



A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

ON TARGET

- NEWS HIGHLIGHTS
- BACKGROUND INFORMATION
- COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS



The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance –

Print Post Publication Number 381667 00258

Vol.41, No.35

September 9th, 2005

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: "When, during an interview in 1921, Sir Denison Miller was asked if he, through the Commonwealth Bank, had financed Australia during the war for \$700 million, he replied: 'Such was the case and I could have financed the country for a further like sum had the war continued.' Again, asked if that amount was available for productive purposes in times of peace, he answered in the affirmative."

– L.C. Jauncey, Ph.D., in *"Australia's Government Bank"*

THE PEOPLES' TRAGEDY AND THE ERA OF 'PRIVATISATION':

The following comments are from American social creditor 'Bill Ryan':

The lesson that should be learned (from the horrible aftermath of Hurricane Katrina) is that we ignore the necessity for continuous improvement to infrastructure at our peril. The damage came from wind, wind driven water or "storm surge" and flooding.

New Orleans missed most of the storm surge from the gulf because the eye of the storm passed to the City's east, but did have some surge in reverse off Lake Pontchartrain due to the counter-clockwise rotation of the storm, hence the broken segments to the I-10 causeway.

Most of the damage to New Orleans is from flooding due to the broken levees, which should have been strengthened years ago. If they had been strengthened, New Orleans would now be mostly intact today.

The city is now submerged in Lake Pontchartrain. A decision will have to be made to recover the city or abandon it forever, like Pompeii.

Most of the damage to the east of New Orleans is from storm surge. We have had the technology to mitigate the effects of storm surge for more than a century.

After the 1900 storm that devastated Galveston, the Corps of Engineers built a magnificent seawall to protect the developed area of the island, which was extended in the 60s.

The era of "privatization" has ended such projects.

IN THIS ISSUE: • *Thought For The Week* • *The Peoples' Tragedy And The Era Of 'Privatisation'* • *It's More Than That, Explains Will Bunch* • *'Globalisation' Globalises Disease* • *A Message For The Churches*

"ON TARGET"

September 9th, 2005

Page 1 (137)

"IT'S MORE THAN THAT" EXPLAINS WILL BUNCH: Will Bunch is a senior writer at the *Philadelphia Daily News*. <http://www.alternet.org/story/24871/1> September 2005.

"Washington knew exactly what needed to be done to protect the citizens of New Orleans from disasters like Katrina. Yet federal funding for Louisiana flood control projects was diverted to pay for the war in Iraq."

On June 8, 2004, Walter Maestri, emergency management chief for Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, told the *Times-Picayune*: "It appears that the money has been moved in the president's budget to handle homeland security (furthering the USA police state...ed) and the war in Iraq (furthering their new world order agenda...ed), and I suppose that's the price we pay. Nobody locally is happy that the levees can't be finished, and we are doing everything we can to make the case that this is a security issue for us."

Levees are sinking: That June, with the 2004 hurricane season starting, the Corps' Naomi went before a local agency, the East Jefferson Levee Authority, and essentially begged for \$2 million for urgent work that Washington was now unable to pay for.

From the June 18th, 2004, *Times-Picayune*: "The system is in great shape, but the levees are sinking. Everything is sinking, and if we don't get the money fast enough to raise them, then we can't stay ahead of the settlement," he said. "The problem that we have isn't that the levee is low, but that the federal funds have dried up so that we can't raise them."

The panel authorized that money, and on July 1st, 2004, it had to pony up another \$250,000 when it learned that stretches of the levee in Metairie had sunk by four feet. The agency had to pay for the work with higher property taxes. The levee board noted in October 2004 that the feds were also now not paying for a hoped-for \$15 million project to better shore up the banks of Lake Pontchartrain.

