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The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance –

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: Rudd sees red: Stewth reporter of *The Australian*, "has always been a bit suss about Opposition foreign affairs spokesman Kevin Rudd," and he now finds Rudd "has been courting communist governments on the parliamentary floor."

Just recently students "in an Australian foreign policy lecture at the University of Queensland's school of politics were given a surprise lecture last week by Rudd on the policy differences between the two parties. One student asked Rudd what he had whispered in the ear of the Chinese President when Hu Jintao visited parliament during his state visit last year."

To their surprise, Rudd responded 'I reminded him that Labor has a close relationship with the President's party, unlike our conservative opponents.'
 – *On Target*, 21st May, 2004

LABOR'S BUDGET AND FINANCIAL RECKONING by Betty Luks: I can't raise as much enthusiasm for Wayne Swan's first 'Budget' as do the pro-Labor political pundits. We are led to believe these people are handing out financial largesse to those 'deserving' Australians out of the goodness of their bleeding little hearts.

Whereas the reality is, the 'money' borrowed by governments from the Private Money Power to fund their budget-deficit programmes and expenditures, whilst in political power, IS A DEBT THE NATION – READ THE PEOPLE – MUST REPAY FOREVER AND A DAY.

Reader, have you ever asked yourself 'Why is that?' Why do modern governments borrow from private banks to fund their expenditures? Surely governments, on behalf of the people of the nation, should have the power to 'monetise' the nation's economic system?

Then to add to the peoples' burden of government financial-debt to the private banking system, they themselves 'borrow' from the same financial-banking system – and those debts must also be repaid. In other words, the Banking System has gained the power to 'monetise' the nation's goods and services.

So, the new Treasurer will be 'swanning around' distributing to those he considers most worthy and they may feel some sense of tax-relief – for a while.

Injected daily – \$126 million of more debt money: But wait a minute. What about the daily-injected \$126 million of new money that enters the economy? Who will be responsible for its repayment? Why you will dear taxpayer – who else?

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Remember the Reserve Bank figures Naracoorte's Mayor Ken Grundy presented last March in a letter to a fellow mayor?

"Reserve Bank figures revealed that on average approximately \$126 million of new money entered the economy every day for the last ten years. It is worth repeating - every day, seven days a week for ten years \$126 million of new money has been injected into the economy."

Exercise a little brain power here: Mentally digest those figures gentle reader: Do your maths. The nation's debt burden, for just one year, (\$126 million by 365 days) grows by a further \$45, 990 million. That is the amount of money created OUT OF NOTHING – AS A DEBT to be paid by, not just this generation, but for many more generations to come... and the debt, plus the interest charged, keeps growing and growing.

It is impossible for a nation to physically produce enough to pay its way out of this financial DEBT TRAP. Look at America, the most productive nation in history and yet it is collapsing within from its financial debt burden.

Until Australians – and the world – wake up to the fact that the Private Banking System has gained control over the nation's accounting system (in the form of modern 'money') and is reaping huge astronomical rewards, for very little effort other than book-keeping and administration, then the biggest scam in man's history will continue.

As Mr. Grundy wrote: "Today we are frequently told that government does not, could not or should not influence the (Reserve) Bank. However the Bank's role is to provide the finance for the nation and if the Government of the day cannot be involved, it begs the question – to whom is the Reserve Bank Board responsible? Would we accept the taxation department operating without government influence? Of course not!..."

CAN YOU FEEL THE CHILL OF THE COMING ICE AGE? by James Reed: I am very pleased that the League writers have taken a stand against the global warming myth. As I write from a little garrison in Melbourne, the rain falls, the icy cold wind pounds against the windows like the hammer of Thor. Across the world – the U.S.A., China, Russia – the weather has been worse, bitterly cold. The Norsemen of old thought that the world began in ice and ended in fire; but like the greenies, they got the order wrong. If civilisation is going to end, a better bet, in my opinion, is by ice.

Phil Chapman, geophysicist, astronautical engineer and the first Australian to become a NASA astronaut, recently put the view that the planet is cooling and that a new ice age may be around the corner. According to Chapman the global average temperature on Earth has slowly declined over the last decade even though the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has increased. The Earth cooled by about 0.7C in 2007. this is the fastest temperature decline on record. Sun spot activity, indicating the intensity of solar activity is minimal. There could be another mini-ice age like the one that ended Viking habitation of Greenland, almost a thousand years ago.

Worse, for most of the Earth's history Europe and North America were buried under 1.5 kilometres of ice. There is a brief warm interglacial period lasting 10,000 years – and then ice once more. An ice age is long overdue and it can happen quickly – in as short a time as 20 years. This would constitute, in Chapman's opinion "a catastrophe beyond imagining". But we need to think about it and plan. To do so, I believe, requires abandoning the myth of global warming.

THE SUICIDE OF THE WEST by Brian Simpson: The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Rowan Williams, has refused to back down on his position that there should be greater recognition of Muslim Sharia law in Britain. Indeed, last February he was given a 45-second standing ovation at the start of the General Synod meeting by leading Anglicans (*International Express*, 19/2/08, p.40).

Williams was chosen by former PM Tony Blair because Williams supported "new morality" values such as support for gay and lesbian priests. On British gang warfare, he said that the youths just joined gangs to "fend off unfriendly adults" – yes, with guns! (*International Express*, 4/3/08, p.12)

But let us not forget the present head of the Roman Catholic Church, Pope Benedict XVI. At one time showing some promise, he now pushes the party-line on immigration. During his flight to the U.S. he told reporters that the U.S. must do "everything possible to fight... all forms of violence so that immigrants may lead dignified lives". U.S. immigration policy is already a virtual open door for coloured immigrants and it is hard to see any "violence" in it, unless free health care, education and social security benefits is "violence".

