




ON TARGET

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The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance –

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: The Egyptian Tinderbox: How Banks and Investors are Starving The Third World: In poorer countries, as much as 60 to 80 percent of people's incomes go for food, compared to just 10 to 20 percent in industrial countries. An increase of a dollar or so in the cost of a gallon of milk or a loaf of bread for Americans can mean starvation for people in Egypt and other poor countries. – **Ellen Brown, U.S.A.**

As an Egyptian who's been participating in the demonstrations, I'd like to say that this is so far the closest video I've seen to reality... The revolution is not finished. It has been 2 weeks now and it is still ongoing... until the government implements all requirements. So far the government has implemented some... but not all... so we will continue until we prevail. **Watch:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HGfYqJMrk>

"Anyone who has carefully observed life in the countryside, as compared with life in the towns, knows that we have not torn up the roots of capitalism and have not undermined the foundation, the basis of the internal enemy. The latter depends on small-scale production, and there is only one-way of undermining it; namely, to place the economy of the country, including agriculture, on a new technical basis, the technical basis of large-scale production." – **Lenin, "Selected Works", Vol.8.**

IT'S TIME FOR THE RIGHT SORT OF CHANGE: IS THIS THE BEGINNING? Water Act Inquiry: As Shadow Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Water, Senator Barnaby Joyce has announced that with the help of fellow Senators Fielding and Xenophon a "Water Act inquiry" has been established. The purpose is to "investigate whether it does provide an equal balance between economic, social and environmental factors".

Senator Joyce said, "It was clear from when the Guide to the proposed Basin Plan was released last October that it was based on a process which took care of the environment first and counted the bodies later. Since then, the former Chair of the MDBA, Mike Taylor, constitutional law expert Professor George Williams and Professor Judith Sloan all agree that the environment takes primacy under the Water Act 2007.

"It is contemptuous in the extreme for elected politicians to ignore the reasonable demands of their constituents for answers. Both Labor and the Coalition have promised a triple-bottom line that is an equal balance between economic, social and environmental factors. The Labor Party's refusal to even

IN THIS ISSUE • *Thought For The Week* • *It's Time For The Right Sort Of Change: Is this The Beginning* • *New Common Ground? Rather, The Same Old Story* • *The Law And The Suicide Of The West* • *Honey Bee Collapse Threatens Food Security* • *It's Hard To Swallow Food Rules That Treat Us Like Mushrooms*

look at whether the Act provides this questions their seriousness to a triple-bottom line commitment. I have been calling for a Parliamentary inquiry into the Water Act for three months.

At the start of this debate Minister Crean stated: That guide [the Guide to the proposed Basin Plan] was limited because the terms of reference it got in the very first instance ... didn't allow for sufficient consideration of what's referred to as the socio-economic consequences; in short hand the human cost.*

It is quite amazing then that 3 months on the Labor Party is one of the last holdouts against the need to look into the Act. What explains this amazing reversal? It might have less to do with the Act and more do with the need to protect their alliance with the Greens.

I wrote to Mr. Windsor on the 28 October 2011 suggesting that his inquiry look into the Water Act. I have yet to receive a response. The fact the Mr. Windsor has spent the last couple of months saying that he didn't vote for the Act but won't investigate whether the Act should be changed defies any sense. How do we reconcile the statement the Act is not worth voting for but, at the same time, the Act is worth defending to the death? What is absolutely amazing is the option-in, option-out approach to transparency that the Greens have.

Now's your chance to get involved fellow Australian: The Senate inquiry now provides an opportunity for everyone involved in the Murray-Darling Basin reform, and the legal minds with the expertise, to provide practical solutions to improve the Act and insulate it against court challenge.

Senator Joyce continued: "I encourage everyone to get involved in making a real difference in delivering outcomes that protect Australians' access to cheap, affordable food, maintains the family farm for generations and guarantees the health of our environment."

