



A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

ON TARGET

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The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance –

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: *"There are only two Great Policies in the world today - Domination and Freedom. As between these two policies, there could be no greater mistake made than to assume that all would-be reformers are aiming at freedom... The fanatical Labour theorist, who would deny the right to live to any person not engaged in orthodox toil, quite irrespective of the facts of wealth production; the Trust magnate who ... corners an essential article under the pretext of efficient production, are, no less than the mediaeval ecclesiastics who burned men's bodies that their souls might live, practical exponents of salvation by compulsion. It may be worthwhile, therefore, to see whether the industrial and social machine, as now operated, may not be equally the instrument of either policy."*

– C.H. Douglas in *"These Present Discontents & The Labour Party & Social Credit"*, 1922

COSTELLO – THE MODERN KING CANUTE by Jeremy Lee:

The latest statement from Treasurer Peter Costello, with the endorsement of Prime Minister Howard, on policies to tackle an aging population are bizarre.

Costello has told us that because the average age of Australians is rising, the future will reveal fewer tax-payers supporting more welfare recipients. As this will become increasingly difficult, people will have to work longer, and retirement from work will become a thing of the past.

He went on to urge Australian retirees to return to the workforce, at least part-time, and added that employers would have to be 'educated' to provide jobs for older people.

All this is the irrational conclusion of a tax-obsessed ideologue. It flies in the face of natural law, true justice and the peace, good order and happiness of Australians.

As mentioned before, the State of the World Forum, held in San Francisco in 1995, dealt almost exclusively with the question of work and production. It was far more realistic than Howard and Costello in acknowledging that modern technology was replacing human workers at an astounding rate. The Forum concluded that within a short time the global economy would require no more than 20 percent of the workforce to produce and distribute enough for everybody.

This is already evident in Australia. Our primary industries and manufacturing take well under 20 percent of the workforce. Allowing another 10 to 15 percent for transport and distribution, Australia could cope with an unemployment rate of 60 per cent without any reduction in current production.

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The whole game in western industrial economies now is to give the illusion of full employment. This blind policy is aided by the fact that under the present system everybody needs a job to live. Taxes are at the highest rate in human history to cater for the casualties caused by this way of doing things. But they're never enough to meet the dislocation being caused in the process.

Costello tells us that unemployment is at about six percent. Nobody believes this is the true figure. Polls run in Queensland show over 80 percent do not believe the official unemployment statistics. Unemployment is closer to 20 percent. Many so-called jobs are part time. We have over two million people on disability pensions. This is, in most cases, a disguised form of unemployment.

Rather than honestly face this breakdown in the social order, Costello simply looks into the future and compares the number of tax payers with the number of tax receivers. The balance is swinging away from tax payers. What to do? Force more people back into a glutted workforce so that the figures will look better!

No matter that the real position will become worse.

All this before Costello has solved the problem of youth unemployment, which is catastrophic in some areas. Perhaps he intends to deal with this by extending 'work-for-the-dole'. In fact, why not put former retirees and pensioners into the same programme. Don't call work-for-the-dole what it really is – slave-for-the-government!

Persisted with, this Costello madness has the potential to escalate the crisis in Australian society to breakdown. We need a different approach and a new vision. Why not classify all Australians as "share-holders", entitled to a dividend depending on the nation's performance each year? The first thing would be for Peter Costello to produce a properly-audited balance sheet for the nation – Australia Inc. This should be sent to every adult Australian, just as Telstra has to make its balance sheet available to share-holders.

Any true growth in Australia would result in a dividend to be paid to all share-holders – even if they're old age pensioners!

In modern economies, where we don't need everyone working as a result of the continual improvement in automated productive capacity, sooner or later the policy of "full employment" will have to be abandoned, in favour of a share-holders' society. It will take a lot for politicians to accept this. Only a constructive awakening among ordinary people will finally force the change.

Meanwhile, all you old geriatrics, retired gardeners, volunteers and wheel-chair operators, get down to CentreLink immediately and demand the job that Costello and Howard say you must have! They'll welcome you with open arms! They have so many vacancies that need filling.

ARE SENATORS DOING WHAT SENATORS ARE THERE TO DO? We were pleased to receive copies of media and postal communiqués from two Senators during the week. One was from Senator Len Harris carrying out his duty as a duly elected Senator of the State of Queensland to protect his constituents' interests; the other was from Senator Meg Lees asking South Australians what did they want to happen to Telstra.

But first Senator Len Harris of Queensland:

AUSTRALIA'S BANANA, PORK & APPLE INDUSTRIES 'DONE LIKE A DINNER' – Senator Len Harris is warning Australian banana, pork and apple industries producers of the dangers to their livelihoods if the Federal Government gives the green light to import Philippine bananas, New Zealand apples and pork from the United States and the European Union.

The Agriculture Department's *Biosecurity Australia*, is proposing to allow the imports following the release of a new draft Import Risk Analyses (IRA).

Senator Harris, whose Mareeba Electorate Office is in the heart of the tropical North Queensland banana growing belt, said he has been inundated with phone calls.

"Growers are absolutely devastated by the import proposal. The \$400 million dollar a year banana industry will be wiped out if present quarantine restrictions are weakened. It will (also) be impossible for Australian banana growers to compete with cheap third world labor and input prices."

"The Philippines Agriculture Minister has a financial interest in that country's largest banana exporter which sends around 22 million cartons per year offshore. This is more than Australia's total banana production of 19 million cartons a year," insists the good Senator. "The Philippines Agriculture Minister also has interests in that country's largest live cattle import industry. This begs the question of whether it is appropriate for a Minister of any country to have the potential to use their statutory position as a means of industry influence or personal gain? One Nation does not want to jeopardise Australia's live cattle export industry, however, their gain must not be at the expense of our banana producers."