Federal Government funds reduced: The 2004 hurricane season was the worst in decades. In spite of that, the federal government came back this spring with the steepest reduction in hurricane- and flood-control funding for New Orleans in history. Because of the proposed cuts, the Corps office there imposed a hiring freeze. Officials said that money targeted for the SELA project – \$10.4 million, down from \$36.5 million – was not enough to start any new jobs.

According to New Orleans *CityBusiness* this June 5th: The district has identified \$35 million in projects to build and improve levees, floodwalls and pumping stations in St. Bernard, Orleans, Jefferson and St. Charles parishes. Those projects are included in a Corps line item called Lake Pontchartrain, where funding is scheduled to be cut from \$5.7 million this year to \$2.9 million in 2006. Naomi said it's enough to pay salaries but little else. "We'll do some design work. We'll design the contracts and get them ready to go if we get the money. But we don't have the money to put the work in the field, and that's the problem," Naomi said.

There was, at the same time, a growing recognition that more research was needed to see what New Orleans must do to protect itself from a Category 4 or 5 hurricane. But once again, the money was not there. (Please note there was no mention of lack of resources to do the job – just 'no money'...ed)

As the *Times-Picayune* reported last September 22nd: That second study would take about four years to complete and would cost about \$4 million, said Army Corps of Engineers project manager Al Naomi. About \$300,000 in federal money was proposed for the 2005 fiscal-year budget, and the state had agreed to match that amount.

But the cost of the Iraq war forced the Bush administration to order the New Orleans district office not to begin any new studies, and the 2005 budget no longer includes the needed money, he said.

The Senate was seeking to restore some of the SELA funding cuts for 2006. But now it's too late. One

project that a contractor had been racing to finish this summer was a bridge and levee job right at the 17th Street Canal, site of the main breach on Monday. The levee failure appears to be causing a human tragedy of epic proportions: "We probably have 80 percent of our city under water; with some sections of our city the water is as deep as 20 feet. Both airports are underwater," Mayor Ray Nagin told a radio interviewer.

The Newhouse News Service article published Tuesday night observed: "The Louisiana congressional delegation urged Congress earlier this year to dedicate a stream of federal money to Louisiana's coast, only to be opposed by the White House. ... In its budget, the Bush administration proposed a significant reduction in funding for southeast Louisiana's chief hurricane protection project. Bush proposed \$10.4 million, a sixth of what local officials say they need."

Washington knew that this day could come at any time, and it knew the things that needed to be done to protect the citizens of New Orleans. But in the tradition of the riverboat gambler, the Bush administration decided to roll the dice on its fool's errand in Iraq, and on a tax cut that mainly benefitted the rich. Now Bush has lost that gamble, big time.

The president told us that we needed to fight in Iraq to save lives here at home. Yet – after moving billions of domestic dollars to the Persian Gulf – there are bodies floating through the streets of Louisiana. What does George W. Bush have to say for himself now?" (emphasis added...ed).

'GLOBALISATION' GLOBALISES DISEASE by James Reed:

The purpose of an article such as the following is not to frighten people and cause panic, but to caution, and educate.

An article "The Next Pandemic" by Laurie Garrett was published in the Council of Foreign Relations journal *Foreign Affairs* July/August 2005. In fact the bulk of the issue is taken up with concerns about coming influenza plagues. The 1918-19 Spanish Flu killed 50 million people in 18 months. Nearly half of the deaths in 1918 in the US were related to this flu. Garrett speculates that Asian bird flu, H5N1 avian influenza will be even more dangerous. The disease first appeared in southern China in 1997, but since that time it has mutated and become even more dangerous. The March 2005 National Academy of Science's Institute of Medicine flu report quoted by Garrett says that the "current ongoing epidemic of H5N1 avian influenza in Asia is unprecedented in its scale, in its spread, and in the economic losses it has caused".

Thus according to Garrett, a "medium level epidemic" in the US could kill around 207,000 Americans, hospitalize 734,000 more and infect over one third of the population. If H5N1 mutates again so that it can be transmitted from human to human there could be up to 16 million deaths in the US.