The inquiry will report by 11 May 2011. More Information – Matthew Canavan, 045 870 9433

* Simon Crean, ABC AM, 15 October 2010

Senator Joyce At Giving of Notices – Business of the Senate Notice of Motion

Committee Reference – Senator Joyce, Mr. President

I give notice that on the next day of sitting, I shall move –

(1) That the following matter be referred to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee for inquiry and report by Wednesday 11 May 2011:

The provisions of the Water Act 2007 (the Act), with particular regard to the direction it provides for the development of a Basin Plan, including:

- (a) any ambiguities or constraints in the Act which would prevent a Basin Plan from being developed on an equally weighted consideration of economic, social and environmental factors;
 - (b) the differences in legal interpretations of the Act;
 - (c) the constitutional power of the Commonwealth to legislate in the area of water;
 - (d) **the role of relevant international agreements and the effect of those on the parts of the Act which direct the Basin Plan to give effect to those agreements, and their effect on the Act more generally;** (emphasis added...ed)
 - (e) any amendments that would be required to ensure that economic, social and environmental factors are given equally weighted consideration in developing the Basin Plan; and
 - (f) any other related matter.
- (2) In conducting its enquiry, the Committee should consult those with particular legal expertise in the area of water.

NEW COMMON GROUND? RATHER, THE SAME OLD STORY by Brian Simpson: Leading

U.S. Jewish intellectual Amitai Etzioni, published "New Common Ground: A New America, A New World" (Potomac Books, Washington DC, 2009) after the election of B. Hussein Obama. Essentially the book advances the post-racial view of America, Canada, Europe, Australia and New Zealand – the once white world.

Immigration and increased intermarriage, he sees as ending the once great racial divide. I was not convinced and the word "Islam" does not appear in the index and the discussions of Muslims and terrorism are brief and superficial. Thus "the United States has turned Iraq into a recruitment and training ground for terrorists". (p.88) Noam Chomsky and the rest of the American left would agree. Atzioni's communitarianism is supposed to offer an alternative to liberalism, but it's hard to see how. While welcoming the multicultural, multiracial fate of America, Atzioni has a chapter "Should Israel be a Jewish State?" (pp.82-84), where he opposes multiculturalising Israel. Indeed he defends the rabbinical regime in Israel on communitarianism grounds: "nations, even those as large as the United States or China, have some of the attributes of communities: bonds of affinity, a core of shared values, history and identity. If transformed into neutral states, such nations would lose the nurturing roles communities play in peoples' lives". (p.83) Agreed – but this argument also knocks down the multiculturalising, multiracial ideology as applied to Anglo-Saxon society and culture.

Atzioni should recognise the implications of his own words: "One cannot go whole hog in the service of the sensibilities of various minorities without undermining the essential sense of community. Trying to either assimilate minorities by eradicating their separate cultures, or to wash out the national ethos by eradicating their shred culture, will only heighten conflicts and tensions". (p.84)

'THE LAW' AND THE SUICIDE OF THE WEST by Ian Wilson LL.B: I have thumbed through a large collection of newspaper articles dealing with the refugee issue. Our High Court, in its typical fashion, has ruled that asylum seekers have the right to challenge procedural aspects of the cases in the court. This is expected to generate a flood of new cases and already two magistrates have been appointed to deal with the coming deluge. This basically means that most people held in detention centres will get their day in court, and thus entry to Australia. Certainly a small number won't, but the courts tend to be pro-asylum seeker as this is the status quo now.

Law today in my opinion is largely dominated by the ideology of political correctness and cases decided on the basis of political values. I, for one, am increasingly disenchanted with "the law". The law never transcends the society it administers by legal rules. It will always be the slave of the power elites. The law, like the universities, is fallen and is speeding the suicide of the West!

