



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 story of Adam the Dreamer's fatal choice is the self-critical story of an Eastern people. Christ precipitated open revolt; he stood with his back to the East, the cradle of civilisation – the first modern man. He 'undertook to normalise society... by cancelling out the legal fictions that support the arbitrary power of incompetents... he saw in the tender carefulness of a serving-man for the comfort of his master, a celebration of the spiritual mastery of material things in their relations to living persons:... I was cold, hungry, naked, and he produced the fuel, the food and the clothes.'... The medieval Church was a pioneering adventure in a democracy that could wrestle."*  
– *"Charles Ferguson: Herald of Social Credit"* by Michael Lane, 2002

## **NEED FOR MORE CHOICE INCREASINGLY RECOGNISED** by Jeremy Lee:

An increasing number of voters feel 'disenfranchised' by the voting process. It is seen as an end in itself, remote from any real choices. While many can identify required changes, a growing minority now feel that the mechanism for change no longer exists. A vast volume of legislation, much unwanted, continues to pour out of our parliaments and councils. None of those voting on it can actually read it with any real understanding, because the volume is too great. The number of laws and regulations is frightening – but obviously our politicians have no concept of any other source of action, for they keep adding to the number. We have yet to read of any party or group that has put forward a list of laws and regulations for repeal.

The old scriptural principle was that the number of laws should be kept to a minimum – enough so that the ordinary man or woman could have a "working knowledge" of the laws of their community or nation. The Old Testament records that the people were assembled annually while the laws were read aloud, and then admonished to observe them. By this procedure nobody could claim ignorance of the law as a defence against wrong doing.

It is quite safe to say that nobody could read the current laws of Australia to the people. It would take a lifetime; and under current practice the volume would continue increasing at a faster rate than it could be annunciated.

All this is well within the consciousness of an over-regulated and controlled community, continually

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harassed by the impersonal, anonymous bureaucrats who administer this monstrosity, and who now comprise by far the biggest sector of the workforce in Australia. Millions are now employed shuffling paper, designing forms, carrying out means tests, adding their own penalties and regulations to original Bills under "enabling legislation", and stashing away bigger and bigger sums for their own future superannuation. They write, in lengthy and convoluted language that is meaningless to everyone, including themselves, the Bills that parliamentarians vote on. These are lined up before every session of parliament, like sausages being processed in a factory. All the politician can do is stamp "Aye" or "Nay" as the sausages fly past. What all this has to do with "the democratic process" is anyone's guess.

Leading barristers and lawyers have complained that the volume of law is making their own role impossible. Courts are clogged with cases in which endless debate over meaningless minutiae takes the place of justice.

**REFORMS NEEDED IN THE PROCESS ITSELF:** Obviously, if this process continues, the whole, lop-sided weight of government, poised like the world on long-suffering Atlas's back, will eventually topple over. There comes a point, and in some areas we have already reached it, when oppressed people find it easier to side-step the law; and the machinery of law, like our beleaguered fire-fighters, can no longer cope with the number of spot-fires. They can increase penalties on those they do catch up with – but even this is no remedy to what is a national problem.

Tony Harris, writing in *The Australian Financial Review* (3/12/02) gave an example of the growing lack of accountability in the federal parliament, where a question asked by Senator Faulkner, about travel expenses in the 2001 election, had been held by Special Minister of State Eric Abetz for over seven months without reply.

Harris suggested a number of measures to start some accountability among parliamentarians. He started with political contributions, pointing out that donations had totalled about \$69 million in 2000-01. As Harris says: *"Most political donations.... come with a hook. As the aphorism says, donations beget access, access allows influence, and influence obtains results. Favourable government intervention is why most people make political donations ...."*

But successful candidates also receive tax money. For the 2001 election the Federal Government paid out about \$39 million.

Harris suggested *"it would improve democracy if parliaments gave politicians the choice: either accept public money, or private donations, but not both ..."*

His second suggestion was to stop political interference with judicial appointments: *"These include justices of higher courts, public prosecutors, auditors-general, electoral commissioners, police commissioners and ombudsmen. Increasingly governments have politicized these appointments. .... Senior statutory officers are meant to be independent of government. Their function is vital to the health of Australia's democracy ...."*

Harris went on to suggest the introduction of citizen-initiated referendums, binding upon governments if carried. But he concluded that the people were not likely to receive such handsome Christmas presents from their representatives: *"There are too few Santa Clauses among state and federal government ministers."*

(Tony Harris is a former NSW auditor-general)

**NOT ALL SCENTS COME UP ROSES:** Those who have read the books on health by Hulga Clarke will recall her warning that certain chemicals in make-up and shampoo have a bad effect on the body. This seems to have been confirmed in the latest warnings: *The Australian* (25/11/02) reported:

*"High levels of a chemical blamed for causing infertility in men have been found in some of the world's best-known perfumes and cosmetics.*

*"Chanel No 5, Christian Dior's Poison, Eternity from Calvin Klein and Tresor by Lancome were among 34 toiletries found by a Swedish study to contain di-ethylexyl phthalate or other phthalates. The European Commission is proposing a ban on the use in cosmetics of two of the most potent forms of phthalates amid fears they cause genital abnormalities affecting up to 4 per cent of male babies. These genital abnormalities ... are blamed for soaring levels of testicular cancer in young men. Cases ... have risen tenfold in the past century...."*

A number of tests have confirmed the warning.

