A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

ON TARGET

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The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance –

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: *"Why of course people don't want war... Naturally... That is understood. But, after all, it is the leaders of the country who determine the policy and it is always a simple matter to drag the people along, whether it is a democracy, or a fascist dictatorship, or a parliament, or a communist dictatorship. Voice or no voice, the people can always be brought to do the bidding of the leaders. That is easy. All you have to do is tell them they are being attacked, and denounce the peacemakers for lack of patriotism and exposing the country to danger. It works the same in any country."* – Hermann Göring quoted in British ***"On Target"***M January 2003

FREE TRADE AGREEMENT AND PARLIAMENTARY 'PERKS': Politicians giving up some of their superannuation perks? Can you believe it? Never!

But why just at this moment in time? It couldn't have anything to do with taking the Free Trade Agreement with America off the front pages of mainline newspapers – could it? Mark Latham's sense of timing couldn't have been better – and Howard's 'flip flop' on pollies' 'super' perks added just the right touch of self-sacrifice on the part of the ruling elite.

The North American Free Trade Agreement (N.A.F.T.A.) has been used as an example of how good things are going to be for us. We are being led 'by the nose' to believe N.A.F.T.A. has benefitted all of the members of that agreement – America, Canada and Mexico. Well, has it?

Ten million Mexican 'refugees': If that is so, why have 10 million (yes, 10 million) Mexicans fled their 'utopian' homeland in search of a better life in America? They are, in fact, illegal immigrants. George Bush recently announced he is thinking of granting them amnesty. **Yes, 10 million of them.**

In Canada: In ***On Target*** Vol.37 No 15 (2001) we reported "... another city is under siege of protests against globalism; this time Quebec City (Canada), where the leaders of 34 nations are assembled to try and expand N.A.F.T.A. into 'The Free Trade Area of the Americas', encompassing 800 million people in nations with a combined $US22 trillion in goods and services ..."

"Open Letter to America from a Canadian" – What was happening in America, was reported by our sister publication the British ***"On Target"***, August 2002:

The common plight of small, medium, family and organic farmers *everywhere* also shows that British (and European) farmers are not alone. With the Collaboration of governments, the octopus-like tendrils

IN THIS ISSUE: *• Thought For The Week • Free Trade Agreement And Parliamentary 'Perks' • The Nationals and A.L.P. Forced Upon You Vegetation Management Laws • Stakeholders And Property Rights • Production On The Basis Of Penury • Pity The Iraqi People* of Multinational Corporations extend everywhere across national boundaries to enslave and destroy perfectly sound agricultural systems purely for Power and Profit. As in the United Kingdom draconian legislation is being put into place (in the U.S.A.) to 'preserve' the environment. We read that "Farmland in Oregon has been laid waste so that fish can thrive in a lake," *The Observer*, July 28th, 2001, and of the confiscation of land, "Federal Government waging war on ranchers, land owners, farmers in America's heartland" and "Property rights – peril in land grab continues", *American Free Press*, October 22nd, 2001.

The New Times carried on reporting the effects of 'Free Trade Agreements', July 2003: "...Much of America's manufacturing has shifted out of the country, first to Mexico after the NAFTA agreement, and now to China. Trying to revive the economy, President Bush's recent $350 billion income tax cut was financed by increased borrowing..."

Will Australian manufacturers – that's if there are any left – benefit from the 'Free Trade Agreement"? Answer that question yourself!

What about the cane growers, the beef producers and the grain farmers? Well what about them? If they haven't woken up by now they must be in as deep a sleep as was Cinderella, but I can't see Prince Charming coming to their rescue. They must take up the fight for their futures - and stop believing lying party politicians are going to come to their rescue!

1997 – In *"What Will We Tell Our Children?"* Jeremy Lee warned Australians:

The global gulag: "In the name of 'free-trade' the World Trade Organisation has a mass of regulations and demands for uniformity. One of these is 'compulsory competition' – a self-contradictory expression if ever there was one. One barrier to be crossed is the division of powers in federal systems. Uniform compulsion works best under central direction.

