



A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

ON TARGET



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The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance –

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: *"On behalf of the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party, I extend my best wishes to the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation Commission Inc. and the Council of Christians and Jews Inc. on the occasion of their 2001 memorial Oration. I am sure that Rabbi David Rosen, Director of the Anti-Defamation League's Israel office and the International President of the Council of Christians and Jews, will deliver a first class Oration, and I am only sorry that I will be unable to attend.*

"The work of the Commission deserves the highest praise and has the keen support of freedom-lovers worldwide."

– Kim C. Beazley, MP Canberra, March 2001

"Oration 2001", published by B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation Commission & Council of Christians & Jews.

THE MEDIA ART OF THE 'BEAT-UP' by Jeremy Lee:

The chairman of the Australian Broadcasting Authority, Professor David Flint, giving the opening address at the ABA's inaugural annual conference in Canberra on May 3rd, was scathing about the standard of journalism. *The Australian Financial Review* (4/5/01) said: ".... Professor Flint said political journalists were a homogenous pack who regularly indulged themselves in campaign journalism.

"He said journalists often failed to distinguish between news and comment, were often intrusive and sensationalist "There is a right and a freedom to comment provided that fact and opinion are not blurred. Not to do this is contrary to the codes of ethics, including the principles of the Press Council and the media should observe these." "Journalists insist, and correctly insist, on the application of civic virtue to others in public life. Surely it is the time now that our political journalists should look to their own behaviour. They should apply to themselves the same principles which they would apply to others"

Professor Flint's remarks could not be more timely as a prelude to the three-page 'beat-up' in *The Weekend Australian* (26-27/5/01) on the issue of Pauline Hanson, Graeme Campbell and the Australian League of Rights. The usual inaccuracies concerning the League were trotted out; for example: *"....the League of Rights pursues ultra-nationalist causes, including anti-immigration, racial superiority and anti-Semitism Veritas produces so-called "race studies", and supports and distributes the work of controversial British historian David Irving, who disputes the extent of the Holocaust. Butler also*

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wrote that Jesus Christ was not considered a Jew and the League of Rights disputed the authenticity of The Diary of Anne Frank."

While it is true such issues have been included from time to time in the weekly newsletter *On Target*, and the monthly *New Times Survey*, the articles have always expressed the views of individual writers, and do not find their way into the objectives of the League, which are carried month-by-month on the front cover of the *New Times Survey*. As an association, there is no mention of Anne Frank or David Irving or of the Jews in its objectives.

The League does present a platform, which exists nowhere else, for issues that are entitled to be heard, and which are screened out of the mainstream media. All of which is turned from a virtue into a crime by journalists who in Professor Flint's words, "should look to their own behaviour."

The present conflict within One Nation which, as far as we can tell, has been blown out of all proportion, must obviously be decided within that arena. Like others, League supporters will watch with interest to see whether the "guilt-by-association" tactics fostered by Senator Boswell will succeed.

POLITICAL RORTING: It was a pleasure to turn from the nonsense above to Dennis Shanahan's article in the same issue of *The Weekend Australian*, which started: "There are clearly grounds to believe that a rort far bigger than Peter Reith's misuse of a telecard or Mal Colston's dodgy travel is going undetected during federal election campaigns."

"There is also a systemic exploitation of our electoral machinery crying out for reform, which has far more practical impact on the lives of our citizens than consideration of a republic"

Shanahan went on to elaborate on the nauseating misuse of public funds by parties during election campaigns, and the erosion of the democratic process by corporate political patronage.

As more mainstream journalists comment on the stench of money-politics, it must, sooner or later, become the subject of proper investigation.

PHARMACISTS AND DRUG COMPANIES: Another example of corruption-by-mammon was included in an article by Sarah Bryden-Brown (same issue of *The Weekend Australian*) headed DRUG GIANTS UNDERWRITE CHEMISTS. She said: "Pharmacists have accepted \$1.5 billion in loans or bank guarantees from the three big drug whole-salers and manufacturers – Sigma, Australian Pharmaceutical Industries and F.H. Faulding. In return, the pharmacists must purchase 90 percent of their stock from them "We are horrified at the potential ethical problems this presents," AMA-vice-president Trevor Mudge said. "Customers are expecting the pharmacist to say, 'take this cold remedy because it is the best, not because it is owned by the provider of my mortgage'"

The sin is compounded by the fact that many drugs are subsidised by the Government, whose medical benefits scheme is now in dire straits due to overspending.

ABOLISHING THE POUND STERLING: Opinion polls in Britain show the population opposed, by two to one, to entry into European Monetary Union and the loss of the British pound. The Conservative Party should be on a winner, after the lead given by Baroness Margaret Thatcher at the Party's annual conference. But the electorate knows that the party is almost equally divided between supporters and opponents of Europe. So the Conservatives are trailing in the polls due to their apparent indecision.

A red-blooded opposition to Europe would warn Britishers by quoting the words of the arch-communist Trotsky, one of Lenin's henchmen, made in 1917, the year the Bolsheviks took over in Russia: "The Federated Republic of Europe – the United States of Europe – that is what must be. National autonomy no longer suffices. Economic evolution demands the abolition of national frontiers. Only a Federated Republic of Europe can give peace to the world"

Tony Blair's "New Labour" and Trotsky's "Bolshevism" are on the same track.

