



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.39, No.35

September 12th, 2003

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: *"All progress in the world, and in some ways the world has unquestionably made progress, has been by recognition of TRUTH, and the reason so little progress has been made in the solution of social problems is, to my mind, because in this sphere alone truth has been ignored or denied... Running through all history like the thread of Ariadne, it is possible to trace a continuous policy which I can only describe as a divorce between things themselves and the description of them. A well known instance of this is the glamour of war. War, at any rate modern war, is a dirty, beastly, inhumane, insane undertaking, proving nothing, adding nothing to the content of human values, and incidentally definitely dysgenic... Not only that, but the conditions which accompany a war give play to intrigue, corruption, tyranny, and wire-pulling under cover of suppression of publicity and the necessity for centralised control which are imposed by the exigencies of the struggle. Yet no war was ever carried on without a definite organisation to represent it as being in some way magnificent, glorious, and ennobling..."*

– From speech by C.H. Douglas "The New Age" Dinner, March 18th, 1933

PARLIAMENTARY EXCELLENCE by Jeremy Lee:

One federal representative, Senator Len Harris, without much media publicity, is putting his colleagues to shame. He produces regular, well-researched reports on major issues facing Australia. He does his best to get them to electors, and asks for their opinion on the pro's and con's involved.

Unlike the usual politician's reports – which are rare in any case – Senator Harris's reports are not simply government hand-outs peddling the official line; they are well-researched, giving readers an instant appreciation of what is involved for them.

Among other reports he has issued recently are: Property Rights; Private Ownership; the United Nations and International Treaties; Fishing Restrictions; Native Vegetation Legislation; Pharmaceutical Benefits and numerous others.

He goes further by doing State-wide tours running public meetings, in which he answers questions and proffers advice face-to-face, in the old-fashioned way that we seldom see nowadays in Australia.

As a lone One Nation Senator in Queensland, it will be an uphill battle for Harris to retain his seat in future elections – unless Tony Abbot will start another slush-fund to help him, which hardly seems

IN THIS ISSUE: • *Thought for the Week* • *Parliamentary Excellence* • *Iraq's Debt Position* • *The Plight of the World*
• *BBC Quotes Nobel Prize Winner On Health*

"ON TARGET"

September 12th, 2003

Page 1 (137)

future elections – unless Tony Abbot will start another slush-fund to help him, which hardly seems likely! For those who wish to contact Senator Len Harris, his address is: PO Box 2206, Mareeba, Qld., 4880.

If you want a selection of his reports, send at least enough to cover costs.

IRAQ'S DEBT POSITION: The following Letter To The Editor appeared in *The Australian Financial Review* (29/8/03):

"Iraq's foreign debt (including war reparations) is about \$US400 billion (\$A630 billion). Its ratio of debt to gross domestic product is over 10 times that of Argentina.

According to the *New York Times*, the cost of restoring infrastructure and agriculture to prewar levels will be about \$US30 billion.

On top of this, restoration and improvement of oil production facilities will cost billions of dollars.

Oil revenue is not a magic cornucopia: even Saudi Arabia has seen its economy slide in recent years.

The cost of essential food and medicines, interest on debt, and reparation payments will take all of Iraq's oil revenue, leaving nothing for restoration of infrastructure, improvement of living standards and reduction of debt.

The situation is impossible. The money simply isn't there.

The United States has assumed responsibility for restoring Iraq's shattered economy. It has to fulfill this if it is to have any credibility. And it has to meet the cost of maintaining a military occupation force to counter sabotage and terrorism for many years to come.

The continuing cost to the US will be enormous, but no one is yet facing up to the magnitude of this problem, probably because it is so frightening – not only for the US but for the tentative global economic recovery. We need a huge global financial assistance package for Iraq and we need it urgently. Yours etc. Tyler Kelly, Byron Bay." (end of letter)

Mr. Kelly is absolutely right. But any idea that the US can sustain its occupation of Iraq in anything but the very short term is an illusion. Its own debt crisis is terrifying. It faces a Current Account Deficit (imports over exports) approaching \$500 billion. Its Budget Deficit is set for \$480 billion. It is costing about \$1 billion a week to maintain the Iraqi occupation, and about half that figure to stay in Afghanistan – which is almost back to the position that existed before the US invasion, with Kabul a beleaguered city surrounded by rampaging Taliban fighters. The former USSR experienced the same humiliating position during its occupation of Afghanistan.

Snapping at President Bush's heels are a pack of budget-starved States, and official unemployment numbers of over 9 million. The US Budget is a disaster, and any short-term recovery on the Stock Exchange is sheer desperate gambling – almost willing a long-term recovery that is impossible.

The only thing adding to this illusion is a United States housing bubble which, although not as dramatic as Australia's, is the second highest ever.

No wonder a desperate Bush is begging the United Nations to intervene in Iraq. But with Pakistan and India loath to send troops into a Muslim war situation, and France, Germany and the USSR rudely snubbed before the invasion, it won't be easy for Bush and Colin Powell to get the help they need, on the terms they want. The only friends Bush still has are the ubiquitous Tony Blair in the UK, and Australia's John Howard. Britain, which is suffering its own losses in Iraq, will hardly countenance an increased presence; and Australia is fully stretched saving the Solomons. And with presidential

elections looming, Bush's popularity is slipping fast. Merely reiterating "Whatever it takes!" will not win him as many votes as once it did.

THE PLIGHT OF THE WORLD: Outlining week after week the financial crisis facing the world, the military catastrophes, the human tragedy of poverty and deprivation, it is easy to become so preoccupied with the drama that any alternative recedes into obscurity. Many Christians now believe that the signs portray a syndrome of disaster from which there is no escape. Human effort is futile. Only God's personal intervention can bring a halt to disaster. So we have a great army of church-people who generally are the most passive in the social order.

