A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

ON TARGET

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The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: The Thompsons go to Canberra – 5 August 23, 2011: "Matt and I both cried. After 41/2 days of driving across Australia, hearing from every-day hard-working Australians about how difficult it is to just get on with producing, we had one hell of a welcome to Canberra yesterday morning!

The overpasses were lined with people clapping, saluting, waving flags, giving us thumbs up. The sound was amazing. Semi trucks, cars, vans, campervans, utes, prime movers ... many with Aussie flags flying and most with "no carbon tax" signage on them ... drove around and around State Circle yesterday morning in a noisy, beautiful, positive display of people power.

While Federal Police blocked our way up to the lawns of Parliament House, we continued to drive around the hub of our nation's political and bureaucratic processes. At long last, we gave up and parked on a side street about 1kilometre away. By the time Matt, the kids and I got to the lawn, Tony Abbott was coming off the stage. We had missed much of the meat of the rally. Of course, it was that time period before the large mid-morning convoy participants arrived that the media took their footage. We knew that we would be painted as extremists, but the reports this morning are quite humorous. How could we be both a dangerous, rowdy rabble AND be only 12 in number?

A year ago, they would have ignored us. We're on our way to winning".- **by Janet Thompson in *Quadrant***... http://www.quadrant.org.au/blogs/doomed-planet/2011/08/the-thompsons-go-to-canberra-5

Do listen to Alan Jones talking about the "Truckies who took part in the convoy" here ... http://www.2gb.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7805&Itemid=76

LET'S NOT FORGET THE LOOTERS IN PINSTRIPES! Listen to Matt Taibbi explain how the corrupt elite rule you: "SEC shreds Wall Street Crimes" – Government of the crooks, by the crooks, for the crooks http://www.realecontv.com/videos/government-corruption/sec-shreds-wall-street-crimes.html

On Target has written a number of articles exposing the derivatives scam and bear in mind it could not have got off the ground if it wasn't supported by governments and financial institutions. For those with access to the internet go to the League's webpage and type in 'derivatives scam' in the search facility. Much background information will come up. Of course regular readers of ***On Target*** will have been following the revelations.

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Meanwhile a Social Crediter circulated the following article found in the Canadian Calgary Herald, Sunday, 14 August, 2011. He thought it was a fun way to take a jab at the present system. The author, Stephen Hunt, is a regular contributor to the *Calgary Herald*, Canada:

"The other day someone on the radio observed that dogs believe every human they meet is friendly. They think the best of us. What would a dog think about Tuesday? That was the day where the front page of newspapers everywhere consisted of two big stories: the economy melting down and the London riots. If bad news sells papers, they were flying off the newsstands.

In theory, I like the idea of thinking the best of humans too, but days like Tuesday make it tough. We live in the age of social media, which played a huge role in the Egyptian revolution and every political uprising these days.

But just when you think technology has brought tyranny to its knees, along comes the news that the riots in the U.K. have been facilitated by smartphones and social media, allowing rioters to communicate in real time about police movements and work around them.

Dog (ought to) bite looters! And while looters who throw rocks through windows and set small businesses on fire are appalling, let's not forget the looters in pinstripes who ransacked the global economy leading up to the 2008 crash. The economic crisis that set the table for Tuesday's page-one misery was perpetuated by financial pros who knew exactly what they were doing: crashing the markets for short-term booty.

The only things missing were some pinstriped diamond-encrusted balaclavas to hide their faces from prying cameras while they were busy torching the global economy.

Even worse – some of them went on camera, in films such as Charles Ferguson's wonderful, infuriating Oscar-winning "Inside Job", and defended their behaviour leading up to 2008 by claiming that those derivatives they invented – and made a bundle from – were too complicated for anyone to understand their potential consequences.

Dog (oughta) bite bankers' butts, to remind them every time they try to take a load off that even man's best friend thinks they suck. And I've always been a big dog guy, but how in the world can dogs feel good about how the politicians responded to the pinstriped looters?

For backing up their Maseratis, Porches and Lexus SUVS and carting off billions of dollars for themselves, governments responded by picking up the tab for the misdeeds. They could scarcely find a single one to charge with anything - hey, all they did was very nearly crash the global economy, that's all. No need to start bellowing about changing the rules.

Instead, the politicians sent the wealthy-beyond-their-wildest-dreams financial pros back to their corner offices and told them not to do it again, without changing the system that allowed them to loot it in the first place. Scouts' honour, OK? I'd sick the dogs on the politicians, but dogs are far too forgiving. Alligators, maybe? Maybe a great white shark might get their attention? Dog (needs to) bite politicians and teach them how to put a little bite in their financial industry regulating, too.