HONEY-BEE COLLAPSE THREATENS FOOD SECURITY: Ambrose Evans-Pritchard, *The Daily Telegraph*, 6 Feb 2011. Source: http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/comment/ambroseevans_pritchard/8306970/Einstein-was-right-honey-bee-collapse-threatens-global-food-security.html

The bee crisis has been treated as a niche concern until now, but as the UN's index of food prices hits an all time-high, it is becoming urgent to know whether the plight of the honey bee risks further exhausting our food security.

Between 80pc and 90pc of animal pollination of crops comes from domesticated honey bees.

Almost a third of global farm output depends on animal pollination, largely by honey bees.

These foods provide 35pc of our calories, most of our minerals, vitamins, and anti-oxidants, and the foundations of gastronomy. Yet the bees are dying – or being killed – at a disturbing pace. The story of "colony collapse disorder" (CCD) is already well-known to readers of *The Daily Telegraph*.

Some keep hives at home and have experienced this mystery plague, and doubtless have strong views on whether it is caused by parasites, or a virus, or use of pesticides that play havoc with the nervous system of young bees, or a synergy of destructive forces coming together. The reservoir of bees is dwindling to the point where ratios are dangerously out of kilter, with the U.S. reaching the "most extreme" imbalance. Pollinated crop output has quadrupled since 1961, yet bee colonies have halved. The bee-per-hectare count has fallen nearly 90pc.

"Farmers have managed to produce with relatively fewer bee colonies up to this point, and there is no evidence of agricultural yields being affected. The question is how much further this situation can be stretched," said the report. Germany, France and Italy have banned some pesticides, especially neonicotinoids (as in tobacco) that harm the memories of bees.

British bee-keepers call for urgent review: The British Beekeepers' Association has called for an "urgent review" of these chemicals, fearing we may lose all our bees within a decade if we are not careful. U.S. beekeepers have made similar pleas. The U.S. agriculture department's Bee Research Laboratory has found evidence that even low levels of these pesticides reduce the resistance of bees to fungal pathogens. Leaked documents from the Environmental Protection Agency confirm that clothianidin used on corn seed is "highly toxic", may pose a "long-term risk" to bees, and that previous tests were flawed.

IT'S HARD TO SWALLOW FOOD RULES THAT TREAT US LIKE MUSHROOMS: *Sydney Morning Herald* columnist Elizabeth Farrelly has written an excellent article on the Big Farm and Big Pharma push to shove their GM foods and "food science" products down our throats. Read it here: <http://www.theage.com.au/opinion/society-and-culture/its-hard-to-swallow-food-rules-that-treat-us-like-mushrooms-20110202-1adoi.html>

At the same time West Australian farmers are fighting for their right not to have neighbour's GM crops contaminate theirs. Mr. Steve Marsh has circulated an update on his battle resulting from GM contamination of his crops: "I would like to thank you all very much for all the support and help we have received since the announcement of the GM contamination of our farm late last year. It has been overwhelming. Sue and I are very grateful, for both the moral and financial support.

While I cannot comment on the legal case directly I can tell you that my neighbour has now appointed himself a lawyer and my lawyers are preparing the case for court. I expect this to be a long and costly affair but this is an important fight for farmers, both Organic and Conventional, who do not wish to grow GM intentionally or otherwise. It is also very important that people get to know the truth about genetically engineered seeds and how this technology will affect all of us one way or the other. There are some links to this information on the www.nasaa-wa.com.au website."

The website states: "Organic farmer in Western Australia, Steve Marsh has had GM Canola blown onto his property from a neighbouring farm and is now contaminated. His organic certification has been suspended, putting his livelihood and whole harvest in limbo. Fortunately he had taken precautions to declare his property GM free and had gone to the expense of setting up signs and getting legal advise so he should be able to take legal action against the GM Farmer.

The W.A. Ag Department has now confirmed the contamination and Monsanto has stated that it will support the GM farmer if Steve takes legal action. The purpose of this page it to allow people to donate to a "war chest" to help Steve fight for compensation."

Continued in The Bulletin