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.45 November 23rd, 2001

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: *"In all normal civilisations the trader existed and must exist. But in all normal civilisations the trader was the exception; certainly he was never the rule. The predominance which he has gained in the modern world is the cause of all the disasters of the modern world... The complexity of commercial society has become intolerable, because that society is commercial and nothing else. The whole mind of the community is occupied, not with the idea of possessing things, but with the idea of passing them on. When the simple enthusiasts say that Trade is Good, they mean that all the people who possess goods are perpetually parting with them. These optimists presumably invoke the poet, with some slight emendation of the poet's meaning, when he cries aloud, 'Our souls are love and a perpetual farewell.'*

In that sense, our individualistic and commercial modern society is actually the reverse of a society founded on Private Property... the actual direct and isolated enjoyment of private property, as distinct from the excitement of exchanging it or getting a profit on it, is rather rarer than in many simple communities that seem almost communal in their simplicity."

– ***"The Well and the Shallows: Reflections on a Rotten Apple"*** by G.K. Chesterton, 1935

SHADOW REPRESENTATIVES by Betty Luks:

If the disappointed One Nation and Independent candidates who didn't gain a seat in Federal Parliament decided to continue to serve their electorate as Shadow Representatives, they would not only demonstrate how genuine they are, they would also raise their own profiles for the next election.

Service in the political arena is more than formulating policies and planning strategies and tactics for an election campaign. As the people's Shadow Representatives, they could demonstrate what is the genuine role of a representative in Parliament. Such means as surveys would tell them what the people were thinking and wanted and ways and means would need to be worked out for informing the people and reporting back to them.

ELECTION PROPAGANDA OVER – NOW FOR THE TRUTH by Betty Luks:

Now that the 'alerting the herd instinct' and 'corralling the fear-driven vote' federal election campaign is over, it is time John Howard was made to present the hard evidence as to WHY he has committed

IN THIS ISSUE: *• Thought for the Week • Shadow Representatives • Election Propaganda Over – Now For The Truth • Oil – Commodity Dear to Heart of 'Daddy' Bush and Family • Perhance to Dream . . .*

our soldiers to 'a war on terrorism'. It seems the 'war' has more to do with the monopoly control of Caspian Sea oil. Australians are expected to acquiesce to their sons and daughters being sacrificed 'on the altar of the god of war', without having a clear understanding of who and what is really involved. The war-propaganda campaign emphasis seems to be shifting from the 'capture' of Osama bin Laden to the 'liberation' of Afghan inhabitants from the Taliban rule – in strategic areas of course.

Strategic to whom, and for what? Follow the oil-money trail:

Material is coming to hand which spells out the primary reason for the 'war on terrorism' – for whom and what our young will be sacrificed – and it wreaks of the stench of the Money Power!

The following is a summary of what is more likely the primary motive for this 'war on terrorism'. For those who would like more information than we can include in ***On Target***, send for the "TALIBAN-OIL Information Pack", details of which will be at the end of this article.

OIL - COMMODITY DEAR TO HEART OF 'DADDY' BUSH & FAMILY: Why were the Bush Administration and the Pentagon so intent on the invasion of Afghanistan? After all, it was the US Central Intelligence Agency, along with Pakistan's intelligence forces who helped establish the Taliban as a base of power in Afghanistan in the first place. As recently as May 2001, George W. Bush sent the Taliban $43 million allegedly to aid in the fight against drugs in northern Afghanistan, the one part of the country controlled by opposition forces. (The Northern Alliance is up to its neck in drug production in Afghanistan.) Now Congress is allocating billions more dollars for "America's new war".

Oil monopolies' schemes: Everyone from Hitler on down has wanted the Caspian Sea oil. Exxon, Mobil, Chevron and the other big oil monopolies have been scheming to get their hands on the vast oil and gas wealth around the Caspian Sea, just north of Afghanistan. This region's oil reserves are 10 percent of the world's known supply and worth about US$5 trillion at today's prices.

In 1993 former NATO commander and US Secretary of State, Alexander Haig, formed a consortium to build a pipeline from Turkmenistan through Iran. Haig's pipeline enterprise did not involve the US companies. The idea foundered on the opposition of the Clinton administration.

A 1997 "Voice of America" article reported top government officials and oil company executives from the United States, Turkey, Great Britain, Russia, Azerbaijan and central Asia met to discuss an issue of great mutual concern: pipeline routes for Caspian Sea oil.

Consortium: In 1997 a Consortium was formed to build a central Asia gas pipeline. The key players were Unocal Corporation (USA), Delta Oil Company (Saudi Arabia), the Government of Turkmenistan, Indonesia Petroleum (INPEX – Japan), ITOCHU Oil Exploration (CIECO – Japan), Hyundi Engineering and Construction (Korea) and the Crescent Group (Pakistan). RAO Gazprom (Russia) indicated an interest in a share in the project.

Bridas Group: But the initial enthusiast for the Afghan route was not an American but Carlos Bulgheroni, chairman of the Bridas Group, an Argentine company. In 1993, a Bridas joint venture with Turkmenistan had begun laying more than 2000 miles of seismic lines to map the geology of a potential gas field in eastern Turkmenistan. Two test wells confirmed a huge gas deposit 150 miles from the Afghan border. In the spring of 1995, Turkmenistan and Pakistan commissioned Bulgheroni's company to study the Afghan route.

Enter the Rivals – Unocal Corporation: In 1997, John Imle, president of California-based Unocal Corporation, wooed then president Niyazov (Turkmenistan) and Benazir Bhutto (Pakistan) 'with a vision of a Unacol pipeline roughly following Bridas' route'.

