



A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

ON TARGET

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- COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS



The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance –

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: It is simply not true that most normal men and women, if free to follow their own way, instinctively destroy the environment that sustains them... There must be, and manifestly is, a universal pressure inducing them so to behave, and it is not far to seek, though never identified by economists... Economics is now entirely dominated by money and is detached from reality ... Money is now no more than a system of book-keeping, of figures representing 'credit,' i.e., debt repayable with interest, and ... no such figures reach the public as new spending power without having somewhere originated as such debt.

Debt involves spending and consuming in advance of earning and producing and hence the crime of debasing the currency is now permanently built-in to our monetary system under the name of inflation...

True! The correction of our inflationary debt-system would not change human nature, nor result in a Utopia, nor solve all our problems, but it would cast aside an intolerable moral burden, and render their solution possible, which at present is simply, mathematically, impossible. To blame the staggering and retrograde steps of a man trying to climb a hill dragging a useless ton-weight entirely on his weakness, is not the best way to help him recover his strength and will-power..."

– Geoffrey Dobbs in "On Planning the Earth", Home Quarterly, 1989-1990

THE AUSSIE FARMER IS BEING FINANCIALLY GUTTED by Patrick O'Shea: The Australian farmer simply can't keep up with the escalating costs of running a farm. The colourful fabric of what life on the land was all about in days gone by is now rapidly fading; although throughout history the old farmer was known for his durability and inventiveness. He was resourceful and would meet every challenge to survive and go on; toughing out droughts and floods and sometimes devastating bush fires.

However, today he is facing a far greater foe, relentless and insidious and from which there is no escape. It is called inflation, i.e., the systematic destruction of our currency. Prices of all items with which we need to work, rise higher and higher each year. Farmers can't pass these extra costs on and they just have to wear them. Directly and or indirectly, there is no avoiding these rising costs.. This is while the rest of the nation hides behind indexation of wages and salaries to keep them up with meeting their increasing cost of living. Businesses carry on seemingly blissfully unaware of what is the situation for the farmer. Pity the poor old farmers. They are simply told to "get big or get out."

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Major financial reforms are urgently needed before there are only the corporations running the whole show; on borrowed investment funds at that as they go on to become monopolies.

Rural accountants and farming families: The accountants dealing with the rural communities know about 'the bottom line' figures, they know about costs overtaking income on the farms. They see and warn the farmers, "great changes are ahead" for the small and medium sized operations.

Some are leasing out their land to cut down on operating costs, taking a small percentage of production under a share-farming arrangement – just to keep the farm a little longer. Others may look after some stock as a last hurrah before selling out. This situation comes to light as farmers find it more and more difficult to justify replacement plant and meet escalating input costs.

Essentially in today's financial climate their outfits became too small. Capital purchase prices on the 'big ticket item' machinery alone, has doubled, tripled and even quadrupled over the past two decades. All because of the inflationary money system. Spiralling overheads and low prices continue to 'clean out' thousands of farmers.

Inflated land prices: As for land prices, they also have 'gone through the roof'. It is very dangerous to buy high priced land as a business proposition, just to tackle the odds on a larger scale. Some 'advisers' refer to it as 'economy of scale'.

How many city folk understand the enormous stress farming families are under as they constantly deal with these worries? Some have had more than enough and significant numbers of these worthy rural types have taken the only solution they could see in front of them – suicide. Some lucky country we live in – isn't it?

So who can we sheet home the blame to for this grotesque inflationary financial system we are trying to work under? There is never complete agreement among economists or the Government as to what is happening. All economists expound their own particular brand or hobby horse theories on finance; to no effect one might add. Our problems still continue.

Money as a traded commodity: None address the central problem of an inflationary money system and the fact that Australia has become the playground for big time money traders. Curiously, Australia ranks in the top bracket in the world of traded currency which is quite absurd. Billions of dollars move in and out of Australia every day. The Aussie dollar is bought on 'the dips' and sold when it 'moves up'. It is all so easy today with available technology. Imagine, billions from major nations pour in if an interest rise is in the offing. What a tangled web we live under.

Let's consider just one point for a moment. In every other field of business when a contract is made: a contract is a contract is a contract. But not with our highly promoted banking institutions. Banks can change the interest rate on your loans before you reach the front door of the bank and you have to wear it!

This a mockery and an affront to basic human rights, a cruelty that should not be tolerated. It is this one device that puts utter fear in to every farmer and borrower's heart.

Some understand how the system works: Yet luckily, there are people who understand the Australian financial system's inflationary bent and can explain the core reasons why the system will continue to wreak havoc among farmers.

One enormously credentialed Austrian gentleman, Mr. Frank Shostok, chief economist and manager of Man Financial, issued a warning for investors when visiting Australia recently (*The Australian*, 21-22/4/07, p.34).

He said the Reserve Bank's monetary policy is "out of control" which means inflation is heading up

higher and higher and interest rates are set to rise. He also warned the share market is being supported by an excessive money supply.

He believes the Reserve Bank uses incorrect definitions of inflation and even of money itself. As a result he says the Bank is actually causing inflation rather than 'combating' it.

The Reserve Bank claims that it does not 'print money' but merely 'accommodates demand', but 'printing money' is exactly what it is doing.