Senator Harris said Australia had so far remained free from many exotic pests and diseases that had devastated agricultural industries in other nations.

Australian homemakers take note: "The new draft IRA says the standard treatment for imported bananas and apples will be to gas them with chlorine and then put them in cold storage for weeks or even months. Australian's don't want their food blasted with chemicals and then cold stored. Consumers want fresh clean and green produce grown here in Australia. Furthermore, it is unclear whether the new draft proposals allowed imported foods to be irradiated. With the globalisation of trade in food, there is an increasing push for fruit and meat to be irradiated (treated with radiation) to delay ripening and as a quarantine measure to eliminate pests and diseases."

Industry stakeholders and consumers unite: The good Senator insists the only hope to stop the imports was for the industry and consumers to unite and clearly make their voices heard, and they have just 60 days to lodge objections to the import proposals for bananas and apples.

Objections to imported pork must be lodged within 30 days: Australians need to take action by lobbying their federal MPs and state Senators. In particular, constituents should contact Agriculture Minister Warren Truss; Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation Minister Ian Macdonald and the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture, Senator Judith Troeth.

The Draft Import Risk Assessments are full of bureaucratic jargon and gobbledygook. Phew! The IRA for apples is 565 pages long. The banana IRA is 441 pages and the pork report is 779 pages.

Senator Harris tells us who is responsible and just who we should target: "The Liberal Party's Agriculture Minister, Warren Truss whose Department oversees *Biosecurity Australia*, must take direct responsibility for the disastrous import proposals. I am appalled by the blind hypocrisy of Mr. Truss. His own department is proposing to let foreign produce flood our domestic market but yesterday he encouraged Australian consumers to support Australian farmers at the shops. What insincere, two-faced nonsense," charged Senator Harris.

For those affected by such legislation, read the Draft IRA's: Visit Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Biosecurity information page at: <http://www.affa.gov.au/content/output.cfm?ObjectID=D2C48F86-BA1A-11A1-A2200060B0A03929&contType=outputs>

How to comment on the proposal: You will need to register as a Stakeholder in order to contribute your views about the Draft IRA's.

Download the relevant forms from: <http://www.affa.gov.au/content/output.cfm?ObjectID=D2C48F86-BA1A-11A1-A2200060B0A03927&contType=outputs>

If you do not have access to the Internet: Contact *Biosecurity Australia*, (02) 6272 4146, or local call to Senator Harris on 1300 301 918. For further details: Senator Harris (07) 4092 3194.

THREE OUT OF FOUR FARMERS TO GO: Tony Pitt of Qld. writes: Deputy PM, John Anderson, said at a public meeting in Mareeba that they only needed 25,000 farmers. In other words 60,000 farmers are to get the chop. Destruction by obfuscation is the game plan. Impossible regulations, horrendous fines and punitive legal costs are planned to force farmers from their land.

Read how to beat them in Senate Sentinel No 32. Free sample available from Tony Pitt, (07) 4122 1412, or e-mail him at tonypitt@bigpond.com

BRIEF COMMENTS by Thomas Dolling:

"Blix says war leaders acted like salesmen" – *Guardian Weekly*, 12/2/04. UN weapons inspector Hans Blix accused Tony Blair and George Bush (and John Howard ...ed) of behaving like insincere salesmen who "exaggerated" intelligence in an attempt to win support for war. He thought the public should be able to expect a bit more sincerity than that.

Robin Cook, the former leader of the House of Commons attacked Blair's credibility, insisting he made it quite plain to Blair, "It was obvious from the briefings that Saddam had no weapons of mass destruction – only battle field weapons."

Israeli MP Yossi Sarid was also quoted: "It was known in Israel that the story that weapons of mass destruction could be activated in 45 minutes was an old wife's tale."

Passion of Gibson's film on Christ is in the conflict it generates says reporter Chris McGillion, *The Age*, 20/2/04: The movie represents another shot in the culture war being waged in the Catholic Church (and Christianity more generally). Ultra-conservative Catholics like Gibson oppose the liberalising reforms of the Second Vatican Council and Christians generally are divided between liberals and conservatives.

It was claimed, that if the state's new religious hatred laws intended to fetter the teaching of Christian doctrine, it was invalid. By preaching violence Islam was disqualified. The Choudhary case in England was cited – involving the Salman Rushdie book, *The Satanic Verses* – which protected only Christianity, not Islam." The case is continuing.

Australia's blasphemy law – still in force if little used – took precedence over the State Act.

Between the rocks and a hard place – *Sydney Morning Herald*, 19/2/04: According to reporter Miranda Devine police have bent over backwards to build good relations with the inhabitants of Redfern. Examples are:

- Police youth liaison officer rides in school buses ready to help out any child not ready.
- On Sunday mornings, police take three children to Nippers, at South Maroubra Surf Club.
- The Police & Community Youth Club serve breakfast to children before school.
- Twenty children taken on a four-day Lake Macquarie camp. Similar camps have taken place beforehand.
- Children taken to: meet Rugby League players; a naval ship; Australia's Wonderland; Homebush Aquatic Centre; NSW Gymnastic Academy; mini golf; movies, lunch, theatre and swims.

This is all 'above and beyond their duties'; the police officers get paid for an eight-hour day. It is reported they have "had a gutful of being the political footballs". One officer is quoted as saying: "We have to do it because no else is."

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