



A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

# ON TARGET

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*The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance –*

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## **THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**

*"Purchasing power is not, as might be gathered from the current discussions on the subject, an emanation from the production of real commodities or services, much like the scent from a rose."*

– C.H. Douglas, *"Monopoly of Credit"*

*"The simplest and most satisfactory conception of money is that it is simply a ticket which enables the holder to obtain goods and services upon demand... You do not make money by making goods..."*

– C.H. Douglas, *"Warning Democracy"*

## **BACK-DOOR DEALS WITH SADDAM** by Jeremy Lee:

Blowing through the fluttering papers in Saddam Hussein's ransacked foreign ministry was a handful of pages which caught the attention. They reveal one of the unsavory backroom deals that continued right through the period the world was officially applying sanctions against Saddam's regime.

*The Weekend Australian* (20-21/9/03) said:

*"Translated and investigated, the documents show a BHP executive met a senior representative of Hussein's regime at the height of Western sanctions on Iraq, in the hope of winning lucrative oil contracts...."*

Which merely goes to confirm that what happens for public consumption and what happens behind the scene are two different things. However, by mid-1999 BHP ceased angling for Saddam Hussein's favours. Perhaps they ran into trouble from Vice-President Dick Cheney's Halliburton?

**MEGAWATI SPELLS IT OUT TO THE UN:** President George Bush's popularity is dropping at about the same rate as the American dollar. His behaviour at the recent General Assembly of the UN, where he appeared anxious and unsure of himself, was in stark contrast to that of a year ago, when he arrogantly demanded the UN do his bidding.

Nothing is more pathetic than the sight of the bully who has lost his punch! While it is all diplomatic

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politeness in public, there is no doubt there are many who are enjoying America's discomfort – particularly the French, who even had "French fries", "French omelettes" and "French wine" decried at the height of the euphoria for war.

Even the benign and timid Kofi Annan has been gently sticking it to the US. With the latest attacks on United Nations personnel in Iraq, it is going to be a major job mustering a UN peace force, and finding enough money to bail George Bush out of his horrendous financial problems.

Megawati Sukarnoputri of Indonesia, who is herself facing major problems in the scattered and densely-populated archipelago of Indonesia, did not mince words at the UN. She must be conscious that her country contains the biggest Islamic group in the world. Terrorism in Indonesia has not gone away. In fact, the latest judgments in the Bali bomb trials may well have enraged more of the population.

She condemned the West as responsible for the climate of violence across the world in which terrorism thrives. She put the West's Middle East policies at the heart of Muslim dissent. She said:

*"... Indeed, so many eminent Muslims in Indonesia believe that once the major powers behave in a more just manner and make clear their impartiality in the Middle East, then most of the root causes of terrorism, perpetrated in the name of Islam – which in any circumstance cannot be justified – would have been resolved". (The Australian, 25/9/03)*

She pointed out that the Bali bombers, during their trials, had cited their hatred of the US and their behavior in Israel, Iraq and Afghanistan as the cause of their actions:

*"... The motives and justifying arguments of their movement apparently arise from the prolonged unjust attitude exhibited by big powers towards countries whose inhabitants profess Islam, particularly in resolving the Middle East conflict'...."*

These sentiments have been argued by Islamic leaders throughout the world, and are a clear reason why the United States should remove itself from any attempt to arbitrate in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and stop funding one side. The latest act of 27 Israeli ace-airmen in refusing to serve in what they describe as an "illegal and immoral" war situation is a reproof of George Bush as well as Ariel Sharon, and vindication of Megawati's remarks.

**THE PASSION:** An increasing number of reviews round the world are directed to a film that won't be launched officially until just before Easter next year. The film, being made under the direction of Australian film star Mel Gibson, has caused consternation and remonstrations, accusations of 'anti-Semitism', laudatory statements, delegations for selective pre-views and general controversy. Gibson himself has said he might become a target for assassination.

Whatever else is said, the pre-launch publicity must be worth tens of millions – if it is ever allowed to be screened publicly by the normal outlets.

The film, to be called *"The Passion"*, covers the last 12 hours before the crucifixion of Christ – the arrest, the midnight interrogation before the Sanhedrin, the appeal to Pontius Pilate, the whipping-up

of the mob when Pilate appeared inclined to release Christ having "found no fault with this man". It is strictly faithful to the narrative of the gospels in the New Testament.

Among the most vociferous of the critics are the Jewish Anti-Defamation League (ADL), and progressive elements in the Christian church.

There has, for a number of years, been "dialogue" between Christians and Jews, aimed at eliminating areas of conflict between the two faiths. Inevitably, this has resulted in the attempted eradication of any emphasis on parts of the gospels which reflect unfavorably on the Jews of Christ's time, and which sent His disciples into hiding "for fear of the Jews". In fact, many Jews consider that parts of the New Testament are "anti-Semitic".

