



A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

ON TARGET



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The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance –

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: *"Western men – the first in history who have attached serious value to time – can 'set back the clock' if they wish – what they have made by false ideas, they can unmake if they will return to the right ones. Our 'Western' civilisation is tending to disintegrate through the gradual rejection of the spiritual values on which it was built – the values represented by the fusion of the best elements in Greek form and Roman character with the central Tradition of historic Christianity; and the disintegration can only be arrested by our conscious re-acceptance of those values... People want guidance and are deprived of it by 'treason of the clerks', the orthodox academic intellectuals who can pick holes, analyse, quote each other, snigger at the now unorthodox traditional values, but too often are happy in a purely negative role and boast that they can give no coherent inspiring message.*

*"Though Milton meant the words in a very different sense to mine, they are not inappropriate today:
The hungry sheep look up, and are not fed,
But swoln with wind, and the rank mist they draw,
Rot inwardly, and foul contagion spread."*

– Sir David Kelly in *"The Hungry Sheep"*, 1955

*We wish our readers a blessed and holy Christmas Season
and pray for peace to men of goodwill.*

THE LIGHT OF CHRISTMAS by Jeremy Lee:

For those who remember seemingly far-distant periods of genuine peace and security it is hard to look past the carnage of the moment to the real truth and light in this world. I must admit to spending more time than usual watching TV news – particularly since September 11th. One wonders ruefully whether there is anywhere on the planet not experiencing conflict. Each story seems to accentuate the ever-increasing capacity of human beings to inflict damage on each other. There is no place to hide. Move from one hideout to another on the darkest of nights and some satellite somewhere will be searching you out, like Sauron in Tolkien's *"Lord of The Rings"*. Bombs, so we are told, can entomb people in caves beneath the most rugged of mountain ranges. Naked power stalks the nations of the earth, able – or seemingly able – to search out our innermost thoughts, eliminating or neutralizing dissent. It can scan our very eyes, read our facial and finger-prints, recording the personal details of every human being on earth. Its propaganda is seemingly impervious to exposure.

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Even Phillip Adams, one of the League's most vitriolic critics, is being dragged before the Human Rights Commission for challenging the basic US tenet, *"We're on the side of truth and justice against the forces of evil."* I never thought I'd say such a thing, but in this case Mr. Adams has shown courage in speaking out, and his right to free speech should be defended.

These things deserve our consideration as we approach Christmas 2001. Where does the Star that led the three wise men relate to a modern Bethlehem that has suffered the hatred of recent bombings and shellings? What place for the ox and the ass in a humble stable where a Saviour was born, Whose Advent had been predicted and longed for hundreds of years before the event?

What assurance does a sleeping Babe, "away in a manger" auger for the millions of starving, the refugees, the homeless in so many countries?

It seems that many of those who will throng the "Carols by Candlelight" round the world regard the good news in much the same light as Harry Potter – a nice, comforting break from reality, almost a dream, but not really to be believed as literal. It would be nice if it was, some think, but we're grown up now, and just as we stopped believing in Santa Claus, so this material world demands that we put away the once-believed bible stories and face the world like grown-ups. We keep up the pretence, of course, for the sake of the kids, until they're old enough to work it all out for themselves.

But weren't we told we must "become as little children"? And what does that mean? Is there something children can discern that we cannot? Jesus said that we would find Him when we seek Him "with all our heart"; not our school curricula, our GDP, our "work-for-the-dole" schemes, our capital accumulation or our superannuation.

The seemingly tortuous assertion that "the plight of the world is the hope of the world" might give us pause for thought this Christmas. In human terms there is now little we can do materially to change this world. There is such a thing, in terms of human effort as "the point of no return". And we seem to have reached it.

Writing of his dramatic case against Alger Hiss, the soviet agent who was within reach of the US presidency, former editor of Time, Whittaker Chambers wrote to his children, *"....Crime, violence, infamy are not tragedy. Tragedy occurs when a human soul awakes and seeks, in suffering and pain, to free itself from crime, violence, infamy, even at the cost of life. The struggle is the tragedy - not defeat or death..... this tragedy will have been for nothing unless men understand it rightly, and from it the world takes hope and heart to begin its own tragic struggle with the evil that besets it from within and from without, unless it faces the fact that the world, the whole world, is sick unto death and that, among other things, this Case has turned a finger of fierce light into the suddenly opened and reeking body of our time"* That was in 1952.

C.H. Douglas, that profound thinker and discerner, wrote in 1924:

"....The break-up of the present financial system is certain. Nothing will stop it. The continuation of taxation on the present scale, together with an unsolved employment problem, is fantastic; the only point at issue in this respect is the length of time which the break-up will take, and the tribulations we have to undergo while the break-up is in progress....."

There will probably come well within the lives of the present generation, a period at which the blind forces of destruction will appear to be in the ascendant"

Could we possibly think that this time is any other than that referred to by Douglas? Yet Douglas, who so accurately and vividly described the critical moment, was no victim of the doctrine of the inevitable. In his book Social Credit he went on to emphasize that the break-up he referred to was the gateway to opportunity. He was saying, in other words, "these things must come to pass". He would have endorsed the follow-up, "But be not dismayed. The gates of Hell shall not prevail."