Perhaps some of the mainline Churches' wealth – a vast fortune, sometimes obtained by means more questionable than any corporation – could be distributed to help these 'victims'?

A British think-tank, Christian Research, has found from survey projections, regular worshippers in Mosques in England and Wales will outnumber worshippers to Catholic Churches in 12 years. The Anglican Church, as is well known, has been in steady decline for many a year.

Meanwhile the Left exerts an enormous amount of energy combating "Islamophobia", while countries like Sweden, on current trends, will be Islamic in only decades.

If this is not "Suicide of the West", then pray tell me, what is it? "Tolerance" is becoming just another word for "self-annihilation".

SUMMIT 2020... OR 1984? David Flint's *Opinion Column*: Now we have another reason for the choice of the 2020 Summit theme, Mao Tse-tung's "Let a hundred flowers bloom..." Not only did they conjure up a 98:1 vote for some undefined republic, but the Summit's preliminary report has been changed in a way almost worthy of Minitrue, Big Brother's Ministry of Truth in Orwell's 1984.

The report originally said: "Stage 1: Ending ties with the UK while retaining the Governor-General's titles and powers for five years. "Stage 2: Identifying new models after extensive and broad consultation." This opened the Summit to justified ridicule.

So the report has been massaged to turn Stage 1 into yet another call for a plebiscite. The republican movement want a plebiscite for two reasons. First, they don't know what they want. Second, they are afraid they would lose another referendum.

Ending ties with the U.K.: The problem with the original report was the Summiteers were not talking about ending cricket ties, but constitutional and legal ties. If there were such ties, it would have meant we are still not really independent. But we have long been independent. While Lionel Murphy believed this came in 1901, most experts opt for some time between 1926 and 1942. I am inclined to the view that we were independent by 1926.

The Balfour Declaration declared we were already autonomous and equal. This meant that whatever lingering links we retained with the U.K., these could be ended whenever we wished.

In any event with independence, the Australian Crown divided from and became a constitutional entity separate from the British or Canadian, N.Z. and other Crowns.

As a consequence, in 1999 a One Nation senator, Heather Hill, lost her seat in the Senate because of her allegiance to The Queen of the United Kingdom. That The Queen is also Queen of Australia was found not to be relevant.

Under section 44(1) any person "under any acknowledgement of allegiance, obedience, or adherence to a foreign power, or is a subject or a citizen or entitled to the rights or privileges of a subject or citizen of a foreign power" is incapable of sitting as a senator or member of the House of Representatives.

There was one anomaly after we became independent. Until 1986 state governments – of all parties – so distrusted Canberra they left it to an increasingly reluctant British government to advise The Queen in state affairs.

This meant that while the Australian Crown operated at the federal level, the British Crown still functioned in the states. In any event beyond doubt that we no longer have even any lingering constitutional or legal links with the U.K.

No constitutional links; only a personal union: All we, Canada, Britain, New Zealand and other Realms have today is a personal union in which the one Sovereign wears several crowns. For the benefit of Peter FitzSimons, who warns of a "tedious lecture" from me (*Sun-Herald*, 11/5/08; see below) a personal union does not require any supporting constitutional or legal links between the countries concerned.

Since it's not the age for duelling, I'm challenging Peter FitzSimons to a debate on republicanism. Apart from Commonwealth Realms, the best known example in our history involved the Britain and then the U.K. with Hanover from 1714 to 1837.

So why did the summiteers expose themselves to ridicule? So why did the summiteers decide on "(e)nding ties with the U.K. while retaining the Governor-General's titles and powers for five years"?

One delegate, a former Hawke government minister now priest, Fr. Michael Tate, called for a "minimalist referendum that need not be concerned with methods of appointment; (Ms) Bryce would simply wake up the next morning as our autonomous head of state." ("Loyalty without royalty", *The Australian*, 17/04/08) This is pure fantasy. Without machinery for vice regal appointment or removal in place, our governments would soon grind to a halt. If a government were foolish enough to put such a referendum it would be doomed.

In comparison the Reverend Professor's Easter call ("Clergyman's republican Easter Message", 23/3/08) for Mr. Rudd to hand over the powers of recommending the appointment of the governor-general to the speaker and senate president seems only moderately bizarre. However it arose, the preliminary report exposed the Summit to justified ridicule.

The Ministry of Truth, Minitrue, changes the record: [Senate House, the University of London, is believed to have inspired George Orwell as a model for Minitrue, the Ministry of Truth in his celebrated novel, 1984] A vague unconvincing and secretive explanation has now appeared on the site. It raises more questions than it answers. It says amendments were made on 30 April "more consistent with... Power Point Slides presented in the final session..."

It claims the decision to do this was made "immediately after the Summit". So why did it take ten days to change the record? The preliminary report was only changed when it was realized the original decisions opened the Summit to justified ridicule. On whose authority we do not know.

The decisions bear no resemblance whatsoever with what was released on 20 April 2008. It now reads: "Introduce an Australian republic via a two-stage process, with Stage 1 being a plebiscite on the principle that Australia becomes a republic and severs ties with the Crown and Stage 2 being a referendum on the model of a republic after extensive and broad consultation."

This demonstrates information and media manipulation par excellence, worthy indeed of 1984. So could we trust them with the Constitution?

Postscript to this article appears in *The Bulletin*