



A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

ON TARGET

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The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance –

Print Post Publication Number 381667 00258

Vol.39, No.16

May 2nd, 2003

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: "Every time anyone says that Israel is our only friend in the Middle East, I can't help but think that before Israel, we had no enemies in the Middle East." John Sheehan, S.J. (a Jesuit priest). Until the world has had enough, of course, and decides to put us in our place.

– From an article "Rhapsody in Blood" by Edgar J. Steele, April 19th, 2003.

"And like the Mongols, U.S. troops stood by while Iraqi mobs looted and destroyed artifacts at the National Museum of Iraq in Baghdad. They also reportedly joined looters who pillaged other lucrative

– From "Was Saddam Right? Are Americans the New Mongols of the Mideast?"

Wayne Madsen, <http://www.counterpunch.org/madsen04142003.html>

THE MONEY MONOPOLY AND IRAQ by Jeremy Lee:

There was something quite pathetic in the words of General J Garner, appointed as overall Administrator of Iraq by President Bush, as he landed in Baghdad International Airport.

"What better day in your life can you have than to be able to help other people and that is what we intend to do. It's a great day, and it's a great day for me personally".

There's all the pathos of the 'do-gooder' – the person with all the power who only wants to be loved and appreciated for the "good" he does for others. They may not want it, of course, but he knows best – and believes that 'one day' he will be appreciated.

You never actually find out what people want – you know already. The one thing you can't afford to give them is power over their own affairs. You must make all the decisions for them.

Running through all the rhetoric from George Bush, and Jay Garner, is this utter conviction that they are somehow privileged to know what's best for their fellow human beings. It's frustrating that the Iraqis, while appreciating the disappearance of Saddam Hussein, seem to want to make their own decisions, sooner than having someone wiser and better to do it for them.

It's doubtful if these mawkish sentiments are shared by the behind-the-scenes Zio-Cons who have shaped the war agenda. But it's convenient to have a George Bush, with hand on heart and tears in his eyes, speaking off the cuff at some church service about "doing good to others".

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Despite all the talk about "handing over" to Iraqis as soon as possible, three areas where the US means to maintain control have already appeared. Firstly, it plans to establish four permanent military bases in Iraq. *The Australian Financial Review* (22/4/03) reported: "....Further details emerged over the weekend of US plans for postwar Iraq, including America's intention to establish four military bases in the country to deal with future crises in the region, according to *The New York Times*. The paper said the Pentagon planned to maintain a prolonged military relationship with the new interim government of Iraq. The new bases, to be located near Nasiriyah in the south, in the Western desert, near Baghdad and in the north, would remain active for years, the newspaper reported"

Add these to the bases already in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Afghanistan, and some perspective of the scope of US military occupation can be seen.

The second area is oil production. The Oil Ministry complex in Baghdad was unharmed through the intense bombing. Already a combined team from the US and the former ministry in Iraq has the wheels of oil production turning.. Baghdad's Daurha oil refinery is back in production, producing half its capacity of 100,000 barrels a day.

The third area is the daddy of them all – Iraq's money system. Until the war Iraq's currency was the Saddam Dinar, a pastel-coloured note once pegged to the \$US, but now worthless. Many suspect that Iraq's fate was sealed when it changed its policy of accepting US dollars for oil exports, shifting to the Euro. Any spread of this idea to other oil-producing nations would have had a drastic effect on the US economy, already reeling under a massive debt-load and a huge current account deficit.

The Australian Financial Review (22/4/03) reported: "... The US flew in \$US20 million (\$A32.5 million) of its own currency last week to pay firefighters, police, electrical workers and other civil servants. Public employees returning to work will get an 'emergency payment' of \$US20 as early as next week, said an official at the Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance, which is charged with revamping Iraq's monetary system.

"'The overriding priority is to get Iraq back to normal and to get people back to work,' he said. 'And to get people back to work, you have to pay them in some currency that has real value and purchasing power.' The cash injection comes from the \$US1.6 billion in Iraqi assets seized last month by President Bush" (end of quote)

The \$20 million Bush has sent in is well under .3 of a per cent of the assets he seized – which is awfully generous! It may well be that a new Iraqi note is struck without Saddam's face. But what betting it's tied straight to the American dollar? As old Amschel Rothschild so pithily said, "Permit me to issue a nation's currency, and I care not who makes its laws."

UNGRATEFUL SHIITES: The Shiites of Iraq - you know, the ones George Bush so nobly 'liberated' from Saddam Hussein – comprise 60% of the Iraqi population. For some inexplicable reason they see no advantage in exchanging Saddam for George! Over two million, in their first religious ceremony for 35 years, have assembled in their holy cities of Majaf and Karbala, demanding the immediate withdrawal of the United States. They appear to be well disciplined and under the control of their mullahs, who are already emerging as a feasible alternative to imposed western government. Their view of the western ideal of democracy is dim, and they obviously prefer the concept of a theocratic state under Islamic precepts.

Will the freedom Bush promises for the Iraqis extend as far as allowing them to choose this preference? Little does George know what he's started, and what problems lie ahead!

