



A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

ON TARGET



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The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance –

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: *"During the short period of time that we live in this world," Pasternak explained, 'we have to understand our attitude toward existence, our place in the universe. Otherwise, life is meaningless.' This, as I understand it, means a rejection of the nineteenth century materialistic world view, means a resurrection of our interior life ... Matryona's House was something that was very, very emotional for me," Solzhenitsyn recalls, 'and was dedicated to the memory of a holy Russian woman.'*

"She was a poor housekeeper. In other words she refused to strain herself to buy gadgets and possessions and then to guard them and care for them more than for her own life. She never cared for smart clothes, the garments that embellish the ugly and disguise the wicked. Misunderstood and rejected by her husband, a stranger to her own family despite her happy, amiable temperament, comical, so foolish that she worked for others for no reward, this woman ... had stored up no earthly goods. Nothing but a dirty white goat, a lame cat and a row of fig plants.

"None of us who lived close to her perceived that she was that one righteous person without whom, as the saying goes, no city can stand. Nor the world."

"Solzhenitsyn a Soul in Exile" by Joseph Pearce, 1999

DICK SMITH ON GLOBALISATION by Jeremy Lee:

There is no doubt that Dick Smith has the happy knack of cutting through the cant and getting to the 'nitty-gritty'. He has been running a series of advertisements on supporting Australian-owned-and-made that has the top end of town worried.

His ad in *The Weekend Australian* (4-5/8/01) was a gem. Under the heading GLOBALISATION – POLITICIANS AND JOURNALISTS PROTECT THEMSELVES it went on:

"The incomes of politicians and journalists are protected from the forces of globalisation by strong immigration and industrial laws. At the same time they tell our farmers to accept

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reality and lower their prices to compete. What hypocrisy! If globalism is the free flow of capital and labour around the world, why don't politicians and journalists lower their salaries to compete?

You can be assured that Bangladeshi journalists will never be allowed to come and work here on Bangladeshi wages. However, many of our journalists insist that our farmers lower their income to compete with Bangladeshis.

Dick Smith Foods is actively supporting Aussie farmers so they can make a decent living while ensuring that the wealth created remains in Australia, allowing a better future for our children and grandchildren."

Doesn't it conjure up some possibilities? Suppose our politicians had to undergo "compulsory competitive tendering" for their salaries and perks. Suppose each party – Liberals, Labor, Nationals, Democrats, Greens, One Nation, etc. – as well as independents, had to publish a figure for political salaries and expenses that their members would be content with if they were elected? A party whose members were prepared, as a service to their country, to accept the average wage and a maximum of \$100 a day to cover all travel, accommodation and postage expenses, would look a lot cleaner than the self-serving salary rises that keep coming up for politicians who tell the rest of us to tighten our belts. Perhaps a 'tender committee' could be set up in each electorate, to let local voters know where each candidate stood as far as salaries and perks was concerned.

And what about a set, standard global 'benchmark' in terms of dollars-per-column-inch for all journalists, so that some of our news corporation fat cats had to taste the medicine they so readily prescribe for others?

Whatever else is said, the 'buy-Australian-owned-and-made' continues to grow in size and intensity, to the consternation of the multinationals.

BIGGER IS BETTER: Mr. Don Argus, currently chairman of BHP Billiton and Brambles, and former chief of the National Australia Bank, has some advice for Australia. *The Australian* (3/8/01) reported:

"Australian companies would remain vulnerable to foreign predators unless they were allowed to become big enough to compete globally Former National Australian Bank chief Don Argus said regulators should consider that small economies like Australia might not be able to support more than two or three major domestic competitors"

He does not address the fact that the whole tax regime is now geared to favour the big corporations, and that if the shackles were removed from small businesses and home-based manufacturing and farming, there is more than enough 'get-up-and-go' in Australia to survive without becoming world monopolies.

What, for instance, of Dick Smith Foods, who are doing very well against all the odds? Or Bendigo Bank, which is making headway where the 'gang-of-four' have pulled out? Bendigo is now involved in 50 local community banks, with another 30 due to open before the end of the year. Its rate of growth is going so well that it has been forced to delay discussions on local community banks with another 100 interested townships. Many of those started were in a profit situation within little more than a year of starting. And they offer something the big four have forgotten all about – face-to-face banking and genuine service.

EUSURY: Next New Year's eve the biggest money transition in recorded history will take place in Europe. A feature article in *The Weekend Australian* (4-5/8/01) started:

"Next New Year in Europe is going to be like no other for the 300 million citizens of euroland On New Year's Day 2002 they will go into shops with deutschmarks, francs, lira, schillings, markkas, guilders, drachmas, punts, escudos, or pesetas in their pockets and purses. But they will come out with crisp new euro notes and shining, freshly minted euro coins.

"For the first time they will have in their hands the tangible evidence of the most remarkable monetary transition in world history. The national currencies of Germany, France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Italy, Austria, Finland, Holland, Greece, Ireland, Portugal and Spain will cease to exist....."

