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.38, No.18 May 17th, 2002

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: *"It is difficult to believe that the whole world is so bereft of sanity that a pause for reflection is too much to hope for, pending a final resignation to utter catastrophe. When that pause occurs mankind will have reached one of those crises which have no doubt been reached before, but which so far have failed to avert the fall of humanity back into an era of barbarism out of which new civilizations have slowly and painfully risen... A comparatively short period will probably serve to decide whether we are to master the mighty economic machine that we have created, or whether it is to master us; and during that period a small impetus from a body of men who know what to do and how to do it, may make the difference between yet one more retreat into the Dark Ages, or the emergence into the full light of day ..."* – C.H. Douglas "Social Credit" 1937

INTEREST RATES – ON THE WAY UP by Jeremy Lee:

Concerned about inflation, which has been with us ever since the Howard government came to office – and, of course, before – the Reserve Bank has started the traditional process of increasing interest rates to 'dampen' demand. In other words, by making it more costly to borrow, people will resist the urge to spend so much, thus 'restraining' the inflationary trend.

There are a lot of errors in this view. Firstly, that it is demand that drives up prices. This may once have been the case in the old 'scarcity-economy' days. When producers could not produce enough to meet demand, competition for a limited number of goods drove price-competition upwards.

Today's price rises, on the other hand, are driven by cost increases largely stemming from debt-and-interest. Producers make no greater profits than before the price increases; in fact, in all but the most monopolistic corporations, they are continually shaving profit margins.

It would be useful, although we'll never see it, if we had figures alongside the CPI index showing the level of percentage profits made by Australian industries. They would show a steady squeeze on our farming, manufacturing and ancillary industries that would embarrass politicians, bankers and economists who continue to use the outdated notion that increasing interest rates is a way to make the economy 'better' in inflationary cycles.

MANY WILL BE HURT: If, as many are predicting, we are going to have a series of small interest increases, resulting in a rise of 1% to 1.5% by Christmas, there is going to be an awful lot of pain in

Australia. The very short boom in farm prices is over. Cattle prices are well down on a few weeks ago. Federal Minister Wilson Tuckey is right in saying interest rate increases will be disastrous for wheat farmers. The cane industry is facing the most disastrous situation since the Great Depression. World sugar prices have fallen by 40% – from US8 cents to US5 cents. The world, we're told, is facing a glut, although there are millions who have yet to taste it. The industry that was worth $1.7 billion five years ago is currently worth about $1 billion. The majority of cane farmers carry big debts. Just when they need some sort of relief one man in the Reserve Bank makes a decision that adds to their debt-service costs "to check inflation". But the process is never questioned.

And home-owners? A one percent plus rise by Christmas is going to create another spate of bankruptcies, foreclosures, family break-ups and general misery. Who benefits? Well, the banks of course, already struggling like the rest of us ....

INDEPENDENT FORUM CONFIRMS IGNORED CRISIS: I have just attended the two-day Queensland Independent Forum in Mackay which confirmed in no uncertain terms what many rural dwellers know: that the combination of environmental laws, including those over water, are now a deadly threat to freehold property rights. Farmers who have managed their properties well for many years now find themselves facing a battery of inspectors demanding everything from protection of native grasses to placing land within 50 metres of waterways in a 'non-use' category, to horrendous fines for cutting down a tree (even though the land-owner may have planted it in the first place). With all these restrictions come a battery of regulations and licence fees.

Questions raised by this zealous and usually uninformed 'big brother' approach are fundamental to ancient rights and freedoms. Why should farmers be forced to pay rates on land which they can no longer use and over which they have no control? What are the rights that go with freehold title-deeds? Does any government bureaucrat, armed with the latest in the seemingly unstoppable array of regulations, have the right to enter private property without a warrant, or even notice?

This is not a problem simply confined to one area. It is a nation-wide attack on property rights. ***The Australian Financial Review*** (8/5/02) reported: *"According to a survey of state farmers' organisations recently collated by the National Farmers' Federation .... they are synptomatic of what the NFF rates as the biggest issue facing Australian farmers: the erosion of property rights without compensation.*

"'I see this as one of the biggest issues for farmers for the next 10 to 20 years,'" says NFF president Ian Donges. 'I sense society is going to demand some major environmental reform and outcomes in this country and we have got to put a line in the sand....'

"The fundamental approach at the moment seems to be based on command and control, and I would argue that's not a very effective way of doing it.'...."

The article went on to say that deputy PM John Anderson had also highlighted the issue in an address to the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ABARE) Outlook conference, proposing a number of much-needed safeguards for owners, including adequate compensation wherever reforms were deemed necessary.

But he ended in the usual lame-duck fashion by saying it was a State responsibility: *".... Anderson's address identified the two major stumbling blocks to the resolution of this extraordinarily sensitive issue: defining and valuing farmers' property rights in the first place, then determining who pays when they are taken away for the common good ...."*

Compensation must be paid if a farmer's title-deeds are taken away. But what is the position if restrictions are imposed while a farmer still has the title-deeds?

This is the classic old Fabian tactic of dividing ownership and control – leave the title deeds with the owner, but remove his rights to make any decisions on how the land must be used.

The FREE Association in Mackay has done some sterling work on this question, and is emphatic that many regulations and supposed right of entry by government officials are against the natural rights that go with freehold title. It urges farmers to order officials off their property unless they have a magistrate's warrant, treating them as common trespassers. Ultimately, freehold title must be defined and confirmed by Australia's High Court, as it has in the past.