THE STRUGGLE FOR THE DOLLAR: While the powers that be strive to extend the Dollar Empire round the globe, on the home front the Almighty Dollar is not universally worshipped. The following article, by Kelly Patricia O'Meara, dated April 4th, 2003, has arrived by E-mail:

"As Insight reports this week, there currently are 60 different forms of currency in circulation throughout the United States, and the reasons for issuing this alternative money are as numerous as the currencies themselves.

While many have begun using new forms of currency to keep the money within their community, there are others, such as Bernard von Nothaus, founder of the National Organisation for the repeal of the Federal Reserve, who are intent on using it to procure the populist claim that the Federal Reserve is illegitimate. Now it appears that even some states are beginning to question whether the Fed is constitutional.

A bill recently submitted to the Nevada Assembly Committee on Constitutional Amendments directs the issuance of Nevada silver coins. The act, now under consideration, states in part that:

- *the purported delegation by the Congress of the power to issue money to the Federal Reserve Bank, a privately owned corporation, is a violation of the terms of the US Constitution;*
- *the failure of the Congress to discharge its obligations to issue all the money pursuant to Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution absolves the state of Nevada from its constitutional obligation not to issue money;*
- *the state of Nevada shall issue into circulation coins of the state of Nevada in the amount of \$50 million. The coins must contain one ounce of fine silver, must be alloyed to 90 per cent fineness and must bear the Great Seal of the state of Nevada on one side, and the words "Contains One Troy Ounce Fine Silver," "Twenty Dollars", "Nevada Legal Tender" and the year of issue on the other side. The coins so issued are legal tender for all debts, public and private, in Nevada.*
- *if the Nevada Legislature determines that the US Congress is fulfilling its constitutional obligation to issue money by requiring the Federal Reserve "to retire its circulating notes and causing the issuance of sufficient notes of the United States and other currency to meet the needs of the commerce of the United States and Nevada, the State Treasurer shall retire the coins authorized by this section as they are received into the State Treasury".*

Nevada is the first of the 50 states to consider taking such steps against the Federal Reserve, and one has to wonder which, if any state, will be next. At a minimum, it's not good news for a Federal Reserve that has made printing money and manipulating the amount of money and credit in circulation into an art form, especially on its 90th anniversary". (end of E-mail, <http://www.insightmag.com>)

COMMENT: There's a fatal preoccupation in some areas that installing intrinsic value into coinage via precious metals will eliminate the debt crisis and the manipulation of money. What is needed is a change to the rules by which money is created and issued – which can be done without altering the form it takes.

Nevertheless, the article above is indicative of a growing awareness round the world of the scandalous

use of money as a monopoly/power instrument in the destruction of freedom and the enslavement of millions upon millions of people. It will help extend a much-needed debate in which the Islamic world is already joined. The end of the "Dollar-Debt Empire" is approaching.

Here in Australia, Section 51 of the Constitution says:

The Parliament shall, subject to this Constitution, have power to make laws for the peace, order, and good government of the Commonwealth with respect to

(xii) *Currency, coinage, and legal tender:*

(xiii) *Banking, other than State banking; also State banking extending beyond the limits of the State concerned, the incorporation of banks, and the issue of paper money.*

Nothing in this suggests that the Commonwealth should confer upon private trading banks the right to issue the 95 per cent of Australia's monetary aggregate which is in the form of credit, thus allowing the nation to be imprisoned under a load of interest-bearing debt in perpetuity.

Nor is there anything that forces us to depend on foreign investment for our own developmental needs, thus selling our nation into foreign ownership.

NOW IT IS THE CULTURAL VANDALS by Betty Luks:

I am grateful to those folk who keep us supplied with information 'gleaned' from many sources around the world. I spent the last week following the trail of looting, destruction and plunder of the artistic and historical treasures held in the museums of Iraq.

Why should a westerner be so concerned about what is happening to a people's heritage in the east? First it is a deliberate act of cultural vandalism, which anyone concerned about their own culture and history would relate to, and second those artistic and historic treasures lead back to the beginnings of the *western* nations' rise to *civilisation*!

Owen Barfield, "History in English Words", wrote of the excitement of philologists when they discovered the evident relation in the remote *Eastern* language of Sanskrit to the languages of Europe. At first it was thought that Sanskrit was the parent language from which all others had derived, "but the accurate methods of analysis which philology had now acquired" pointed to a still older language and research led to the parent language, the Indo-European or 'Aryan' language of the *Sumerians*.

C.S. Lewis in "*The Abolition of Man*" reminds us, "It is by no means certain that there has ever (in the sense required) been more than one civilisation in all history. It is at least arguable that every civilisation we find has been derived from another civilisation, and, in the last resort, from a single centre – 'carried' like an infectious disease or like the Apostolic succession."

[Further reading:; "The Phoenician Origins of the Britons, Scots & Anglo-Saxons by L.A. Waddell; "History in English Words" by Owen Barfield; "Race" by Dr. John Baker.]