In Sydney this week Mr. Shostak told *The Australian*: "The money supply is out of control. The Reserve Bank balance sheet has increased by over 35 per cent. According to my measurements during the year to February there has been in excess of a 21 per cent increase in money supply."

He goes on: "So much money is being pumped into the system because the RBA is trying to maintain such a low target (of inflation) and suppresses upward pressures on the interest rate."

And this continued increase in the money supply will result in increased prices in the future – and more and more farmers will be forced off their land as more and more corporations move in.

DEPLETED URANIUM ON A DEPLETED NATION by James Reed: Economies, like civilisations have come and gone over human history. But depleted uranium, at least in human terms, lingers around poisoning the world for hundreds of millions of years. Therefore it is important to consider this new threat to our survival as documented by Lyn Stanfield, of Save Australia Alliance:

Did you know the Howard regime has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the United States allowing 25 years of bombing exercises on our land?

The awful sound of a high speed cannon is not all we are about to hear or experience in Australia. Soon, this sound and the rhythmic booming of huge bombs and fantastic rocket power is about to shake this island continent to its very foundations.

Talisman Sabre 2007 it is called: TS07 for short. TS07 will commence in late May and run through to early July.

Monstrous aircraft, B1, B2 (stealth) together with B52 (heavy) bombers will take off from Guam, Diego Garcia and Kadena (in Okinawa), heavily loaded with powerful 500 pound bombs. Flying at very high altitudes to Australia, they will drop their load of deadly 'high-tech' weapons on Australia and return to base without being seen or heard by Australian ground dwellers.

The first notice of these deadly attacks will be the magnificent explosions as the miserable payload hits the ground in blinding flashes of fire and the shattering of trees and rock and earth and native animals within two kilometres of the blast.

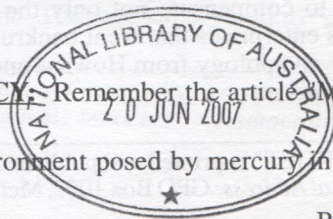
Day after day these attacks will unload thousands of tonnes of so-called 'high tech' weaponry onto Australian soil. Each of these 'high tech' weapons will contain the newly developed Depleted Uranium warhead material.

Depleted Uranium is the very toxic waste from nuclear power stations which is very difficult to dispose of (there hasn't been any way found yet) making warheads from it, provides a solution and a huge profit to the company.

So, Depleted Uranium is coming to a country spot near you.

FURTHER TO – MALCOLM'S JUNK SCIENCE POLICY Remember the article 'Malcolm's Junk Science Policy' in *On Target*, vol. 43, no.19?

It told the story of the dangers to human health and the environment posed by mercury in compact



fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) which had been lauded by the Liberal's squeaky clean environment minister Malcolm Turnbull as a way to save energy.

This family phoned the local supermarket about the light bulbs. No, the manager hadn't heard they were a potential environmental hazard so he followed up the matter and reported back to us.

Yes, it was correct they were a known hazard, but no, government wasn't going to do anything about the matter till the old bulbs were being phased out.

The next step was for a family member to phone the local television station and yes the journalist was interested enough to follow up the story. So far, one TV programme has resulted from that phone call on Malcolm's 'junk science' and a Radio Station will interview Malcolm Turnbull at a later date.

COURT FINDS PAN PHARMACEUTICALS INNOCENT: The New South Wales Supreme Court has acquitted Pan Pharmaceuticals boss, Mr. Jim Selim, of criminal charges relating to claims in 2003 about his health manufacturing business. Readers will remember that at the time, Mr. Selim was accused of a litany of charges, including breaching his manufacturing licence. In the end only two counts made it to court and these were recently 'thrown out' by the Supreme Court.

Michael Bending of the Alliance for Health Freedom Australia - <http://www.ahf-au.org> - issued the following statement:

"The Supreme Court verdict speaks for itself. The TGA wilfully sent Australia's largest natural health manufacturing base bankrupt on behalf of the TGA's drug masters. As you should well be aware by now, the TGA works for the health of the drug company's bank accounts and not the personal health of Australian citizens."

DEMOCRATS DEMAND APOLOGY: Senator Lyn Allison believes the Howard Government must now apologise following the acquittal of Pan Pharmaceuticals boss Jim Selim in the New South Wales Supreme Court. The pharmaceuticals giant was forced into administration in May 2003 following the largest pharmaceutical recall in Australia's history.

"It was a pointless exercise targeting complementary medicines and it sent hundreds of small businesses broke," Senator Allison said today. "The Howard Government turned its back on the mess and just walked away."

1500 products were recalled, not because they caused adverse reactions, but because of speculation about 'inconsistent quality'. Senator Allison raised concerns in the Senate at that time about what was playing out as a destructive over-reaction.

Thrown out of court: Mr. Selim was accused of a litany of charges, including breaching his manufacturing licence. In the end only two counts made it to court which were thrown out today. "The unprecedented recall had a devastating effect on small businesses and shook public confidence in complementary health," Senator Allison said, the very least those who have suffered deserve is an apology."

'An apology' hardly enough: I don't know about you *OT* reader but I don't think an apology is enough to compensate not only the Pan Pharmaceutical boss but also those hundreds of small business enterprises that went bankrupt. There must be some legal means by which they can claim not only an apology from Howard and his cronies but just compensation from this government and its bureaucracy.

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