Some of the personal tragedies, describing what bureaucracy has done to individuals, recounted at the Mackay Forum, were horrendous.

ANTI-TERRORISM BILLS UNDER SPOTLIGHT: It is quite clear that the Howard government has been shocked by the widespread opposition to its package of anti-terrorism bills. Howard has publicly stated that he has no wish to remove traditional rights. Attorney-General Darryl Williams, on the other hand, seems implacably determined to press on with his draconian package.

If the swell of anger gets louder, the government will back off. A major article in ***The Advertiser*** (Adelaide, 26/4/02) said: *"Innocent people such as aid workers, fund donors, striking workers and protesters risk being caught up in the Federal Government's proposed tough new anti-terrorism laws.*

"They could face mandatory life jail sentences.

"In a submission to a Senate committee, the Law Council of Australia said the government's proposed legislation was so excessive it was an affront to basic human rights and the rule of law....., If passed, the laws would sidestep longstanding legal protections of personal liberty, freedom from arbitrary arrest, the right to a fair trial, arbitrary invasions of privacy, freedom of expression, the right to peaceful assembly and freedom of association ...."

Twelve days later ***The Australian Financial Review*** (9/5/02) reported: *"The Federal Government last night came under renewed pressure to water down its contentious anti-terrorism measures, following a strong criticism of draft legislation by a cross-party committee.*

"In a bipartisan defiance of the Government, Liberal, Democrat and Labor Senators called for a narrower definition of terrorist activity and changes to ensure humanitarian aid could not inadvertently be considered an act of treason.

"The committee, chaired by NSW Liberal Senator Marise Payne, also criticised plans to allow the Attorney-General to ban groups considered a threat to Australian security.... "

The hundreds of Australians who have expressed their concerns by letter and submission should be heartened by results so far. But this is not the time to relax. Every letter of reinforcement will help convince the Government and the bureaucrats they are on notice.

TAX AND THE *YARRA*: Chief Engineer J.A. Snee, of the good ship MV CSL *Yarra* (the ship that is going to re-register under a Bahamas flag so it can sack its Australian crew and hire Ukrainians), has written to ***The Australian*** (7/5/02). His point should give pause for thought: *".... The issue is not globalisation or competition, or work practices – it's about tax.*

"The Federal Government's shipping policies actively discriminate against Australian registered ships in favour of foreign-flagged ships, to the tune of around $1.8 million per ship per year. Our seafarers could not overcome that tax burden if we worked for nothing.

"For the business community: These policies don't just discriminate against Australia's seafarers, but also against ship owners, ship management companies, road transport and the rail network. If you can make a sound case for minimising the cost of transport, the same case should apply to Australian ships. If you tax us, tax them. If you don't tax them, don't tax us.

"CSL is exploiting the Government's discrimination for perfectly sound commercial reasons. The real villain here is the Government. There is no level playing field when Australians have a $1.8 million a year millstone round their necks that the 'competition' does not."

But then, apparently, Foreign Minister Downer is in favour of foreign workers doing Australian work. Do you detect the faint whiff of the fast-approaching GATS treaty?

AUSTRALIA'S MENTAL HEALTH by Graham Strachan – taken from Neil Baird's website:

On the socialist side of globalisation, the side we're not supposed to know about, UNESCO documents make it clear that the plan is to eliminate conflict in the global village by having everybody believe the same things and have the same set of values. This Orwellian goal is to be achieved by mass social conditioning of the type proposed by behavioural psychologist Professor B.F. Skinner in his book *"Beyond Freedom and Dignity"*, a standard text in educational faculties.

The mass conditioning is to be disguised by nice sounding language that portrays it as 'optimising the mental health' of populations, 'helping' people adapt to society and 'cope' with life's little problems (like permanent unpopular government).

The globalists have moved cautiously on this agenda to date because of its obvious totalitarian overtones, but after 9/11 it's open slather. All that is needed to get this programme up and running is a country to use as a human laboratory, someone gullible enough to implement the programme, and a group which can't object to use as guineas pigs.

Howard 'chief scientist' for Australia's globalisation: Finding the country is no problem. As ***The Australian*** newspaper's international editor, Paul Kelly, wrote on November 4th, 1998,: *"....Australia [is] one of the world's leading laboratories for the study of the impact of globalisation, with John Howard....in his role as chief scientist."* Finding the laboratory technician gullible enough to implement the programme was no problem either – Australia's Amanda Vanstone. And the guinea pigs that can't object because they are in need of assistance are Australia's unemployed – not just dole bludgers, but anybody who finds themselves temporarily out of work as a result of global corporate downsizing, which could mean any of us.

The laboratory, in which the experimental animals are referred to as 'customers', is to be Centrelink, the privatised government employment service. Batteries of psychologists (400) are being recruited, Centrelink 'customers' are to be psychologically tested and evaluated, and anybody not meeting the government required standards will be obliged to undergo treatment, with a personal case manager assigned to them to plan and co-ordinate their ongoing 'mental health' programme.

You don't believe this could happen in Australia? See the ***Sunday Telegraph***, April 28th, 2002, "Mental test for jobless", by Simon Kearney. You don't believe this has anything to do with UNESCO's Orwellian mass social conditioning programme?

Read my article "Targeting the Helpless: using the unemployed to introduce the UNESCO mental 'health' agenda" at www.grahamstrachan.com

---

"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.