



A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

ON TARGET

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The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance -

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

Mr. Malcolm Turnbull defended his remarks. "I was talking about Australia's strong performance... I was contrasting it with the throw money at the problem approach of Labor. I observed that libertarians have often described taxation as theft which is authorised by Parliament. While that is just a colourful but inaccurate slogan, I observed that it does serve to remind us that the monies governments spend is originally private property, which has been compulsorily appropriated from citizens under force of law."

— Malcolm Turnbull (merchant banker), *The Sunday Mail*, August 15th, 2004.

"Powers of the Parliament: 51: The Parliament shall, subject to this Constitution, have power to make laws for the peace, order, and good government of the Commonwealth with respect to:- (xiii) Banking, other than State banking; also State banking extending beyond the limits of the State concerned, the incorporation of banks, and the issue of paper money:"

— Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act, 9th July, 1900.

FAIRER RULES FOR OUR EXPORT INDUSTRIES? by Betty Luks:

As you read the following article think very carefully about what the president of the South Australian Farmers' Federation is actually saying.

The Adelaide *Advertiser* reported the South Australian Farmers' Federation intends to initiate a national campaign to gain fairer rules for our export industries. Only time will tell what effects the US-Australia FTA will have on the farmers, but it seems these fellows are attempting to shut the gate after the horse has well and truly 'bolted'. Where have they been all these years? Jeremy Lee and Eric Butler have been warning them for decades their politicians were selling them out to the New World Order bosses... but they wouldn't listen! Instead they listened to the hirelings in their midst who ostracised and demonised any local League supporter who tried to warn them.

Of course they are right when they claim the National Competition Policy targets export industries using *pure economic ideology* to guide its decisions, and, with the radical restructuring taking place under the reform 'guidelines', up to 2 million jobs are at risk.

But, they are wrong when they say that as farmers they couldn't survive if their export markets were lost – because the local market accounts for only 20 per cent of what they produce.

They merely demonstrate they also are victims of *pure economic and financial ideology*. It is not unlike an arms manufacturer saying he couldn't survive to produce for the local market if he couldn't export 80 per cent of what he produced – even if those arms were being activated and 're-imported' against him!

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What John Lush, the president of the SA farming group, is really saying is that under the present *economic and financial policies* the farmer cannot financially survive upon the *financial returns* he gets for 20 per cent of his production.

Think about it. What an incredible situation. A very small portion of 20 million people – our farmers produce enough to feed 100 million people... and yet financially, they won't survive unless they keep doing it.

If we take into account the infrastructure needed to supply the water, the energy and the soil nutrients it takes to produce enough food for 100 million people, that is a lot of our *physical resources* being used up and exported just for the return of financial 'figures'.

Physically the production is *huge*. If the farmer operated as a *self-functioning feed-back system*, he couldn't possibly consume all he produces – not in years and years, and yet *financially* he can't survive.

No matter that he exports 80 per cent of his *real physical wealth* in return for the bulk of the figures in his bank account.

Under the present rules the farmer is trying to fight with his hands tied behind his back, but if the *financial and economic policies* were changed for the benefit of the Australian people, he might find that instead of having to work from daylight to dark, he and his family could take some time off, have a decent holiday. Not only could he and his family have a rest, but he might discover the lands could also be rested and he wouldn't have to rape and abuse his soil into the bargain.

But for him to see that, he would have to have a complete change of mind and understanding.

Are we ever going to hear Australians ask the question: Why should our farmers have to produce enough for 100 million people when the population is only 20 million?

What prevents the farmers, and us, from gaining a just price for their goods and allowing them, and us, to live in relative peace and security?

Clifford Hugh Douglas reminded us: "It is the volume of money, and not the amount of available goods which governs the purchasing power of the general population."

The Liberals need to be reminded of their 1949 Statements of Beliefs, Nos.12 & 16:

"We believe that national financial and economic policy are not to be designed to control men's lives, but to create a climate in which men may be enabled to work out their own salvation in their own way."

"We believe that all forms of industry, primary or secondary, or otherwise, depend one upon another, and that their community of interest will be the guarantee of the nation's growth."

Nothing there about the need to export, export, export – or we perish!

THE DAVID HICKS 'KANGAROO' COURT – The following information is from internet sources:- David Hicks, Guantanamo Bay prisoner of US military authorities, met with his parents for 15 minutes before the military tribunal proceedings began last Wednesday. There were no guards present for the meeting, and it was unclear whether Hicks was shackled. The US military said he would be allowed to meet them once more after the hearing.

Hicks, who arrived at the prison camp in Guantanamo in January 2002, could be sentenced to life in prison if convicted. He pleaded 'not guilty' at the hearing. Before Hicks made a plea his attorneys were allowed to question the five-member commission panel on their qualifications and impartiality.

Presiding Officer challenged: Hicks' lead civilian defense attorney, Joshua Dratel, began by challenging the presiding officer, Army Col. Peter E. Brownback, a former military judge. He contended Brownback had ties to John D. Altenburg Jr., a retired Army general in charge of the proceedings.

Brownback worked with Altenburg in Fort Bragg, NC, and his wife worked in Altenburg's office. He also attended the wedding of Altenburg's son and spoke at a retirement gathering for the general.

Osama bin Laden's driver also in Court: On Tuesday, the first day of the tribunal, Osama bin Laden's chauffeur, 34-year-old Salim Ahmed Hamdan of Yemen, declined to enter a plea. That hearing marked the start of the first US military tribunal since World War II.