Unocal consortium deal struck with Taliban: In February 1998, Unocal Corporation testified to the House Committee on Internal Relations Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific that the Taliban government in Afghanistan is an obstacle to having an oil pipeline from the Caspian region to the Indian Ocean; that is, through Afghanistan.

Nevertheless, the consortium struck a deal with the Taliban, according to Bob Todor, executive vice president of Unocal. In 1997, Unocal wooed the Taliban with billions of dollars to support the proposed pipeline through their country. But, the Unocal-led initiative foundered in 1998 after the US cruise missile retaliation against Bin Laden's Afghan camps, for the bombings of its African embassies. Then Unocal came under fire from international women's organisations for its courting of the Taliban, despite their notorious repression of women's rights. The women's rights issues, more than the embassy bombings, were used as an excuse to end the Unocal-led deal with the Taliban.

Taliban – a set back to their plans: What the monopolists need in Afghanistan is a 'government' beholden to US interests. Along with the stationing of U.S. troops in the former Soviet Republics of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan, this move would secure the region and allow this project to proceed. And just in time, as far as the U.S. oil companies are concerned, because there is international competition for the Caspian Sea oil resources.

Russia, Germany and China want some of the action: Russian and German companies had been trying to establish a pipeline from the Caspian Sea through Eastern Europe, but US bombing of Yugoslavia blocked this plan. Russia, however, also brokered a treaty with Iran for a pipeline route. China also began negotiating to build oil and gas pipelines from Kazakhstan.

In January 2001, oil industry journals lamented that any chance the US had of cementing alliances in the region seemed doomed. **They noted, however, that the incoming Bush administration, heavy in oil and related interests, would likely try to reverse this trend.**

The US has its own oil reserves, and does not need to rely on oil from abroad. However, Europe, Japan and Asia are dependent on oil from the Middle East (oil that is controlled by US and British companies) and they are eager for alternative and cheaper sources.

Finally, **what do the Persian Gulf, the Caspian Sea and the Balkans have in common for multimillionaires such as the present US Vice President Dick Cheney?**

US domination in these areas serves the interests of corporate multimillionaire Dick Cheney.

Marjorie Cohn reminds her readers in the ***Chicago Tribune***, August 10th, 2000, "In 1991, as George Bush's secretary of defence during the Gulf War, Cheney was chief prosecutor of Operation Desert Storm... Cheney was CEO of the Dallas-based Halliburton Co., the biggest oil-services company in the world." Although he stepped down as CEO, Cohn says he still owns shares of stock in the conglomerate.

Because of instability in the Persian Gulf, Cheney and his fellow oil-men have zeroed in on the world's other major source of oil – the Caspian Sea!

Cheney wants to do business with Azerbaijan, but there are 'human rights' problems because of Azerbaijan's 'ethnic cleansing' activities.

Cheney's oily fingerprints all over the Balkans as well. In 1999, Halliburton's Brown & Root Division was awarded a $180 million contract to supply the US forces in the Balkans! Cheney also sat on the board of directors of Lockheed Martin, the world's largest defence contractor! Replacing munitions used in the Balkans could result in $1 billion in new contracts!

The saga continues, but this time the Howard government has committed <u>our soldiers</u> to the region in this 'war against terrorism'. It is time he came clean as to why Australian soldiers have been committed to this war. The purpose of our defence forces is not that of policing pipelines for oil monopolies in faraway Afghanistan!

"TALIBAN-OIL: Information Pack": $5.00 posted from all League Book Services.

<u>PERCHANCE TO DREAM......</u> In a recent ***OT*** our attention was brought once again to the Alaska Permanent Fund formed in 1976 to give all Alaskans a direct share of the profits their state governments received from investments resulting from the Prudhoe Bay oil fields bonanza.

By 1998, through property, stock market and other investments, the Fund was providing greater returns than the oil itself. Half of the Annual Fund investment returns are distributed to the residents of Alaska as a dividend. The policy was an acknowledgement the citizens of Alaska were entitled to some financial share of the profits from the sale of their natural resources.

Just imagine what it would be like for the people of the Third World nations if they received a dividend, a share of the real wealth of the nations' oil and gas bonanza.

What a bonanza for the people of Afghan, Pakistan and Turkmenistan if they received a share of the profits from the oil and gas reserves in their region.

I thought about what they might choose to do with their first dividend. Repair the damage to their homes and infrastructure after twenty years of war? Send their children to school? Take a holiday in America? Who knows. It's only a dream. The reality is the ruling elite, the corporate cowboys and the corrupt politicians will get their greedy hands on the spoils and the citizens will continue in their poverty-stricken state.

In the meantime David Malan of Cleveland, Queensland, has reminded us the scheme in Alaska should not be described as 'Social Credit'.

Sir, Antonia Feitz is to be commended on the article on Social Credit in ***On Target*** (9/11) but to quote Alaska as an example of Social Credit in action is totally wrong – it has no relation to Social Credit except for the use of the word dividend.

Alaska has what orthodox economists call a 'favourable balance of trade' and therefore appears to have excess money which is distributed to the population as a dividend, but to equate it to the Social Credit concept of a National Dividend reveals a sad lack of understanding of the basics of Social Credit.

Alaska fails the crucial test - is their financial system a true refection of reality as it exists within their own borders? A clear indication that their dividend is not the result of the application of Social Credit principles is the fact that it is derived from trade or financial arrangements with areas outside their own borders.

Yours sincerely, David Malan.

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