The gospel of Christ Jesus of Nazareth is as dramatic as the life He lived, in which He lashed and exposed the lie, the power-seeker, the establishment, the elite, the pharisaical nit-picker and legalist, the proud and those who robbed mens' souls, even while He healed the sick, raised the dead and took little children into His arms.

His disciples thought the dream had ended when Our Lord was murdered. But in fact that seeming defeat was the key to life.

So, even now, life lies ahead – the exposure of the lie, the destruction of what former acting prime minister of Canada, Paul Hellyer, describes as "the evil empire", and, in Douglas's words, "the emergence into the full light of a day of such splendour as we can at present only envisage dimly."

But you've got to be childlike to see it; and what better way of doing so than through the eyes of a Babe born in Bethlehem? He is the focal point of the joy the world needs now. The most important group in the world is those "two or three, gathered together" who still doggedly plod on in faith. Merry Christmas to all our readers and their families!

DEFENCELESS: East Timor, the *Tampa* incident and Afghanistan have brought us face to face with the inadequacy of our defence system, side-lined in Budgets from 1972 onwards. *The Sunday Herald Sun* (25/11/01) reported:

"Australia's military chiefs have delivered a damning report on the ability of the army, navy and airforce to defend the nation.

The Defence Department says that defence forces are stretched to breaking point and achieving only 25 per cent of their performance targets.

Tabled in Federal Parliament, the report reveals that all services were struggling to overcome staff and equipment shortages even before Prime Minister John Howard committed troops to the war against terror and the navy to policing illegal boatpeople.

In the report, the military chiefs reveal:

THE Royal Australian Airforce battled to fulfil only 80 percent of flying-hour requirements in the year to June 30.

THE army was over-stretched even before sending troops to Afghanistan.

THE Royal Australian Navy cannot provide enough ships or sailors to patrol Australia's shores"

The article went on to detail the embarrassing shortages and gaffes in each of the three services – manpower and equipment shortages, resulting in lack of preparedness. It added that privately, many navy officers were critical of northern surveillance, with many refugee boats easily evading detection.

But of course, the Howard Government will continue resolutely ensuring that only Australia decides who lands on our shores! However, a number of foreign defence chiefs will be reading the report with interest.

RACE ROW IN BRITAIN: After past and present race riots in England, the fact that more Brits now worship in mosques than churches, the development of racial ghettos, all of which were predicted by the late Enoch Powell to a chorus of condemnation, Britain's Home Secretary David Blunkett is now at the centre of a race row. His crime? He suggested that ethnic minority communities should abide by British "norms of acceptability" when they become citizens, including learning the English language. According to *The Australian* (11/12/01):

".... Mr. Blunkett told immigrants that social cohesion was a two-way street and that those seeking to be British should take part in programs in which they are taught some English....."

But MPs and immigrant groups attacked the Home Secretary and warned him against patronizing ethnic minorities with his proposals. Shahid Malik, a member of the Labour Party's national executive, condemned Mr. Blunkett's 'insensitive' comments, branding them 'sensational' and 'disturbing'..... Mr. Blunkett said ethnic minorities needed to know that Britain would not tolerate enforced marriages and genital mutilation"

That's it! Off with his head! Blunkett will probably be hung, drawn and quartered at Tyburn Tree – especially if it now happens to be in an Asian residential area.

Britain is now belatedly discovering – as Australia is destined to do – that 'multiculturalism' is against both natural law and commonsense. A few idealists in the isolated environment at universities who have usually never had to cope with the real problems of cultural clashes, have somehow stolen and made illegal the homogeneity which is the natural order. What a price others will have to pay for their mistakes!

THE CHALLENGE BEFORE US: In this, the last *On Target* for the year of 2001, it seems appropriate to restate what we are about. The words are from a statement made in *On Target* over 30 years ago:

"On Target, published by The Australian League of Rights, a non-party political organisation, is primarily concerned with the defence of a free society against all policies of totalitarianism, both external and internal. The League is a voluntary association of individuals working in a co-ordinated manner to defend limited constitutional government, the rights and freedoms of the individual, and the Rule of Law. It believes systems and institutions exist to serve the individual; that Governments belong to individuals instead of individuals being regarded as the property of Governments. The League's philosophy is the Traditional Christian philosophy. *On Target* is not light, escapist reading. It is concerned with truth. 'The truth shall make you free.'"

The journal provides a week-by-week analysis of the real meaning of the flood of 'news' which tends to suffocate and confuse us.

This confusion cannot be dispersed by asking the confused to read and see even more 'news', but by the application of the spotlight of truth. The greater the darkness, the more vivid is the striking of a match. Never before has the small analytical publication been more important. Not dependent upon advertising it can devote itself exclusively to the purpose of telling the truth." This, the League has sought to do – and will continue to do so.

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