



A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

ON TARGET

- NEWS HIGHLIGHTS
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- COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS



The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance –

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: *Practically all the evils from which we suffer at the present time can be traced to the ability resident in existing organisations to subordinate true individuality to them. It must be a common experience ...to have been obliged to acquiesce passively in transactions either of a business concern or a Government Department which transgresses every canon of common decency, and which if done for the advantage of an individual would be generally condemned. The fact that they are done under orders or for the advantage of some organisation is commonly held to excuse their character. There is however another aspect of the greatest importance. Measured by civilised standards, groups are always of lower value than individuals. Conversely, individuals have qualities which are non-existent in groups... a lifelong plot on the part of one man against the well-being of another man is very rare, but a business or national vendetta is the rule, and I should say there were very few exceptions to that rule... The desired solution has no basis in sentimentality or abstract Pacifism...it has to be a solution which can fight...I believe it is possible to provide a financial system which will so abolish the artificial differences of interest between individuals, that any community, nation, or continent which will successfully put these principles into operation will... compel imitation from the rest of the world..."*

– C.H. Douglas, "**Warning Democracy**", 1931

THEY WON THE WAR – AND LOST THE PEACE by Betty Luks:

How difficult it is to sum up the essentials of the spirit, the camaraderie, of service, the staying power, displayed by the generation who fought, and won the victory in WW2; but yet went on 'to lose the peace'. Simon Heffer, after watching the D-Day Commemorations, mused over this seemingly baffling question in *The Spectator*, 5/6/04:

"For those who benefited from their courage and sacrifice, they are a living monument to a spirit that now seems antique. Yet we are conscious that, one by one, they too are dying: and soon their only monuments will be of stone."

He examines the qualities displayed by those people; commitment, heroism, staying power in face of such adversities, then goes on to look at the following generations and the age, the present age, in which they live: "In an age of counselling, the compensation culture, Prozac and human rights, it is hardly surprising that survivors of the D-Day generation look at the world they fought for with a certain amount of impatience and disdain. They grew up in a hard school after all..."

He thought the older generation had a firmer, clearer belief in the values of their country – but did they? There was much horror and disillusion after WW1; the cream of the youth had sacrificed their lives – many asked – for what?

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Sir Arthur Bryant gives a glimpse of those days in "*The Lion & the Unicorn*": "The greatest miracle I have ever witnessed was the transformation of the Army between 1940 and 1945; between the collapse of France and the return to Europe of British arms, when with our American allies – still the junior partner in fighting skill and experience – we fought our way back from the south into the continental fortress from which we had been driven at Dunkirk."

In 1940 the Army, after a generation of neglect, was the Cinderella of the Services, and the swelling ranks were drawn from a generation, which had been taught to regard war with horror, and soldiering as a stupid activity, 'Colonel Blimp' was looked upon with great scorn.

Yet, says Sir Arthur, 'Colonel Blimp' was to save us.

Under the older regimental officers of Flanders and Picardy -- coming out of retirement in response to their regiment's call of return to duty -- the young men of that generation were transformed into soldiers. They had become imbued with a fighting spirit and soldierly pride equal to those of the finest armies Britain had raised in the past.

"This astonishing change was brought about," remarked Sir Arthur, "by a resort to the Army's living history," and accomplished by middle-aged officers from the sporting shires and tough, hard-baked non-commissioned paragons of the barrack square.

"They (the officers) were astonishingly effective, exhorting by word, deed and example those temporarily committed to their charge, to emulate the men of old who by their valour and fortitude, had created and handed down the legends by which their regiments lived."

Manners makyth the Man – Naval Tradition: During WW2, Sir Arthur Bryant put to a naval officer a question needing an answer:

In what consisted the genius of the Royal Navy for evoking virtue from men and winning their affection and loyalty. It was a genius which, unless neglected, has been evolved through the centuries. The officer answered, "a system of manners".

"Based on long experience," wrote Sir Arthur, "it has been directed to solving the practical problems of enabling men to live together in the confined and crowded conditions of life afloat. Without it a sailor's life would be intolerable and discipline impossible."

What is this system? It can be summarised in four words – "Consideration for other seamen."

By this is not meant a weak or sentimental consideration; life at sea, and most of all in wartime, is hard, anything but a stern and realist consideration for the other man's lot would be a mistaken and cruel kindness."

The common well-being: "The most useful gifts one sailor can give another are courage, capacity for endurance and self-respect, for without these he must face ultimate disaster and shame. To enable a man to be a man, in the Navy's view, is the highest service one seaman can do another."

And the great admirals who built up the unwritten code of naval behaviour have always borne this fundamental truth in mind.

Yet the basis of British naval discipline, stern and spartan though it is, is never obedience for its own sake, but obedience for the sake of ship and crew and the common well-being of all."

Writing about WW2 and summing up the perilous situation the British people faced, Bryant wrote: "...when, after two decades of neglect of its maritime traditions, a seafaring people was grappling with the greatest peril in its history, and facing almost insuperable odds, it was saved by the courage, faith and leadership of admirals and captains who had served as young lieutenant-commanders, lieutenants and midshipmen under John Jellicoe."

John Jellico had laid it down: Officers must be taught that their first duty is the well-being of those under them. "In that statement he summed up the whole naval tradition," said Bryant.

The tradition is not based on administrative machinery, but on humanity; humanity, not at its lowest level but at its highest. It being the constant reminder of all naval precept that man is not only a body but a spirit.