The Hilmer Report and the subsequent Competition Commission are the Australian equivalent of what is being forced on all industrial economies. Section 92 of the Constitution, allowing free trade between the States, is not good enough; the W.T.O. demands uniformity across nations. This has been done with the emergence of a fourth tier of government in Australia, the Council of Australian Governments (C.O.A.G.), where State Premiers are coerced into legislating by uniform direction. With a central government that openly coerces the States through its monopoly of public credit-allocation, the State governments have no option but to obey or be pauperised. Even their obedience is not enough.

In the face of the Constitution, and contrary to the expressed will of the people, Canberra is directly enlisting Local Government, through Regional Organisation Councils (R.O.Cs.) into national compliance. Increasingly, Councils are being forced to police the global demands of the W.T.O., through planning, standardisation and **environmental programmes at local level**. Mutterings by local councillors who find themselves increasingly constricted by centrally-directed programmes in these areas have been muted by turning Council representation from a voluntary service into a paid profession. Councils are amalgamated and corporatised. High-salary C.E.Os. direct paid-Councillors on what is to be done. The answer to local resistance is centralisation through amalgamation.

The role of another international body, the International Union of Local Authorities, (I.U.L.A.) is of increasing importance. The IULA Declaration demands that Local Government be nationally organised and directed. This flies in the face of Australia's constitutional arrangements, which allow the Commonwealth no role in Local Councils."

Australians didn't listen then and are still not listening.

THE NATIONALS AND A.L.P. FORCED UPON YOU VEGETATION MANAGEMENT LAWS:

Under the preceding heading, the following advert appeared in the North Queensland Register, January 29th, 2004:

You are wrong if you blame Peter Beattie alone for draconian anti-development laws. BEATTIE HAS JUST SUNK THE BOOT IN FURTHER – THE QUEENSLAND NATIONALS WERE THE REAL CULPRITS.

Borbidge, Littleproud and Hobbs betrayed Queensland farmers and land holders for money – they agreed to bring in restrictions on your freehold land.

The original Commonwealth-State Natural Heritage Objectives Agreement to enact State Vegetation Laws preventing landholders from developing and maintaining their properties was signed on November 5th, 1997, by the Queensland National Party leader, the Hon. Rob Borbidge along with Minister for Environment, the Hon. Brian Littleproud, and Minister for Natural Resources, Howard Hobbs, on behalf of Queensland.

Attachment A to this agreement:

Section 3.2 [c] ensures the State will implement: "Effective measures in place to retain and manage native vegetation including controls on clearing."

Section 3.2[d]: "Avoid or limit any further broad-scale clearance of native vegetation..."

Under Priorities: Section 4.2[a] (1): "a prohibition on clearing endangered regional ecosystems."

Section 4.3[b]: "work with local government, landholders and the community to develop further mechanisms for the protection of vegetation on freehold land."

The Commonwealth Signatories to the Agreement were: Signing on behalf of the Commonwealth were Prime Minister The Hon. John Howard, Environment Minister Senator Robert Hill and Primary Industries Minister The Hon. John Anderson.

Section 5.1[c] states: "No activities that adversely effect the status of ecological communities."

This and other sections will allow Peter Beattie to convert most of our regional forestry to National Park or exclusive reserve status thus preventing sustainable grazing or any human activity.

It is a well accepted fact that the removal of grazing from forestry areas has in the past and will in future impact heavily on the environment resulting in widespread ecological damage caused by wildfires. One Nation Senator Len Harris has led the battle in defence of graziers and farmers, in fact all land holders, in taking on the Beattie Labor Party's Vegetation Management Act.

Please note the Queensland Parliament cannot change the Common Law of Australia...."

** Queenslanders are invited to obtain a copy of the Commonwealth/State Partnership Agreement by contacting Sen. Len Harris at 1300 638 820.

