A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

ON TARGET

• NEWS HIGHLIGHTS
• BACKGROUND INFORMATION
• COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance –

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: *The world had been 'dragged along the whole of the Western bourgeois-industrial and Marxist path' only to discover "what any village graybeard in the Ukraine or Russia had understood from time immemorial... that a dozen maggots can't go on and on gnawing the same apple forever; that if the earth is a finite object, then its expanses and resources are finite also, and the endless, infinite progress dinned into our heads by the dreamers of the Enlightenment cannot be accomplished on it... All that 'endless progress' turned out to be an insane, ill-considered, furious dash into a blind alley. A civilisation greedy for 'perpetual progress' has now choked and is on its last legs."* – ***"Solzhenitsyn: A Soul in Exile"*** by Joseph Pearce, 1999

THEN COMETH DESTRUCTION by Jeremy Lee:

With the election looming, there are desperate attempts to present the economy in recovery mode. With the US moving towards recession, Asia sinking back into the 'meltdown' of '97 and Europe in real trouble, Treasurer Costello's attempts to portray Australia as "the fastest-growing economy in the world" is an exercise in deceit. If the Howard government can maintain the illusion of recovery until the election it will be satisfied. Whatever transpires at the election, the start of 2002 looks like being torrid.

Reserve Bank Governor Ian Macfarlane is obviously confused, unable to reconcile the increase in unemployment with the GDP growth figures. If anyone tried to explain to him that "recovery" no longer equates with higher employment, he would scurry back to orthodox text-books which no longer have any bearing on an electronic, computerized, technological economy replacing humans as fast as possible. Latest figures show that, since last September, 176,000 full-time jobs have been lost, with the gain in part-time jobs almost as much. But by corrupting the statistics to include part-time jobs in the employment figures the government has, and is increasingly, hiding the truth from the Australian people. For a large number the recession is still here, and the lop-sided figures only exist because the government has been emptying the tax piggy-bank to buy sufficient votes for re-election. The much-vaunted budget surpluses have disappeared. The price for this deceit comes immediately after the election.

Describing the US economy Alan Wood asked (***The Australian***, 14/8/01): " .... *What happens when the bubble bursts? It could get very messy as world currencies find a new level, with capital rushing out of the US, precipitating a new crash on Wall Street and a period of further contraction in the US economy ....*"

Stephen Koukoulas, ***The Australian Financial Review*** (13/8/01) said of |Australia's performance: *"In terms of GDP, the recent performance is poor. GDP growth has stalled, with annual growth slowing from 5 percent in the middle of 2000 to 2.1 percent in the year to the March quarter 2001. When the June quarter data are released next month, annual GDP growth is likely to slip to about 1.5 percent .... Interestingly, this is about the extent of the slowdown in the United States, where through-the-year growth has slowed from 5 percent in the middle of 2000 to 1.3 percent in the year to the June quarter 2001. Clearly, Australia has not outperformed the US in the past year and, in fact, has significantly underperformed ....."*

Max Walsh in ***The Bulletin*** (21/8/01) was even more graphic: *"Can Australia really be an oasis of prosperity in a troubled global economy? You would think so if you were to take the word of John Howard and Peter Costello at face value.....*

"It may well be that the US is already in recession. And the indications are that its economy has not yet hit bottom. The impact is being felt throughout the global economy, with the most painful implications in East Asia, Australia's main export market.

"Growth in the East Asian economies (excluding Japan) is largely a function of their export sectors and the US is their biggest customer. In June, Taiwan's exports were down 17% on June last year. South Korea was down 14%, Malaysia 14%, Indonesia 10% and Hong Kong 8% .... This is a plunge of unprecedented proportions, worse than even the dark days of the contagion crisis .... It is evident that the Asian downturn has not hit bottom either ....."

Meanwhile, Australia's biggest customer, Japan, is crawling along the floor, entering its fourth recession in less than ten years. The Bank of Japan has moved to inject a further 6 trillion yen ($93.75 billion) into the ailing economy. It is a further injection of debt, to be added to Japan's colossal public debt, over 140% of GDP. Like other usury-driven economies, Japan will do everything but the obvious – write off the back-breaking load of debt carried by the people by issuing some debt-free money.