Hamdan withheld his plea until motions filed by his military-appointed lawyer are decided. A ruling is not likely until November. His defence is challenging whether the hearing should proceed without a ruling on his "enemy combatant" status, which allows fewer legal protections than for prisoners of war. That classification was used to justify trying Hamdan and others before the tribunals, which will allow secret evidence and no federal appeals, rather than at courts-martial or in US civilian courts.

Hamdan's defence attorney, Navy Lt. Cmdr. Charlie Swift, has filed a lawsuit in US civilian courts in Washington alleging the illegality of commissions.

Swift also challenged the capacity and impartiality of four panel members – including the presiding officer – and one alternate.

"It is important that these proceedings not only be fair, but appear fair to the world," Swift said in the hearing Tuesday that lasted more than eight hours.

Hamdan is charged with conspiracy to commit war crimes, including attacking civilians, murder and terrorism. He isn't charged with any specific violent act.

Hamdan, also known as Saqr al Jaddaw, has said he earned a pittance for his family as bin Laden's driver before the Sept. 11 attacks, but has denied involvement in terrorism. US officials allege that he served as the al-Qaeda leader's bodyguard and driver between February 1996 and Nov. 24, 2001, and that he delivered weapons to al-Qaeda operatives.

The only member of the commission with formal legal training is the presiding officer, Army Col. Peter E. Brownback, a former military judge who volunteered to come out of retirement. Asked by Swift whether he thought the proceedings were legal, Brownback chose not to answer.

John D. Altenburg Jr., a retired Army general, will decide whether any of the commission members should be removed. It was not clear how soon he might rule.

NGO's WEIGHED 'IN THE BALANCE' AND FOUND 'WANTING': Margo Kingston's expose of John Howard's moves to bring the Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) 'to heel' through a centrally controlled government body ("Not Happy, John", Chapter – Keeping democracy in its place) is well worth reading.

Margo Kingston saw that "John Howard has a very rigid view of who does - and doesn't - have a right to work with and lobby governments.

- Churches should stick to 'religious issues' – meaning that they should shut up about wars or whether a GST on food is fair.
- Charities should quit talking about the causes of poverty and stick to doling out soup and blankets.
- Non-profits that stay out of 'politics' or toe the government's policy line - are fine.

For those who don't do what he wants, Howard has a five-phase plan to shut them up or shut them down.

Phase One: stop funding NGOs that speak out, thus intimidating others into silence.

Phase Two: strip activist NGOs of charitable status.

Phase Three: set up a government 'non-government organisation'.

Phase Four: use public service and intelligence assets to spy on awkward NGOs.

Phase Five: require NGOs to qualify for a 'licence' to talk to government.

The result: NGOs that do manage to retain government funding inevitably self-censor.

Many of those groups who raise their own funds still depend on governments granting them the status of charities to remain viable, including the tax deductibility of their supporter's donations. (Australians claim half a billion dollars a year in tax deductible gifts.)

After the introduction of the GST the government set up an inquiry to 'define' a 'charity'.

Peter Costello rejected the definition to any charity that had as one of its purposes advocacy of a 'political cause' or 'attempting to change the law or government policy'.

And who would make the critical assessments? Why the Australian Taxation Office of course! The department directly under the Treasurer!

What in the world is happening to the Welfare groups? In the light of the above, Margo would have a few problems with David Brockschmidt's address "What in the world is happening to the Welfare Groups?" to the League's recent SA Seminar.

David has been 'a thorn in the side' of not just the large supermarket chains in Adelaide but also the large professionally-run commercial 'charitable' organisations as well. Over the last twenty years, David has collected the perfectly good food, clothing, shoes, etc., from the supermarket waste bins and distributed it out to charitable groups. You know, those groups who solicit our dollars for their work among the poor and the needy.

After waking up to what they did with his donations – threw them out into their own rubbish bins – he now works only with some of the smaller charities. He knows from first hand they are using the goods for the needs of the people.

Bigger organisations not interested: He has been trying for years to get the bigger organisations to improve the services they offer by using the unwanted goods from Coles, K-Mart and Woolworths.

David, in his address to the seminar said: "The hard-core charity professionals have well paid and secure jobs, and power, over the paid workers and the good-hearted volunteers. Their whole aim in life is to have power over others and the belief that they have a ticket to heaven.

It is about time that we pulled the Holy Masks off their faces and show the public what they really are. They are part of the ruling class as so clearly shown in George Orwell's '*Animal Farm*'. They are wolves in sheep's clothing.

I am sure that if Christ came back today they would be the ones who would go to Hell while Heaven would be reserved for all the victims of their system.

My message to charity workers is as follows: You are in the position to fight the causes of poverty and not to profit by treating the symptoms. You are not here to keep the people dependent in order to justify your jobs. You have to attack power structures in order to bring justice into our sick society. You are charity workers in the name of Christ. Men and women with a mission. You must be crusaders against the evil forces in your own charity organisations and in our society."

David had more to say on those charitable organisations that spend more on CEO's salaries, overseas trips and 'bricks and mortar' than they do on the poor and the needy.

In a world where two thirds of the population struggles to eat properly each day, the amount of wastage from supermarkets shows the darkest side of our consumer society.

He insisted: Let us not shy away from the fact that these food retailers are only giving us what we demand – fast, efficiently packed, guaranteed fresh, cheap groceries. The question we must ask ourselves is whether the poor and hungry of the world are paying the price for us.

**** For the full story of a modern David's battle (address) against the Goliath Supermarket chains and 'Charity' groups, send \$6.00 to Mayo Tapes, Box 6, Hahndorf, SA.**

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