One member of the European Union is still holding back, despite the frantic desires of its Prime Minister Tony Blair. Britain will still have its pounds, shillings and pence and will, if Blair is held to a former promise, not lose them without a national referendum. Currently, feeling in Britain is strongly against monetary union – but who knows what enough propaganda will do to lull peoples' minds.

The sheer logistics of what Europe is intending are formidable. The minting of 50 billion coins started in May 1998, and the printing of 14.5 billion banknotes in July 1999. Distribution of the money will begin in September, although the public will not get them until the New Year. Holland has estimated it will need 250 one-tonne trucks making thousands of trips to shift the notes and coins.

Huge security planning is being brought into operation, including military forces and satellite technology tracking the trucks that are used for distribution. Special operations are being set in place to prevent counterfeiting, not only of the new money, but the old currencies that will be handed in.

The article included this comment: "What do the citizens involved think about the loss of their national currencies and the introduction of the Euro? Not surprisingly, they are confused, suspicious of being ripped off by price gouging and, particularly in Germany, angry about losing the old currency. However, they haven't been given a say, because the new political and bureaucratic elite that runs the European Union from Brussels doesn't trust them to make the 'right' decision"

And the notes and coins are only a fraction of the total money aggregates in Europe. About 95 percent of money in modern economies is in the form of credit – simply figures in computers. So computers in banks and businesses will be working frantically to convert old currencies into the new one.

And all under the nice, tight centralized control of the European Central Bank which, under clause 107 of the Maastricht Treaty, is not answerable to any elected government or body. What a coup!

ZIMBABWE INCREASES THE CHAOS: The land-grab by the despotic Robert Mugabe which has so shocked the world, is being stepped up. He is now going to double the number of white farms seized. According to *The Weekend Australian* (4-5/8/01) ".... Robert Mugabe plans to reposess almost twice as much white-owned farmland for black settlement as previously announced. Agriculture Minister Joseph Made told a congress of the Commercial Farmers' Union that rather than resettling blacks on 31 million hectares, the Government intended to claim 52.5 million hectares. The plan will mean the seizure of almost 90 percent of white farms..... Earlier, farmers had warned the land reform program could lead to crop shortages next year...."

The Farmers' Union president, Tim Henwood, said that farm output had dropped 27 percent in the past year. The new farm seizures would result in wholesale famine.

Properties listed for seizure included schools, churches, an oil refinery and land flooded by the construction of dams. As home to one of the biggest dams in the world across the Zambezi, the implications are enormous. Robert Mugabe is doing his best to ensure that Africa's reputation for tyranny and disaster is lowered to the bottom of the barrel.

THE MIDDLE EAST INFERNO: As we have constantly predicted, anything less than a fair deal for the Palestinian people – a place of their own – will carry the tragic events in Israel at the moment into full-scale war throughout the Middle East. Israeli Prime Minister Sharon has now said he does not believe a peace with the Palestinians is possible. As a sign of their desperation, even Palestinian women are joining the ranks of the suicide bombers. Against such desperation even the most sophisticated forces cannot prevail. What will Sharon do? We suspect that his mind has been preoccupied for some time by the idea of a war of such scale that the Palestinian people are physically rejected from the land, or annihilated. The only alternative – and Sharon will not contemplate such an idea – is for Israel to retreat to the 1967 borders, and separate totally from the Palestinians.

SENATOR BOSWELL AT IT AGAIN by Betty Luks:

Just happened to catch the tail end of a radio interview whilst on tour in WA. The interviewer was speaking to Senator Boswell in relation to the announcement Hendy Cowan of the National Party was going to try for a Senate seat at the next Federal election.

Of course Senator Boswell just had to 'link' the Australian League of Rights, Graeme Campbell, Australia First and One Nation.

Could one of his supporters tell him there is such a thing as 'the sin of omission'? It was what he *didn't* say that made the difference to the scenario he was presenting, changing completely the true picture into one of his 'propaganda myths'.

In *The Weekend Australian*, May 26th-27th, 2001, readers were to learn – and be alarmed by the news of – the far-right was about to take over One Nation and of course the League was accused of being involved.

Names and donations to Australia First's last Federal election campaign were published for the benefit of its readers so as to establish in their minds the links of Graeme Campbell and Australia First to the 'far-right' extremists groups.

What Mr. Boswell and *The Australian* forgot to mention was that the names and figures published were sourced from the Electoral Commission in SA and were details of the Federal election campaign of Mr. Peter Davis, Mayor of Port Lincoln.

Peter Davis has never hidden his links with the League of Rights which go back about 30 years! South Australians would have been quite aware of the facts; they were never hidden. Perhaps Mr. Boswell would like to explain to his supporters from whence came the National Party's 1999-2000 donations of \$4.9 million?

The Sydney Morning Herald (2/2/01) informed its readers this was the figure sourced from the Australian Electoral Commission records. Labor received donations of \$29.5 million and the Liberals \$18.5 million.

Methinks Peter Davis' funds were small bikkies indeed compared with the monies handled by 'the big boys'.

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