



A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

ON TARGET



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The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance –

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: *"The Marxists' game was being played by Christian Churches. Rhodesia's political leaders were entitled to expect Christian guidance and a Christian stand from the Churches: instead they found themselves ceaselessly berated for their imperfect efforts to maintain order and peace. But, of course, the Churches were no longer their true selves. From the time of Lenin onwards, the Marxists have made no secret of their plan to use Christianity for the destruction of Christianity. Hence the Marxist infiltration of the Churches... The World Council of Churches' 'Programme to Combat Racism' is, in fact, simply a programme to promote Communism, and finance black nationalist and terror movements to that end. It has nothing to do with Christianity or race or with genuine African aspirations..."*

– Father Arthur Lewis from "Rhodesia Undefeated", 1976

THE ISRAELI LOBBY CRACKS THE WHIP by Jeremy Lee:

Behind the pretended objectivity of the great majority of politicians lies a mortal fear of offending the most powerful political lobby in the land – the Israeli Lobby.

This was apparent when a Labor backbencher, Julia Irwin, moved a private member's bill in the Parliament, which was debated on Remembrance Day, November 11th. The Bill dealt with crucial issues related to the confrontation between Western and Arab nations, between Christianity and Islam. The motion read:

"That this House (1) notes the continued occupation by the state of Israel of the West Bank and Gaza Strip in contravention of UN Resolution 242 passed on November 22, 1967; (2) supports the right of Israel to exist within secure borders; (3) Calls on the UN to insert a peacekeeping force into the occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza and the unconditional withdrawal of Israeli forces; (4) Calls for the recognition of the state of Palestine based on the pre-1967 borders of the West Bank and Gaza; and (5) calls on the international community to encourage and support the resolution of outstanding differences between Israel and Palestine based on the Oslo and Camp David agreements"

At a time when Islamic nations round the world cite the Israeli/Palestinian issue as their biggest concern; and at a time when Australia is on tenterhooks about possible terrorist attacks in the next two months,

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one might have thought that such a motion deserved the most careful debate and attention. Even President Bush has stated his belief in a future Palestinian State.

But the big guns of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry came out firing. Glen Milne (*The Australian*, 11/11/02) wrote:

"....The Jewish community is a substantial lobby, well-organised, financially powerful and politically influential. Due principally to Hawke's passionate defence of Israel and friendship with the likes of Peter Abeles and Frank Lowry, and despite constant courtship by Howard, it has generally supported Labor The Executive Council of Australian Jewry, the elected representative organization of Australia's Jewish community, is outraged at Crean's failure to quash Irwin's motion, so outraged it has now written privately to every member of the federal parliament in the following terms: "The elected representatives of the Australian Jewish community do not believe the motion will have any positive impact on the Middle East peace process and if anything is counter-productive" The letter was signed "Yours faithfully" by Jeremy Jones, president of the council. But increasingly it appears the Australian Jewish community has little faith in the ALP"

All of which must be balm to Mr. Howard and his Coalition, but bad news for Mr. Crean, and any prospects of peace in the Middle East. And it won't diminish Islamic hostility towards Australia.

It's a sad day when our elected representatives have their agenda decided for them by outside lobbies – particularly by one that puts large sums into party coffers and carries big influence in the media.

REPUBLICANS RISING FROM THE ASHES: All of a sudden the small republican movement is on the rise again. A major Newspoll in *The Australian* (15/11/02) canvassed the idea of Australia becoming a republic, also showing that 79 percent of those polled wanted a Direct Election President. Once again the paper is publishing regularly a series of "constitutional future" papers with a republican bent.

It was the "direct election" issue which bitterly divided republicans before the last referendum on the issue. The idea of a "big-money" campaign to decide the nation's head of state, along the lines of the recent debacle in the United States, does not sit well with thinking Australians.

It may offer an alternative career path to Solomon Lew, who has spent millions in a failed bid to stay on the Coles-Myer board!

WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT: The world's armament industry works full-time on discovering new methods of killing, maiming and destroying. The Pentagon can't wait to try out a new range of weapons, and would appear to be licking its lips for stepping up the war against Iraq. Although seldom reported, there are continual air raids on that unfortunate country, with expressed American outrage that invading planes are fired upon. The Iraqis, apparently, are simply there for target practice and have no right to defend themselves.

The Australian (18/11/02) told us:

"....Weapons ready for battlefield deployment include a microwave bomb that emits powerful pulses

of energy to destroy enemy electronics, disable communications and even block vehicle ignitions without hurting bystanders.