While this is true, it is also true that there are other laws that bear on the subject. If we believe that freedom is God's gift, then He works through human beings who voluntarily place themselves in His service. This combination is destined for success – not failure. Secondly, every action breeds an equal and opposite reaction. In this sense, the seemingly paradoxical statement "the plight of the world is the hope of the world" is the truth.

Among the parables of Christ is one about the treasure hidden in a field. It will remain hidden until enough people are seeking it. "Seek ye first the Kingdom ... and all else will be added unto you."

Social Credit – not a power movement, but a policy for freedom – is the pearl. In the conclusion to his "*Social Credit and Christian Philosophy*" (1956) Eric Butler writes:

"Every major problem man is struggling with today – the fight for export markets, the feverish search for raw materials, the growth of juvenile delinquency as mothers, as well as their husbands, are forced into the factories to obtain more monetary incomes, the growth of irresponsible bureaucracy – is the result of the economic system being used for false, and therefore anti-Christian, purposes. Social Crediters reject the view that salvation can be obtained through contests for power and the use of bribery which are a feature of present day party politics. A re-orientation of all man's institutions, political, economic and financial, will not take place *until there is a more widespread acceptance of the Christian philosophy concerning the nature and purpose of man*. Douglas pointed out that, so long as modern governments believe they can legislate in a moral vacuum, and the Christian Church fails to insist that all policies must serve Christian ends, the counting of heads at secret elections will not avert the threatened triumph of the anti-Christ."

Eric Butler added in a postscript to his essay:

"As we have seen, Social Credit is concerned with making *effective* the philosophy of real freedom. Douglas drew attention to the realistic implications of the Christian doctrine of the Incarnation, stressing that merely paying lip service to the truths of Christianity would not make those truths a reality. The word cannot become flesh unless individuals do more than state 'I believe'. They must take appropriate action. Faith without works is death. If a society is to be the living incarnation of Christian truth, then the individuals of that society must take appropriate action to ensure that all their political, economic, financial and other policies reflect that truth.

"Christianity is concerned with freedom. This requires that the individual has the necessary power to make decisions – within a framework of law and order which ensures that he does not use his power to the detriment of other individuals. Genuine democracy exists only when individuals initiate their own policies. But they must have the power to do this. If power is progressively centralized, the *individual* is losing power. The reality of Big Government is that Government has power *over the individual*. It is impossible to have Strong Government and strong people at the same time.

"The implementation of Social Credit requires that electors exercise power over Government, so that their will prevails as policy-making. It is not democracy when electors go into a polling-booth every

three, four or five years, put a mark in favour of what they generally regard as the lesser of a number of evils, and then go home to do nothing until the next election. Genuine democracy only becomes a reality when individuals instruct those who should serve them, on the policy they require.. Policy-making is concerned with results desired, not with technical methods of how best to achieve those results"

This throws enormous challenges to those who have grasped what Douglas was advocating. Any of us who voted for members of the current Government must share some responsibility for the results we're getting. To be critical of government without accepting this is a failure. Better by far not to vote at all than to vote for evil. Better still, to seek ways of returning to a representative form of government, wherein each elected member re-presents the desires of voters – one thing at a time – in the 'house of representatives'.

"The plight of the world is the hope of the world!" The greater the pain of tyranny, the greater the search for freedom. It is the search for the "kingdom" in which "the truth will make us free".

(*Social Credit and Christian Philosophy*, Eric D. Butler, \$7.00 posted from The Heritage Bookshop, Box 1052, GPO, Melbourne, Vic., 3001.)

BBC QUOTES NOBEL PRIZE WINNER ON HEALTH: BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme, 2/9/03, reported Dr. Sydney Brenner's comments on the public's prevailing attitudes, and government's policies, to health: "Everything is being driven into the support of the pharmaceutical industry."

Nobel-prize winner and Berkely Prof. Sydney Brenner, an expert on molecular biology, said people should be told to look after their health instead of expecting science to "come to their rescue with a pill".

"There are two kinds of health care. There's taking care of the health of the public and there's taking care of the financial health of the drug companies," said Brenner. He said more money should be invested in health education than in designing genetically tailored drugs, and focusing on 'healthy living' messages would save lives.

"Today everybody does what they like with their bodies and at the end of the day they think the drug companies or medical science will come to their rescue with a pill. That's the standard assumption."

Editor's note: Researcher, and writer, Eve Hillary, guest speaker at the coming Seminar in Albury, refers to the pharmaceutical industry as the 'sickness industry'.

The League of Rights in its very early days warned its readers of the 'sickness industry' and insisted we must all be more responsible for our own bodies, and must work in harmony with Mother Nature, not against her. It was the League who brought out to Australia such people as Lady Eve Balfour, a pioneer in organic husbandry – a natural counterbalance to 'chemical' farming. A number of League supporters were involved in the setting up of the Soil Association branches throughout Australia. The League persistently promoted the pioneering work of Lady Phillis Cilento, M.B., B.S. (known to many Australian women as 'Medical Mother').

Further reading: "*Thine is the Kingdom*" by Ralph Laslett Duck; a study into the origins of the 'germ theory of disease' as opposed to the 'holistic' approach to health. "*World Without Cancer*" by G. Edward Griffin. A clear and revolutionary insight into both the science and politics of cancer. "*We Are What We Eat*" by Lady Phillis Cilento. She wrote: "I beg you to study this new knowledge of nutrition and vitamins and apply it to your own lifestyle." "*The Nature Doctor*" by Dr. H.C.A. Vogel. A manual of traditional and complementary medicine. All books available from League Book Services.

"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.