ALEXANDER DOWNER'S TOAST: Under the heading DOWNER TOASTS THE DEATH OF MORE THAN 1 MILLION TIBETANS, *The Australian Financial Review* (25/5/01) carried a letter by Katherine Smith: "As a member of the Australia Tibet Council I am writing to express my anger and disappointment at Foreign Minister Alexander Downer's attitude towards Tibet.

"He sent an official representative to last night's reception at the Chinese Embassy to celebrate the 50th anniversary of China's takeover of Tibet. It means Australia is toasting the deaths of more than 1.2 million Tibetans – one sixth of the population, along with the deprivation of human, civil, political and cultural rights of Tibetans during the Chinese military occupation We would never have attended a celebration at the Iraqi embassy to celebrate the invasion of Kuwait, or even at the Indonesian embassy to celebrate the takeover of East Timor"

Ah! But we do more business with China, you see. They take \$3.9 billion in exports, much more important than bloodshed and tyranny!

THE WAR ON BANKS: As if it didn't have enough troubles, the Coalition is going to be facing a campaign by the Financial Sector Union, targeted at marginal seats, during the federal election.

The Australian Financial Review (28/5/01) reported "The FSU has conducted polling and focus groups in marginal seats on banking issues, which will allow them to confront sitting members and candidates with comprehensive feedback from constituents The Union has formed a social coalition with other interest groups, including consumer, legal, pensioner, church and local council associations, to lobby against banks' flagging service standards"

Which should generally add to the cup of cheer of coalition candidates – particularly in the bush – come the election.

How will they reply? Probably by using Ron's tactic of blaming the whole thing on that wretched League of Rights!

EAST TIMOR'S FINANCIAL WOES: There are three currencies in circulation in East Timor – the Australian and US dollars, and the Indonesian rupiah. But all that's about to change. *The Australian* (25/5/01) reported: ".... The UN-run government, keen to rationalise what is effectively a three-currency economy, has opted to base the economy exclusively on the US dollar Threatening heavy fines for those who break the rules, it has banned the use of the Indonesian rupiah and the Australian dollar"

The move threatens to escalate the unrest that already exists in East Timor. Surely, the best move would have been to establish a "peoples' bank" in the country, which issued its own independent currency. (See the League's *New Times Survey* for April, which gives many world-wide examples of how this could be done.)

GULAGS UP FOR TENDER: The shocking mess in refugee detention centres in Australia, which are currently run by the foreign multinational Wackenhut, are to be put up for tender.

The Weekend Australian (May 26-27, 2001) commented: ".... The decision follows several riots, mass breakouts, allegations of mistreatment of refugees, management concerns raised by the commonwealth ombudsman and a government-appointed investigator and poor quarterly performance reports The contract is estimated to be worth about \$90 million a year"

BANKRUPTCIES KEEP RISING: The latest report from Dun and Bradstreet shows bankruptcies for the first quarter of 2001 up 22 percent on the previous quarter, and 33 percent on the same quarter last year. Is this what the government means by "growth"? Spokesman for the organisation attributes the attrition to the GST.

LETTER TO THE ARCHBISHOP FROM PHILIP BENWELL:

I have come under a great deal of criticism for daring to oppose the nomination of and acceptance by Archbishop Peter Hollingworth for the highest office under The Crown of Governor-General.

If I, as National Chairman of the Australian Monarchist League, must be muted on these issues, then what worth is our democracy.

I believe that there is no transgression in justified criticism, even against members of the Royal Family. Rather, the fault is in slavishly paying obeisance. For the edification of those interested I append below a copy of a letter I had written to the Archbishop. I have had no reply, not do I anticipate one. — Philip Benwell, National Chairman, Australian Monarchist League

Would you please note that correspondence to the Australian Monarchist League should be addressed us at: P O Box 1068, Double Bay, NSW, 1360.

The Most Rev'd Peter Hollingworth AO OBE, Archbishop of Brisbane, Etc.
Your Grace,

We must admit to concerns over Your Grace's open dalliance with support for a republic which we believe could well taint you for the high office to which you are to be installed. We would like to clarify matters for you are to be our Governor-General and we are to be your People.

We note that at the Constitutional Convention you did not simply observe and comment on matters pertaining to the Christian nature of our Constitution, but was actually a very active participant, presenting reports from working groups and seconding motions and you are even reported as having said that the Australian People "would be fools" not to vote for a republic.

We remain disturbed at your inference at the Convention that the term 'God' in the Preamble is meant in a generic sense whereas the actual wording is 'Almighty God'.

Whilst it is true that you abstained from voting on the final day of the Convention, we note that you consistently voted along with the republicans in favour of the 'Turnbull' Model in rounds one to four on the 12th February 1998.

The final motion on that day was "That, if Australia is to become a republic, this Convention recommends that the model adopted be the Bi-Partisan Appointment of a President Model" to which you voted in favour.

It was only on the vote on the following day, the 13th February 1998 for the motion: "That this Convention supports in Principle, Australia becoming a republic" that you abstained. You have since been reported as saying that this was because you felt the model proposed to be unstable. If this was so, why then did you not vote against it?

We are disappointed that our calls for prayers for The Queen on special occasions, the last being for Her Majesty's 75th birthday, have never been acknowledged by you or your staff. We have also over time received numerous concerns from monarchists that their communications to you have been ignored.

It would be to the benefit of us all if these concerns could be clarified. Notwithstanding this, we wish to assure you that as Governor-General you will have our complete loyalty. — *Philip Benwell*

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