the level of donations reported by the Australian Electoral Commission. And a survey of Australia's top 50 public companies found significant gaps between the corporate political donations recorded by the AEC and the amounts of money that companies attest to donating . . ."

The article went on to point out that companies were making political donations by

- Paying large sums to intermediary companies and investment vehicles link to political parties;
- Paying for unidentified services provided by political parties;
- Paying thousands of dollars to attend fundraising functions held by political parties;
- Hiding from shareholders the donations being made to political parties.

Payment for, say, meals at a fundraising function don't count as donations even though the AEC's handbook says "*if the price charged is far beyond the value of the function ('value' includes gaining access to lobby government ministers, senior party officials etc.) then the payment is clearly a donation*".

One example given was Telstra's sponsorship, to the tune of \$40,000, of the Prime Minister's breakfast at the Liberal Party's National Convention last year. Telstra swore it was not a donation, just a sponsorship for a "high-profile event". 500 delegates attended. At \$40,000, that's \$80 per head for breakfast – an awful lot of bacon and eggs!

Many companies admitted to those who had written the article that they had made considerable donations that had not been recorded by the Australian Electoral Commission. Only five out of 50 of those contacted had listed such donations in their annual reports.

The government of 'squeaky-clean' John Howard is now emerging as one of the most corrupt. But all major 'establishment' parties – including the Democrats – have accepted funds through the same process. There's not much chance of change, until the people themselves have had enough.

The most innovative, and one of the smelliest schemes to avoid official disclosure is to run auctions, where "bidders" are able to bid "absurdly high" prices for mundane items:

"... Markson Sparks, which will work for any political party, has used auctions that avoid formal disclosure requirements. Even when the amount paid to a political party for an item is absurdly high, organisers argue that the money is not a donation. The federal director of the Liberal Party, Lynton Crosby, said he knew 'from discussions with people who attend functions organised by Markson Sparks that they are invited to make donations which are masked by the nature of the function'..."

EU BUREAUCRAZIES by Antonia Feitz:

Glorying in their ignorance not only of the realities of farming life but also of the natural world itself, EU bureaucrats have decreed that farmers must not operate their tractors / harvesters / quad bikes for more than two hours a day. Why? Backache.

This is not a joke. EU employment and social affairs officials have drafted a document called the *Physical Agents Directive* which will make operating certain machinery for more than a few hours illegal because of the health risk of "whole body vibration".

Lord Inglewood, a Conservative Member of the European Parliament and himself a farmer was outraged, "Brussels bureaucrats sitting in air-conditioned offices have no idea that farming in Britain is a game of hide and seek with the weather. Arbitrary rules of this kind simply sound the death knell for farming. The sun can't be made to shine according to an EC initiative."

(Paul Stokes, EU move puts brake on tractor time, *ISSUE* 2114, Friday, March 9th, 2001)

Unfortunately bureaucratic parasites who've never done a decent day's work in their lives tend to think they are all powerful. Perhaps English and other European farmers affected by this idiotic directive should sue the EU for the ruination of their crops.

The Directive doesn't just apply to farmers but to all industry. Well, mandating a two hour maximum for working with certain machinery would be a quick way to ruin farmers and export all manufacturing to the third world I suppose.