Gibson's *"The Passion"*, evidently, does not spare its audience. The scourgings, the Crown of Thorns, the painful and tragic journey up the "via dolorosa" to Golgotha, the nailing to the Cross, the agony of Mary and the other women who witnessed the crucifixion are portrayed in every detail.

Gibson himself, a traditionalist Catholic, is financing the film to the tune of \$A40 million. He's putting his money where his mouth is. So keen is he to create an accurate and authentic picture that even the original languages of the time – Latin and Aramaic – are being used. Sub-titles will appear.

Deal Hudson, who attended one of the previews, wrote a double-page article in *The Weekend Australian* (13-14/9/03) in which he observed:

*"... Whatever the final cut shows, however, the attacks on Gibson are likely to continue. The real scandal remains the Gospel. The debate that has raged these past six months raises the question whether there is any way that Christians can portray the Passion as depicted by the evangelists, without encountering charges of hostility and anti-Semitism. The answer is probably no. The Gospels make difficult reading for everybody, but perhaps especially for the Jews ....*

*"Gibson holds fashionable beliefs. Will he have to issue an endless stream of reassuring press releases and trim his film, to make it acceptable to the consensus? Or will he be able to release the movie he wants to release? We shall see. But one thing is clear. The Passion will not inspire hatred towards the Jews – among some viewers at least it will inspire faith in Jesus Christ. This is, in the end, what most of Gibson's enemies fear – the restoration of traditional Christianity and its faith in the God-man .... Gibson's suffering Christ ... burns itself into the imagination, convincing you, with or without faith, that something extraordinary happened that evening on Golgotha. The Passion is a great work of art". (emphasis added)*

The last comments are portentous. The Zionists have never feared anti-Semitism. Some of their leaders have claimed it is essential to their cause.

But a resurrected Church and a resurgence of Christian faith? Now that really would be something. No wonder the possibility is feared.

For film-viewers the end of the year looks enticing; the third and last part of *Lord of the Rings*, (including the highly relevant *Cleansing of the Shire*), to be followed in time for Lent with Gibson's film.

**HOW DARE YOU BE OUT OF WORK?** Despite his catholic faith and his seminary training for the priesthood, Minister Tony Abbott takes the old puritan work ethic extremely seriously – so much so that he is tightening up the dole for the 700,000 Australians who receive it.

Miss a lined up job interview and you're in trouble. Whether you are sick or homeless, if you haven't provided a good excuse within 48 hours, the wheels begin to turn remorselessly, and within a fortnight your payments grind to a halt.

While those who shirk while there's plenty of work available are a burden to others, the true employment environment mitigates against full employment. The true unemployment figures have been cooked for a long time, and a large proportion of what is conveniently called "full employment" is in reality part-time employment, or simply useless government 'make-work' schemes.

That is the real crisis which Abbott – and his counterparts in the Labor Party – simply dare not face. Trying to juggle punitive levels of tax revenue around to satisfy the myriad of hands held out has long failed Australians. It simply creates an ever-expanding underclass of part-time employed, people who can't find jobs within reasonable access to their means, and now joined by two-income families at the lower end of the income scale who are gradually slipping behind. There is now an argument as to whether people can pay their taxes by time payment. Household debt is out of control. Yet the ALP is advocating raising taxes even higher.

None of this appears in the only figures the government takes seriously – Australia's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). How many have a share of a grossly inadequate cake is not considered.

We are not far behind the situation in the biggest economy in the world – the US. Blighted by unemployed workers and wide scenes of destitution, America is now a colossus with feet of clay. Douglas's "*Critical Moment*" is there for all to see.

**WIDOW OF ANTHRAX VICTIM HOLDS US GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABLE:** Internet sites are reporting the widow of the first fatality from the US 'anthrax letter' attacks has filed two law suits alleging negligence on the part of the US Government and the laboratories that handle the deadly bacteria.

Mrs. Maureen Stevens is seeking more than \$US50 million (\$74 million) in what is considered to be the first attempt to hold the US Government accountable for producing and mishandling the biological agent. What! American authorities are producing 'weapons of mass destruction' as well as 'weapons of mass deception'!

The US Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases at Fort Detrick, Maryland, is the primary custodian of the strain of anthrax found in the envelopes to the victims.

Her husband Robert Stevens was a tabloid newspaper editor, and it is believed he contracted the disease from a tainted letter sent to the Florida headquarters of American Media Inc. He died of inhalation anthrax on October 5th. 2001.

Anthrax was also sent through the mail to media outlets in New York and a congressional building in Washington, killing four people and making more than a dozen seriously ill. No one has, as yet, been charged over the attacks.