"Defence researchers also have successfully tested a radical thermobaric warhead – previously described as a 'vacuum bomb' – to be aimed at suspected chemical and biological stockpiles. The warheads are designed to produce heat so intense that any contaminants released into the atmosphere are neutralized instantly"

I wouldn't put my money on the safety of bystanders in the case of the second. The complacent self-justification of those developing such inhuman weapons is hardly believable. Heat-intense bombs create fireballs which suck all the oxygen out of the atmosphere, as well as possible contaminants. Anyone in the vicinity – which covers large areas – is choked to death in agony.

PRIVATE SECTOR DEBT CONTINUES TO ESCALATE: The latest report by the Financial Counsellors' Association of New South Wales tries to have a bet each way. More and more Australians are locked into debt, living day-to-day on their credit cards, with no way out. Their problem, the report says, is that most don't know how to use debt properly, and should be educated:

"... Overall indebtedness is increasing and everyday living expenses - particularly telephone bills - figure prominently.

"This is an issue for social policy as much as it is for the financial system. It is inappropriate use of debt that is the problem – although that doesn't imply those who do so have any other choice" (emphasis added, *Australian Financial Review*, 18/11/02)

This is a classic example of dealing with the symptom while avoiding the underlying cause. All Western economies run their money systems in a way which increases debt faster than the means to repay it. Those with the muscle to keep up with the system grow stronger, at the expense of a growing number who slip into poverty and can survive no other way that further borrowing with all the penalties involved. Until debt is turned into real credit by the issuing of Australia's new money requirements as a financial credit to the people, there is no solution beyond ever-increasing casualties and bankruptcies. Education on how to survive the rapids is no overall solution.

SHIFTING JOBS TO CUT-PRICE COUNTRIES: A British financial company, Prudential, is caught in a strike because of its intention to cut 1,000 British jobs and 'outsource' to India. How Alexander 'Eiderdown' would applaud!

There are about 10,000 workers in India who are servicing companies in other parts of the world. By 2005, it is estimated, 50,000 Indians will be servicing call-centre businesses in England from their home soil. Australian institutions are moving the same way.

The reason? According to *The Weekend Financial Review* (9-10/11/02)

".... A move to India cuts labour costs by about 80 percent, and call centers are a labour-intensive business There's something revolutionary about the global labour market being created by Prudential and others in moving call centers to Bombay. They're moving the job to the low-wage economy,

rather than the other way round. This eliminates government migration restrictions and gives the market the potential to be genuinely free...."

We have seen the same trend in Australia, where foreign crews, who earn lower wages and pay no tax in Australia, are being imported to replace Australians in the maritime service.

As we've said before, why don't we use Indians in Bombay to do the job of our high-wage politicians? They could vote electronically in Parliament, could they not? And think of all the travel costs, superannuation and other benefits that could be saved! As far as my existing federal member is concerned, an Indian in Calcutta or Delhi couldn't do any worse!

LAW, LAW, LAW: The following is from the recently published article *Taxing Times. Is Self-Assessment Working?* by Michael Ingles, in *Policy*, the journal of the Centre for Independent Studies (AFR, 20/11/02):

"To collect an income tax, a government must wage a continual war on its own people. This metaphor bears elaboration in contemporary Australia.

"By far the bulk of income tax is collected by the Australian Government from occupied territories: the lands of the employers who have been press-ganged into deducting income tax at source from the earnings of millions of Australian employees, and their like.

"The rest of the income is raised from hostile territory, from lands where war is literally waged.

"How has the Australian government waged war on its own people in the field of income tax? The approach of the past 20 years has been law, law, law

"This has failed consistently and yet the government and its agencies have not deviated from this approach of ever more income tax law.

"When challenged to do something new in the face of long, proven failure of familiar methods, a common human response is to continue to adopt those same discredited methods, only harder. Nothing could sum up more aptly the route taken by those responsible for the decline of the Australian tax system."

The ridiculous thing is that the introduction of something like the Debit Tax, extracted daily from the total bank turnover at a rate much lower than one percent, would raise more than all the revenue the government currently needs, while abolishing every other tax in the land. The day of the tax return would be over. The GST and Sales Tax would quietly disappear. Fuel prices would drop drastically. The massive army in the Australian Tax Department would be released into much more creative pastimes.

And a national celebration, complete with fireworks, could be held as the Tax Act with its 8,000 pages was consigned to ashes. Oh, for an Oz version of Bilbo Baggins!

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