A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

ON TARGET

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The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance –

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: *"True, crowd-delirium evoked by members of the opposition and in the name of heretical principles, has everywhere been denounced by those in power. But crowd-delirium aroused by government agents, crowd-delirium in the name of orthodoxy, is an entirely different matter. In all cases where it can be made to serve the interests of men controlling church and state, downward self-transcendence by means of herd intoxication is treated as something legitimate, and even highly desirable. Pilgrimages and political rallies, corybantic revivals and patriotic parades – these things are ethically right so long as they are our pilgrimages, our rallies, our revivals and our parades... When crowd-delirium is exploited for the benefit of governments and orthodox churches, the exploiters are very careful not to allow the intoxication to go too far."*

– Aldous Huxley quoted in ***"Battle for the Mind"*** by William Sargant, 1957

EMPLOYMENT ON A DOWNER by Jeremy Lee:

Behind the smalzy talk about "the national interest", and the "sovereignty of Australia" it is quite clear that our politicians are working on a different agenda, and the double standards occasionally slip through.

Take our redoubtable Foreign Minister Alexander Downer – sometimes referred to unkindly as "Alexander Eiderdown". Where his true allegiances lie is anyone's guess. But he should be thoroughly ashamed of this news, which was carried in ***The Herald Sun*** (4/12/01):

"A Government report has recommended local businesses employ computer workers in India rather than Australia to cut costs.

"The taxpayer-funded report, launched by Foreign Affairs Minister Alexander Downer yesterday, encourages Australian bosses to make the most of India's vast supply of low cost, technologically skilled labour to meet their IT needs.

"It includes graphs suggesting employers could save about two-thirds of their labour costs by employing Indian computer programmers and analysts rather than Australians.

"'With living standards and salaries low by global standards and alternative employment prospects for these graduates limited, India has a considerable cost advantage in software engineers compared to the rest of the world,' the report says.....

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"The ANZ Bank is cited in the report as an example of an Australian company which has outsourced IT jobs to India. According to the report, ANZ employs a team of 450 IT workers in Bangalore and plans to expand this number to about 500 by the end of 2002 ...."

This sort of news can only be balm to the souls of the 'down-sized'. Apart from anything else, India is a recipient of Australian foreign aid – about $19 million in 1999-2000. India is the fourth-largest military power in the world, with a large navy and nuclear capabilities. It's crazy. And it's betrayal of the interests of the Australian people.

THE CRISIS IN ARGENTINA: Almost unnoticed behind the war-driven headlines in the global media is the crisis in Argentina, now unravelling in a welter of desperation. ***The Observer*** (UK, 18/11/01) gave this picture of the human side of the catastrophe:

" .... In the past year Argentina has lurched from one crisis to another as the government of President Fernando de la Rua battled to save his country – the seventh richest in the world a century ago – from bankruptcy. The big fear on the markets is that any day now Argentina may fail to pay the crippling interest on its $132 billion public debt.

"But for many the country is already socially in default. Some teachers, doctors, dustmen and policemen have not been paid for up to five months and the banks have stopped providing loans. Since the beginning of November, social security benefits for the elderly have dried up, reducing health cover to emergencies only, and leaving most of the four million subscribers stranded and scared.....

"Argentina has long prided itself on being an oasis of European living standards, with a large middle class, in a region dogged by poverty.

"But unemployment is now at 18 percent, another 15 percent are 'underemployed' and just under a third of the country's 37 million population live under the poverty line.

"Horse-drawn carts have appeared on the streets of the capital, Buenos Aires, used by hundreds of families who travel from the surrounding countryside to scour the pavements for old, reusable junk. Many shops and restaurants are boarded up: the grand avenues that cut through this elegant capital city, often described as the Paris of Latin America, are almost deserted at rush hour.

"Cash-related crime is soaring, with shootouts reported in the city center almost daily.

"Some 42 policemen have been killed this year alone and armed bouncers in bullet-proof vests guard supermarkets, pharmacies and restaurants.

"On average there are two armed bank robberies a day and people are frequently abducted in broad daylight, in taxis or on the streets, and forced to withdraw their savings from a cash point....."

As December opened the design behind the tumult became clearer. Argentina appeared to be the latest country to lose control of its own currency in favour of the $US.

The Australian Financial Review (6/12/01) reported:

"Although Argentina took a giant leap this week towards embracing the US dollar as its only currency, such a move will probably not rescue the country's ailing economy or prove to be an easy switch.

"There are still huge political and financial barriers to full dollarisation, which will take the Argentine peso out of circulation entirely .....

"Greenbacks have circulated in Buenos Aires for a decade, thanks to a 1991 law that pegged the peso one-to-one with the dollar and freed up Argentinians to use either one. Hoping to squash growing fears that the currency peg would come unlocked, Argentina's economic chief Domingo Cavallo

decreed over the weekend that all new bank loans would be in dollars, and that existing peso loans could be switched to dollars at no cost. He also partially froze cash withdrawals to halt a run on the banks ...."

In other words, the deal has already been done. No government, obviously, can issue loans in the currency of another country, and convert its own currency to than of another unless the outside entity has already gained control of the treasury.

With this financial *coup* almost completed, the bankers have sent in their bagman, the International Monetary Fund, to ensure that every drop is screwed out of the situation.

