



A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

ON TARGET



- NEWS HIGHLIGHTS
- BACKGROUND INFORMATION
- COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance –

Print Post Publication Number 381667 00258

Vol.37, No.38

October 5th, 2001

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: *"Political Zionism and International Communism are united in their hatred of traditional Christianity with its philosophy of elevating the individual over the group and its stress upon diversity and decentralisation of power. Practical Christianity is the complete answer to the exploitation of human beings by the exponents of centralised power, whoever they may be. The real tragedy of the Jews, irrespective of their racial background, is that they have suffered more than most from the imposition of the philosophy of centralised power."*

TRUTH – THE FIRST CASUALTY IN WAR by Jeremy Lee:

Almost as the tragedy in the US was digested the media sought the reaction of leaders and peoples round the world. The vast majority were shocked and appalled. In contrast, pictures of Palestinians cheering and clapping were played hundreds of times round the world. It is safe to say that the Palestinian cause, which had gained increasing sympathy in many quarters, received a savage setback.

Andrew Dodd, writing in the MEDIA section of *The Australian* (27/9-3/10) described a number of factual errors in reporting events in the New York/Washington tragedies. He quoted Robert Schmuhl, Director of the University of Notre Dame's journalism, ethics and democracy program as follows:

"....'The old system of journalism allowed for time – time for reporters to double-check facts and verify sources, time for editors to decide what to go with and what to leave. But in the new system that we have now, time isn't a controlling factor. Everything is instant – now. The urge to get something new is so strong, the basics of the journalist's craft get blown over. Lack of time does not excuse some of the errors, which appear to derive from an ideological filter being imposed on the news'"

An ideological filter? Dodd gave one of a number of examples:

"....Rumours started circulating after the broadcast of images of Palestinians rejoicing over the terrorist attacks in the US. According to the gossip, the footage was actually taken several years ago and not related to anti-US sentiments at all. Although those rumours appear to be false, a more credible one has arisen in its place. According to the Professor of Media studies at New York University, Mark Crispin Miller, the footage was filmed during the funeral of nine people killed the day before by

IN THIS ISSUE: • *Truth The First Casualty In War* • *Misuse Of The Press* • *Recession Stalks The World* • *Food Banks in New Zealand* • *Bigger Budget Surplus* • *A Loser And Some Winners* • **Governments Declare War**

"ON TARGET"

October 5th, 2001

Page 1 (149)

Israeli authorities. He told Agence France-Presse that 'to show it without explaining the background, and to show it over and over again is to make propaganda for the war machine and is irresponsible.'"

MISUSE OF THE PRESS: Veteran journalist the late Ivor Benson, who held high positions in the Press in South Africa, the former Rhodesia and London's Fleet Street, in his book *"The Opinion Makers"*, gave a number of examples where the media had allowed itself to be part of the political agenda, rather than reporting objectively. In one example he told of an alleged riot in Blantyre, Malawi in January 1960, while British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan was staying at Ryall's Hotel.

Headlines subsequently screamed round the world that thousands of protesters had been crushed by gross police brutality. The allegations in press headlines round the world were so serious that a judicial commission was set up to investigate the matter.

As Benson explained: "...The incident was watched by a great contingent of journalists representing the world's biggest newspapers and news agencies These were not ordinary journalists. They were the stars of the profession...."

The finding of the Southworth Commission, presided over by a British judge Mr. Justice Robert Southworth gave a picture which never reached the world. The Commission heard from 81 witnesses – 10 from the UK Press, nine from the Press in Rhodesia, Nyasaland and South Africa, 17 European police officers, 12 African police officers, and a number who had been witnesses outside the hotel.

The findings? Demonstrators numbered between 50 and 80. There was no violence except for one woman whose toe was trodden on. Events had no connection with the wild and provocative reporting worldwide.

Benson concluded: "These journalists were, in fact, supplying for the benefit of newspaper readers (and radio listeners) all over the world some of the reporting that accompanied political changes of tremendous consequence in the continent of Africa and, as we now find, to the whole world.

"They were helping to create 'world opinion' which in turn must influence the policies of governments on matters of the greatest consequence for the future"

If it is true that the mis-reporting of the reaction of Palestinians to the US tragedy is of great benefit to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and the Israeli government, we must ask whether the matter will be corrected in the world's headlines? We suspect not. Why?

Perhaps the answer was provided in a feature article in Britain's *Daily Telegraph* (6/2/96) in this description of the press in the US:

".... More than a quarter of reporters, editors and executives on big newspapers and television networks are Jewish, along with nearly 60 percent of writers, producers and directors of Hollywood's 50 biggest-grossing movies. At the leading law firms in Washington and New York, 40% of attorneys are Jewish, as are 16 in the top 40 of *Forbes* magazine's list of America's 400 wealthiest men"

The major world media papers and broadcasters owe some correction to the Palestinians. The historical background was summed up by journalist Robert Fisk (*The Chronicle*, Toowoomba, 13/9/01):

"So it has come to this. The entire modern history of the Middle East – the collapse of the Ottoman empire, the Balfour declaration, Lawrence of Arabia's lies, the Arab revolt, the foundation of the state of Israel, four Arab-Israeli wars and the 34 years of Israel's brutal occupation of Arab land – all erased within hours as those who claim to represent a crushed, humiliated population struck back with the wickedness and awesome cruelty of a doomed people.