GOVERNMENT-INDUCED POVERTY: As more and more Australians are thrown out of full-time employment into part-time or, worse, unemployment, the welfare net is stretched to the limit. Periodically, the welfare regulations are tightened in an effort to "save money" throwing even more desperate families on the shoulders of over-stretched welfare agencies. ***The Australian*** (13/8/01) reported: *"The Government has been forced to review its welfare penalty system after revelations Centrelink had unfairly treated many of society's most vulnerable people. Homeless, mentally ill and drug addicted welfare recipients were the worst hit in a blitz of penalties that netted the Government $250 million in the past year ...."*

The Australian (14/8) reported on its own investigation: *"Eleven percent of people using Salvation Army emergency services said they had turned to crime after Centrelink reduced or cut off their welfare payments, a yet-to-be-released report by the charity says.*

"The Australian *believes that a snapshot of 1616 people – surveyed at 40 crisis accommodation centers on a single day earlier this year – reveals that 84 percent of respondents could not afford food or medicine .... Fourteen percent said the reduction had led directly to their being evicted, while 62 percent said they had been unable to pay their rent or lodge a bond.... Salvation Army Communications director John Dalziel said the organisation's 500 crisis services and refuges were 'vastly overloaded' with clients as a direct result of breaching. 'Charities like ours are picking up the pieces all over the country,' he said ....*"

One wonders where the money "saved" was spent; probably on government advertising telling us all how well Australia is doing. Or perhaps it's earmarked for a clamp-down on crime and a "law-and-order" electoral campaign?

MORE FOREIGN INVESTMENT: Although Australia has one of the largest levels of foreign ownership in the world, the addiction to foreign investment as the panacea for government ineptitude continues to grow. A new report by Dr. Ian Blackburn, former managing director of Caltex Australia, pointed out the unco-ordinated and haphazard approach to attracting foreign money. The 83 investment representatives placed in 40 overseas cities *"typically spend much of their time briefing investors about the commercial and economic conditions in Australia. They can also put foreigners seeking tax and regulatory concessions in touch with their own State governments, a situation some companies use to play off one State against another ....."*

Tax and regulatory concessions for Australian farms and small businesses don't even figure.

INDEPENDENTS INCREASING: We tend to think that independents in our parliaments are the wave of a more hopeful future. In fact, there are now 44 independents in federal, state and territory parliaments. The biggest number – ten – is in Tasmania.

THE 'MYTHS OF HISTORY' by Betty Luks:

In *"Programme for the Third World War"*, C. H. Douglas cautioned his reader to take what is taught as 'history' with a grain of salt.

"I don't know," he wrote, "if there are any readers who believe that if Adolph Schickelgruber, better known as Hitler (but perhaps more correctly described as Rothschild) had, in the inscrutable wisdom of Providence, been dropped from a second floor window at an early age, there would have been no World War. There may be.

There are kindly people who believe that Henry the Eighth had six wives because he was just unlucky, and that Anthony Eden goes to Washington at critical periods because he belongs to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel amongst the Christians. But to any such, I will render the only service to them in my power. I advise them not to read any further..."

Upon reading the report in the July 2001 *Adelaide Institute* newsletter of 'The Barnes Review Second International Conference" held in Washington during June of this year I was reminded of what Douglas wrote all those years ago.

Dr. Fred Toben (*Adelaide Institute*) told his readers of a Mr. Fred Rydholm "who provided his audience with a fascinating set of slides and other compelling evidence that ancient European and Middle Eastern civilisations were active on American soil not just before Columbus – but thousands of years before even the Vikings – mining copper in the Michigan peninsula and shipping it back to the Old World to fuel the Copper and Bronze Ages..."

Douglas also wrote of America being known to the Ancient World, and Australians are now learning this continent was known to these ancient people. ("Phoenician Colony in Australia?" *Heritage* Vol. 24, No. 94, 2000).

"Which brings us to Columbus," continued Douglas. "The curious myopia... which regards history as the events subsequently to the landing of Norman William, with his select body of Jews, A.D. 1066, enables the statement that 'Christopher Columbus discovered America at the end of the fifteenth century' to be accepted as accurate."

"Apart from the fact that Columbus never saw America, the mainland of which was 'discovered' at the end of the fifteenth century by John Cabot, who sailed from Bristol in 1497, there is strong reason to believe that various Scandinavian peoples had fairly constant intercourse with the North American Continent hundreds, if not thousands, of years earlier. Their traditional name for it was Markland."

Where did Douglas get his information, you may ask.

He wrote, "There are, however, certain features in regard to the rediscovery of America which are worth attention. Christopher Columbus was a Jew, and John Cabot, although his ship and crew were English, was a Venetian. But the extraordinary and significant fact is that there was in Bristol at that time a secret Jewish community "who handed on their tradition by word of mouth" (Lord Melchett: Thy Neighbour, p. 90).

Both "Columbus and Cabot had information of a fairly definite character to guide them," and, Douglas noted, both "had connections with banking - Columbus with Jewish banking, and Cabot with the banking-City-State of Venice..."

"The essence of banking has always been what in military circles is called 'intelligence' - information in its widest sense, ... and it seems highly probable that the existence of the American continent was known in banking circles when it was quite unknown outside them..."

Further reading: Heritage Journal Vol. 24 No. 94 2000; "Programme for the Third World War" by C. H. Douglas. Available from League Book Services.

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