One day later ***The AFR*** (7/12/01) reported:

"The Argentine crisis took a turn for the worse yesterday as the International Monetary Fund effectively blocked a $US1.264 billion ($A2.445 billion) disbursement, and Moody's Investors Service said new currency controls ended convertibility between the US dollar and the Argentina peso...... Moody's said Argentina did not have enough dollars with real claims on New York bank accounts or the Federal Reserve 'to make good on the one-to-one parity embedded in Argentine law' ....."

So how will Argentine be required to make up the shortfall? It will be debt-for-equity swaps on a grand scale before lowly Argentinians are given permission to earn their daily bread by use of the Almighty Dollar. We are watching a global takeover of nations by Mammon which is satanic.

Argentina would not be the first country to abandon its own currency for the United States dollar - but certainly the biggest so far. El Salvador and Ecuador have already surrendered their currencies, and trade in notes with the US Founding Fathers printed on them. East Timor has now been forced onto the Greenback. Some countries in the Balkans, such as Kosovo and Montenegro have been forced onto the Deutschmark.

What will be the currency in Afghanistan once the lordly US has "liberated" that country?

In the Argentine, according to ***The AFR*** (6/12):

" .... Some 70 percent of Argentinian bank deposits are already in dollars, and nearly all long-term loans and business transactions are dollar-based ...."

Of course, there's always the unthinkable question – what if the US dollar itself falls to pieces? A new, yet-to-be-heard-of global currency? They'd never do THAT – would they?

<u>NOTHING INEVITABLE – SAVE DEBT AND TAXES</u>: This thought-provoking gem appeared in ***The Observer*** (UK, 4/12/01):

"Taxes will have to rise to fund the Government's belief in a 'new world order' and maintain public spending on hospitals, schools and relieving poverty, according to senior public figures in Downing Street.

"One of Number 10's most senior policy advisers has revealed that the public must be prepared to pay more if they really believe that problems around the world are to be solved. 'We have to get over, and the public have to understand that all these changes that are being talked about come at a price,' the official said. 'The only way that they can be paid for is tax increases.'

"The adviser – one of the closest to Prime Minister Tony Blair – said that work now had to be done in preparing the ground for the increases to avoid a public backlash against new taxes......"

Take note, Australia. We have already been served notice by the incoming Minister for Defence, Senator Robert Hill, that "cost-blow-outs" in the defence budget threaten what remains of Costello's budget surplus.

The international bankers insist no nation may go into a budget deficit. So what's left if the surplus runs out? Tax rises, of course. The new situation would allow the Howard Government to renege on its promise that the GST would never rise past 10 percent. "Never, ever" is the new euphemism for "watch out".

As C.H. Douglas predicted, events themselves would finally force some concentration on the flaw in the debt-driven money syste, which forces nations and citizens alike into bankruptcy and loss of freedom and sovereignty.

"As darkness flees at morning's light, So truth sends error into flight."

THIS IS JUST NOT CRICKET! by Phillip D. Butler:

I have to confess that I am a sports' devotee, as is my immediate family. One son plays for Australia in World Championship In-Line Hockey (ice-hockey on roller blades) and another represented Australia at his age level.

I sit up till the wee small hours to watch Australia play cricket – wherever I may be. I have had the privilege of playing representative cricket in Canada. Yes, they do play cricket! In fact I have just won the last spot for the World Cup in South Africa in 2003. Three of the players from British Columbia come out of a junior development scheme put in place and funded by a number of us in 1989.

It therefore saddens me to see the state of the game today. I witnessed signs of the breakdown during two warm-up games in Vancouver and Toronto, Canada, in 1976. The Australian team was captained by Ian Chappel. As Secretary of the British Columbia Cricket Association I was responsible for the billeting and entertainment arrangements for the Australian team and officials.

This was when money and big business started to intrude into cricket. Now we find politicians taking direct control along with money and big business. 'Political correctness' has now entered the game. Both South Africa and Zimbabwe through 'affirmative action' insist on the quota system, whereas, inclusion in the team was once strictly on skill and ability.

After a recent second Test in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, six Indian players were disciplined by the Match Referee and the disciplined players demanded the referee be removed from the Test. The players had been reported by one umpire from South Africa and the other from Zimbabwe!

I have got to know the referee in question (a former captain of England) and have found him a straight shooter.

According to ***The Age***, October 24th, 2001, the situation has deteriorated to such an extent the "South African President Thado Mbeki put pressure on the nation's cricket board to take whatever action necessary to ensure that the country's team took the field in a match against India, 'a match' that has been stripped of its Test status by the International Cricket Council."

"In response," to Mr. Mbeki's demands, "South Africa – under pressure from its government to stage the match for commercial reasons (Mbeki in another report had stated that he wasn't going to allow sport to get in the way of trade) and diplomatic reasons – locked Denness (the umpire involved in the fiasco) out of the ground."

Disgraced former captain of South Africa Hansie Cronje admitted his downfall was the result of the LOVE (Greek, *phileo*: Contains the meaning of, the preference for above all other considerations) of MONEY. Cricket was the last bastion of sporting ethics; of 'playing the game'. There is now too much 'political correctness' and too much MONEY at stake for any of those little niceties!

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