He encouraged the coming generations to learn from our traditions, "to realise that we can learn other lessons from our great fighting Services, than those of valour and technical skill. For they are repositories of certain human truths which have been forgotten almost everywhere else. "Manners," runs the old saying, "makyth the Man." But in our eager, clever, greedy machine age, man is the one thing we have forgotten how to make."

"Democracy is a culture not a method." Jacques Chirac, G8 meeting, 2004.

THE CHICKENS ARE COMING HOME TO ROOST: It was recently announced E.T.S.A. Utilities was going to invest \$1.6 billion in the development of their infrastructure in South Australia. The truth was rather different. E.T.S.A. wasn't going to invest a cracker, E.T.S.A. wants the small consumer and government to pay for the planned infrastructure! South Australians awoke one morning to the news the 'privatised' E.T.S.A. Utility wants the State Government and the customer to pay upfront for its planned infrastructures by paying one dollar a week... ad infinitum?

It was only last Christmas SA consumers were hit by the same monopoly – er...company, with a huge price rise. Understandably there has been an outcry from consumers at the recent news.

The small businessman does not have the luxury of such benefits – generously assisted by governments with taxpayers' funds. He has to be responsible for funding his own infrastructure. After all, in a business venture, he is the one taking the risks and has to back his judgements with his own funds... usually borrowed from the rapacious banks.

But not so in this case; the 'privatised' supposedly more 'efficient' electricity utility not only wants us to fund its risk-taking, but it wants to pocket all the profits as well, most of which will probably go overseas.

Let's get the sale conditions on the table: The public are asking that the original sale conditions, such as the following, be placed 'on the table' for some close scrutiny.

- The original agreement and the matter of infrastructure
- Return on investment
- Key performance indicators
- Retention of funds
- Disposal of real estate assets
- Reducing construction standards of stobie poles.

The government is backing off such a course of action claiming "commercial confidence" would be breached.

One local letter writer summed it up well: By the consumer and the state government paying for the infrastructures, we would in fact be reducing competition by way of making it less likely that demand management and alternatives to centralised power generation and distribution can compete in the electricity market. As usual the losers would be the small consumer and the environment.

WHY WEREN'T WE TOLD? What a surprise. We now learn why Ahmad Chalabi, once Washington's 'favourite Iraqi son', fell out of favour and was sidelined by the Bush regime. The U.K's. *Weekly Telegraph* No.670 Reports: Mr. Chalabi's allies claim a key motive for the sacking was to stop him revealing more details of the U.N's. oil-for-food programme; the details of which point to the bribery and corruption of politicians around the world. Chalabi, it seems, is in possession of "miles" of documents with the potential to expose politicians, corporations and the United Nations as having connived in a system of kickbacks and false pricing worth billions of pounds.

Readers will remember *On Target* reported in Heads Start to Roll "C.I.A. Director George Tenet, who weathered storms over intelligence lapses about suspected WMD in Iraq and the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, has resigned. Tenet's move came amid new storms over intelligence issues, including an alleged Pentagon leak of highly classified intelligence to Ahmad Chalabi, the disgraced Iraqi former banker/politician."

YOU SCRATCH MY BACK - I'LL SCRATCH YOURS: In January 2004, a Baghdad newspaper, *al-Mada*, published a list of 270 businessmen, politicians and corporations, many of whom were alleged to have received money in the form of kickbacks from Saddam Hussein's regime. The list included British, Russian and French politicians, among them Benon Savan, who ran the lucrative U.N's. Iraqi oil-for-food programme.

"The Iraqi regime, like all dictatorships, kept meticulous records with countless cross-references," said a source close to Mr. Ahmad Chalabi, once Washington's favourite son, who had accused the U.S. of trying to sideline him and cover up a United nation's bribery scandal.

Volumes of Saddam-era documents had come into Chalabi's hands and he had come to realise he was sitting on explosive information about the scheme. The U.N's. oil-for-food programme provided Hussein and his corrupt regime with a convenient vehicle through which he bought support internationally. "He bribed political parties, companies, journalists and other individuals of influence," said Claude Hanks-Drielsma, a British strategy consultant who was hired by Mr. Chalabi.

It is not known if the incriminating documents were seized, despite the denials from the Coalition Provisional Authority that the raid conducted on Mr. Chalabi's home and offices by American troops and Iraqi police was aimed at Chalabi or his organisation. A Coalition spokesman claimed it was an Iraqi police matter.

The Iraq Governing Council decided it would have to appoint an internationally renowned firm of accountants, together with legal advisers to help deal with the matter.

HOUSEHOLD DEBT 'HITS' £1 TRILLION: Britons now collectively owe £1 trillion in mortgages, loans, overdrafts and credit card debt say the Liberal Democrats. Household debt equals the total national debts of Africa, Asia and Latin America. The interest payable on a loan of \$1 trillion at 7.5 per cent amounted to more than £6 billion a month. Vince Cable, the Liberal Democrats' Treasury spokesman, said: "The debt bubble facing the British public is awesome." He said if interest rates rose, house prices fell and oil prices and inflation continued to rise many people could be in difficulty and called on the Chancellor to tackle household borrowing.

Will these politicians ever look at the root cause of the problem? When will they stop treating money as a commodity instead of simply a means by which we deal with things? For all their babble, it is the same politicians who give the Money Power the legal sanctions to carry on their money-grubbing practices.

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