"Is it fair – is it moral – to write this so soon, without proof, when the last act of barbarism in Oklahoma turned out to be the work of home-grown Americans? I fear it is. America is at war and, unless I am mistaken, many thousands more are now scheduled to die in the Middle East"

RECESSION STALKS THE WORLD: Morgan Stanley, the world famous merchant bank, has issued a blunt warning about the world economy (*The Australian*, 27/9/01):

".... Morgan Stanley's team of international economists issued a blunt warning yesterday; the world is facing its worst recession since World War II, and no region of the globe will escape.

"For a world we judged already to be in synchronous recession before the terrorist attacks on America, the downturn now looks considerably deeper and longer than we ever expected," Morgan Stanley chief economist Stephen Roach said in the firm's latest report, Global Economic Forum.

"The report coincides with a warning from Moody's Investment Services that it expects corporate bond defaults to move higher than expected and cause a wave of ratings downgrades...."

Hey Ho! It's been obvious for a long time. It's impossible to run a country, or the world for that matter, on the existing debt system without a prolonged and evermore violent swing between inflation and recession. Consumers, industries, services and governments can't service their debts with their current income-flows, no matter how innovative or efficient their physical production processes. Until someone, somewhere, wrests the money-creation process away from private banks, and issues some credits alongside debits, the world will continue to go bankrupt in the middle of one of the most productive periods in human history.

FOOD BANKS IN NEW ZEALAND: In natural terms New Zealand is one of the richest countries in the world. With huge timber resources, more sheep per head of population than Australia, a world-standard dairy industry, plenty of oil and natural gas and a highly fertile agricultural nation, New Zealand's three-and-a-half million people – smaller than Greater Sydney – should be enjoying an exceedingly high standard of living.

The Editorial in *The Press* (South Island, NZ, 3/9/01) was headed POVERTY PRESSURES, describing the food banks that have been operating in New Zealand for 20 years to keep the population from starving. It described a recent survey in the city of Christchurch:

"New Zealanders have got used to food banks, but do not regard them with complacency. The shame of the Depression soup kitchens is too deeply embedded in the nation's consciousness for the present-day form of food relief to be calmly contemplated.

"City Missioner David Morell gave strong back-up to a New Zealand Council of Social Services survey that found the poor in Christchurch were falling into perilous levels of debt. Some of them were taking desperate measures to survive. Many are handicapped by debt associated with basic commodities, particularly electricity, and that is preventing them buying sufficient food...."

What's the problem? Not enough food to go round? The opposite is true. Food exports from New Zealand are getting better prices. Beef and fat lamb are at record price levels. There is increasing demand for New Zealand dairy products.

The result? New Zealanders pay 15% more for milk, 20% more for beef and 27% more for lamb. The price of electricity – almost all of it hydro-electricity in the South Island – has risen dramatically. To sum it all up – prosperity has never made people so poor and hungry! Except the debt-merchants!

BIGGER BUDGET SURPLUS: In the midst of the mounting chaos which is the Australian economy, Treasurer Costello has announced a bigger-than-expected Budget Surplus – \$5.6 billion. And what a time for it to happen! With an ebullient Coalition surging ahead in the polls on the crest of its war and refugee policies, we're now only weeks away from a Federal election.

What's produced the surplus? Higher than expected taxation revenue. The total direct and indirect taxation figure is \$151 billion – just under \$8,000 per head of population (\$32,000 for the average family of four).

AND THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE THE REVENUE FOR THE GST which adds a further \$1,000 per head to the total. Add onto this State taxes plus local government rates and our tax bill is soaring into the astronomical.

But then Costello says the Liberals are a "low-tax" party!

A LOSER AND SOME WINNERS by Antonia Feitz:

Driving home last week I heard a man tell the local ABC radio announcer that after being injured at work he now lives on a disability pension of \$9,600 a year.

A few day's earlier *The Australian* reported that BHP's seven non-executive directors were paid \$9,160 each for attending the company's monthly board meetings (14/9/01). That works out to \$110,000 each in cash just for attending the meetings.

Between them BHP's top seven executives pocketed \$27.3 million in cash and bonuses. CEO Paul Anderson 'earned' \$7.8 million, up \$700,000 on last year's earnings. His base salary was \$1.58 million, topped up with \$6.24 million in "short-term incentives" comprising another \$1.58 million in cash and the rest in shares.

And they seriously wonder why the natives are getting restless? This can't continue.

GOVERNMENTS DECLARE WAR: The **governments** of the western world are committed to war, so we are told. That is **not** the same thing as **the people** of the western world are committed to war. In fact, I am sure that you, me, Bill Smith and Mary Brown who live down the road (considered collectively) whether – Christian, Jewish and/or Muslim – don't want war.

It is not **governments** who are killed or maimed, it is not governments who **fight**, but in our 'name' – e.g., USA, Israel, Lebanon, Britain, Australia, Russia – governments commit us to war. It is **the ordinary people, that is you, me, Bill Smith or Mary Brown** – Christian, Jewish and/or Muslim – **who do the fighting, who are bombed, etc.** Something very wrong here!

"ON TARGET" is printed and published by The Australian League of Rights, 145 Russell St., Melbourne.
Postal Address: GPO Box 1052J, Melbourne, 3001. Telephone: (03) 9650 9749, Fax: (03) 9650 9368.
Subscription \$40.00 p.a.