STAKEHOLDERS AND PROPERTY RIGHTS: After hearing Mark Latham's response to Kerry O'Brien's question on the 7.30 Report, Thursday, February 12th, 2004, as to his motives in calling for reduced superannuation perks for future politicians, you would be justified in thinking Mark has had an 'awakening'. He wasn't in Parliament for the money but thought politicians should serve the Australian people. Wow, that's the first time I have heard a politician say that in many a year!

But the warning lights 'flashed' upon reading his September 2003 'Light on the Hill" Lecture to the party faithful. Preparing to sum up his presentation he said: "I believe in a stakeholder society in which all Australians are encouraged to save and take an ownership stake in the economy." Does he mean an 'old fashioned' 'free enterprise' economy? No sir: "In economic policy, we believe in competitive capitalism (read Super-debt-capitalism...*ed*): open and productive markets (read 'free trade'...*ed*) backed by high levels of public investment in education and training..."

PRODUCTION ON THE BASIS OF PENURY: A few words upon the principles of the Economic System as it exists today. They can be broadly summarized by an illustration. Imagine a closed box representing the industrial system, a box in which are all the plant, material, craftsmanship, and other factors for Production. Let there be an outlet from the box through which are to appear those final results of production, which alone can justify the undertaking of any production at all – namely, *consumable goods* in their widest sense of all means of life, material and cultural. Let us all stand round the box with slips of paper in our hand bearing the injunction: "You must consume less, so that the box can produce more." What does this mean? Obviously, that we must allow as little to come out of the box as possible. *But* observe – the injunction says that this is to enable the box to produce more. More what, then? Surely not consumable goods, for these are no use *inside the box*.

Quite right. It is not consumable goods, but more 'capital' goods – more of the above mentioned factors of production – that are to be produced. In other words, we are to stop up the outlet in order to increase the size of the box. And what then?

Well, we can go on to the next step of making use of the increased productive power of the box to draw out of it – a larger supply of consumable goods? *By no means*, but to increase still more the size and power of the box. And so *ad infinitum*. Thus, according to the current economic principle do we become "prosperous". – From *The New Age*, 1924.

PITY THE IRAQI PEOPLE – Banking on Empire, J.P. Morgan Chase: The news is Iraq's banking system is to be controlled by a consortium of foreign corporations, headed up by a bank with a long history of corruption and close co-operation with oppressive regimes.

Iraqi ministries will now be able to borrow billions of dollars to buy much-needed equipment from overseas suppliers, *but only by mortgaging the national oil revenues through a bank managed by New York-based multinational J.P. Morgan Chase.*

Hussein al-Uzri, president of the Trade Bank of Iraq, which is managed by J.P. Morgan Chase, announced last week in Kuwait City, that the bank had raised $2.4 billion in export guarantees for trade between Iraq and foreign companies and governments.

"Those oil revenues will be used to support the Iraq Trade Bank letters of credit," said David Chavern, a senior official with the U.S. Export-Import Bank, when he addressed attendees at a recent briefing organized by Equity International for potential investors in Iraq. "And we will ensure those letters of credit for the U.S. exporter."

The management contract, which is worth $2 million over two-and-a-half years, was awarded to a consortium of thirteen banks representing fourteen countries, led by J.P. Morgan, last July after a competitive bidding process against four other international consortia. J.P. Morgan Chase, which was formed from the merger in December 2000 of one of the world's largest commercial banks, the Chase Manhattan Corporation, and the investment bank J.P. Morgan & Company, declined to comment about its role in the Trade Bank of Iraq.

The Trade Bank of Iraq was formed partially to replace the trade guarantees established by the United Nations oil-for-food programme, imposed on Iraq in 1995 during the sanctions regime against Saddam Hussein.

Shackling the People, through the government, with future debts: "The oil figures are very murky and secretive," said Nomi Prins former investment banker and author of the forthcoming book *Other People's Money: The Corporate Mugging of America*. "That same oil for which no one has the appropriate...information is being used to collateralize multiple things. You're effectively leveraging oil for which the revenues are non-transparent."

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