**WHAT'S THE REAL TRUTH ABOUT JAPAN?** The world seems to have accepted that Japan is one of the world's worst cot cases. Latest news is that the Japanese Government is pump-priming the Japanese economy with a further \$88 billion (6 trillion Yen). Of this two thirds will be pumped into the economy, and one third allocated to making up a shortfall in taxation.

The Japanese Government has been regularly pumping money into the economy – a dozen times since 1992. More than 136 trillion Yen (\$2.4 trillion) has been pumped in over the period. All this has produced a lot of pain, with massive bad debts hitting the banks and continuing bankruptcies. Many orthodox economists have written the Japanese off.

However, a two-page spread in *The Australian Financial Review* (22/11/02) by a Tokyo-based economic commentator, Eamonn Fingleton, suggests that the Japanese economy is far stronger than most suspect. He pointed to the following facts:

- The Yen has increased by about 17 percent against the \$US since 1990.
- The Japanese people have a healthy savings rate, 8.5% of GDP – far higher than the US (or Australia)
- Investment in industry and jobs is about twice the rate of the US.
- Japanese investment in foreign assets has not declined, but has nearly quadrupled in the eleven years to 2000. It is the world's largest capital exporter, in contrast to the US, which lives on capital inflow.
- Japan accounts for almost 22 per cent of the United Nations budget.
- Japan is the world's leading producer of capital equipment – the machinery needed to start new industries. This was a niche once led by firstly, the UK, and then the US. Japan is currently unchallenged in this field.
- What is often described as a 'deflationary spiral' is, in reality an increase in purchasing power for the Japanese people through falling prices – the result of continually-improving production techniques.
- Japan – unlike the short-sighted Americans and Australians – does not borrow abroad, but from its own people. Only 6% of Japan's debt is to foreigners.

Japan's trade surplus during the 90s (when it was supposed to be 'collapsing') was just under \$US1 trillion, two and a half times that of the 80s.

Fingleton's conclusion, shared by a small number of world analysts, is that Japan is in a far stronger position than is generally supposed, and that the "collapsing" image is fostered in Japan itself, to hide its enormous economic strengths.

**BATTLE FOR POWER IN THE WHITE HOUSE:** Even the mainstream media is now pointing to the factions within Bush's White House, struggling to shape future events. *The Australian Financial Review* (22/11/02) said one faction was composed of Vice President Dick Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld and Deputy Secretary of Defence Paul Wolfowitz. This faction is bent on war at all costs. The second was led by Colin Powell, Secretary of State, and his deputy Richard Armitage. The report, by Peter Hartcher, said: *"Interestingly, this group includes the uniformed leadership of the United States .."*

This news, which was widely available on the Internet over a year ago, is now coming out in the mainstream media. Every day that war in the Middle East can be postponed or averted, the more such information enters the public domain, making life ever more difficult for the 'manipulators'.

**SANTA GETS THE SACK?** by Betty Luks:

My interest was sparked by MP Frank Hough's (One Nation, WA) expressed outrage at 'Father Christmas' ("Santa gets the Sack" Neil Baird's e-mail) being outlawed at child-care facilities, shopping centres and schools – because he is now considered 'politically incorrect' within multicultural Australia.

*"Scratch its (politically incorrect) surface and you'll find that outlawing Father Christmas and other so-called 'trivial' cultural identities really amounts to an attack on our own cultural heritage as Christian Australians with a predominantly Anglo-Saxon and European heritage,"* he exclaims.

He asks, *"Who will be sacrificed next at the altar of the non-Christian new Australian? The Easter Bunny? The Three Wise Men?"*

*"Why not,"* he asks (with tongue in cheek?), *"pile all of God's angels and the tooth fairy onto the pyre and completely rob our children of the symbols of their cultural identity?"*

At the outset, let me say we traditionally have a Christmas tree in our home and gather round the Christmas Day meal and share gifts in celebration of the Advent of the Christ Child. But to link the modern 'Father Christmas' with Christian traditions is stretching it a bit.

Whilst in the UK a number of years ago I happened to be shown a little book which had been presented to a friend for his loyal services as a chauffeur to certain notables of the City of London. The book stated: "The Lord of Misrule was the original figure now made familiar to us as 'Father Christmas', hero of the new Halloween Festival which was the origin of the carnival."

I think the place "Father Christmas" heads for after the modern pageant or carnival takes place says it all. Unlike the Three Wise Men, he doesn't head for the local humble church to offer his gifts of frankincense, myrrh and gold to the Christ Child; his destination is the modern department store (the modern 'temple') and his task is to pull in the Almighty Dollar, the appropriate symbol for the City of London. Is Father Christmas Christian? No! The Money Changers dressed up in 'drag'? Yes!

I should add, I am all for the faery stories and myths and legends of our race, they are a great way of passing on folk history and teaching the young the deep truths and morals of our British-Australian heritage and culture... but please Frank, don't mistake the Lord of Misrule for the Good Tooth Faery!

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