The "Spanish Flu" is inappropriately named for it originated in Asia. Likewise for the Black Death which devastated Europe's population in the Middle Ages. The "Spanish Flu" got its name because Spain suffered the first acute outbreak. The "Spanish Flu" caused victims to vomit and cough up blood and blood also poured from people's noses and women's vaginas. The death toll among pregnant women was 71 per cent.

Influenza originates with aquatic birds such as migratory ducks who pass the disease on to domesticated birds. Once contact between migratory birds and domestic birds was infrequent, but in China through its growth of farms and human settlements the original migratory routes have been disrupted and migratory birds search for food on farms, thus passing diseases to domestic birds and then to humans. Garrett says: "Throughout history, this connection between birds and the flu has spawned epidemics in Asia, especially southern China. Aquatic flu viruses are more likely to pass into domestic animals – and then into humans – in China than anywhere else in the world".

This problem will increase because as the GDP of China grows so does the demand for chickens, with China raising around 13 billion chickens on small farms which often have appalling hygiene.

Globalisation and Asianisation means that the entire world is open to assault from influenza which typically arises in Asia. If ever there was a knock-down argument against globalisation and Asianisation, it is this: that "one world" makes all of us potential targets for dangerous viruses. Globalisation globalises disease.

A MESSAGE FOR THE CHURCHES: The following statement was sent in by a servant of God worshipping in the Church of St. George, Wonthaggi, Victoria, 3995 – St. George being a Knight serving God and the patron saint of England. He would like to see Christians challenging their own church leaders to teach their people on the matter.

"No man can serve two masters, for he will either hate the one, or love the other, or he will cleave to the one and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon." (Matthew 6: 24).

Service to God today evolves around money. Whether it is mankind's master or God's servant. But mammon has made money an instrument of power over mankind. Yet Christ taught the true role of money. This statement is a simple plea to Christ's Church. Please teach that which makes money our servant.

Every Christian Pastor ordained in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, has access to the truth concerning the creation and distribution of money. Christ created money as an expression of God's will. Matthew 16: 24, 27. He further ordained it must be similarly distributed, Matthew 20:1,17, resulting in mankind receiving "that which is right." Matthew 20: 4 and 7.

Christ commissioned his Church to teach the nations that supreme authority on earth came through him. Under Christ's teaching earthly government would not use money as an instrument of power, but as an instrument of service. Debt, and taxation would almost completely disappear, and with all money created free of debt there would be no place for usury. Parliaments would act as forums for Christian policy. Elected representatives would enter parliament with a free conscience to vote as their conscience directed. As instruments of freedom they would serve God, not mammon.

Thus the pool of money in the world would become a pool of love which never dries up. Intermingled with the water of life, man drinking from it would never thirst for the fruits of God's creation. Every man is invited to come and drink knowing Christ's Church has removed every obstacle from his path.

Therefore distribution of money from the pool of love could never be other than an act of Grace, a credit dividend coming directly from God, given neither as a reward or a punishment, but as the instrument to make good the promise of Christ. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." See all of Matthew 6:24, 34. Those verses are the vision Christ gives of God's kingdom on earth in which man lives free from all desire to centre his life on material gain. He now lives knowing every need is met without fear entering the equation, and production of material necessities becomes an act of worship.

This in effect is the new covenant Christ brought into the world to replace the old covenant directed by false prophets elevating themselves into such supreme power as to challenge the authority of God, which Christ countered in the second of the two great commandments, challenging man to "Love thy neighbour as thyself."

Further reading: "*The Story of the Commonwealth Bank*", \$8.00 posted; "*The Money Trick*", \$12.00 posted.

"ON TARGET" is printed and published by The Australian League of Rights, 145 Russell St., Melbourne.
Postal Address: GPO Box 1052, Melbourne, 3001. Telephone: (03) 9650 9749, Fax: (03) 9650 9368.
Subscription \$40.00 p.a.