- In Spain, the unemployment rate for 20-somethings is over 40 per cent.
- In Tel Aviv, young people have created a tent city that they are living in to protest the cost of housing.
- In the U.K., Greece, Ireland, Spain, Portugal and the U.S., economies are in tatters, and getting worse.

I'm trying to put my best dog's eye view of humanity, but some days, humanity boggles my mind. Maybe the trick is to remember to take humanity one human at a time. After all, individually, each of us generally has something to offer. We're good whistlers, or a kind, understanding kid's soccer coach. Some of us make good cookies, or hummus, or the best baklava. On the other hand, others among us use 21st-century technology to help return our behaviour to the medieval era.

Or still others invent financial instruments that cause economic hurricanes so powerful, our legislators are too intimidated to look into the eye of them, for fear of what they might find there: a whirling, raging void, managed by no one. Individually, we might be dog-friendly, but collectively, it seems we manage again and again to behave in ways that even a dog shouldn't have to stomach. Dogs need better best friends than us.

CRIMES OF A FOOL – SET TO FINISH OFF GILLARD? Thomson allegations referred to police, Paul Sheehan, August 25, 2011: The Health Services Union will refer allegations against Craig Thomson to the NSW Police. Crimes have been committed that can bring down the Gillard government, and they are dumb crimes. As a former N.S.W. chief of detectives told me: "We are ultimately dealing with the crimes of a fool, whomever that fool may be, who has left a documented trail like a bleeding elephant in a snowfield."

This trail of evidence of fraud, lying and cover-up now roils around the federal Labor MP Craig Thomson. It has also engulfed the N.S.W. Police Force, which implausibly refused to act until a victim had filed a complaint. "Utter garbage," said the former detective. "Police do not need to have a complaint from a victim in order to investigate a crime."

Read more: http://www.smh.com.au/opinion/politics/crimes-of-a-fool-set-to-finish-off-gillard-20110824-1ja53.html#ixzz1W03l8DBX

EXPLOITING THE ASIAN MARKETS – IRISH SUICIDE: "Would be half sad if it was only Qantas going down this well "trodden" slippery path" wrote our correspondent. "Kevin 747 was taking the whole country on this roller-coaster crash ride, while the Opposition looked on in a trance. China is the embryo World Corporate State, where everybody obeys the Chinese Executive, as happened in The Soviet Union". (Julia is simply continuing the Travel Plans ...*ed*)

"Exploiting Asian Markets" – Irish Suicide, as posted 11th Jul 2011, by SUNFISH on PPruNe (Prof. Pilots Rumour Network). **"The CEO of Qantas has apparently said words to the effect that Qantas is going to "Exploit rapidly growing Asian markets."**

"I am so incensed by the lunacy of The Qantas Board and Management that I will go on record now and say that there is not a snowballs chance in hell that Qantas is going to: "Exploit rapidly growing Asian markets." That is an Asian market and it is going to be exploited by Asians for Asians and to the benefit of Asian shareholders.

"The only "impact" that Qantas is going to make on that market is a small stain on an Asian mattress someplace where Qantas shareholders cried themselves to sleep after losing their entire capital on an unprofitable failed Asian joint venture. Pardon my French, but FFS, the history of Western investment in "Asian Markets" is a ******* cemetery of failed business ventures where the West has been efficiently skinned by their erstwhile Asian partners. Jetstar's adventures in Vietnam should have been an absolute warning to them.

"It takes what are called "Old China Hands" at least Thirty years of trading experience to engage profitably with China and the East, and this little Irish bowel movement thinks he can just walk in and make off with some profits?

Here is what is going to happen to you Alan:

• You are going to be encouraged by your Asian partners to invest every bit of spare cash you have, or you can borrow, in your Asian operations.

• You are going to be encouraged to invest your management time in your Asian operations to the exclusion of everything else.\

• You will be encouraged to move as much of your operations and employees to Asia as is physically possible.

• In support of this strategy, you will be wined and dined by everyone from the Asian Government and business community from the top down. The continuous mantra being thrown in your direction will be "huge Asian markets."

• At some point a few years from now, a stock market analyst will sound a warning that Qantas is now balls deep in Asia and that any downturn or disturbance in Asian markets will severely impact not just the Qantas International markets, but the Qantas Domestic market, which by then will have been "rearranged" to have synergies with the new 'you beaut Qantasia' International (read deep discounts for Asian travellers plus Asian maintenance and crews, etc.).

• The warnings won't be heeded. Remaining institutional investors who were wondering exactly what the Qantas sustainable competitive advantage in Asia really was will quietly exit. Qantas will start borrowing from the banks, who are always too stupid to see where companies are heading.

• Within a year the cupboard is bare. Qantas is in hock to its eye teeth and still waiting for profits to be generated by the "huge Asian Markets". The revenue will be there, its just that everyone (the Asian partner, airports, lessors, maintenance organisations, manufacturers, finance houses, fuel suppliers, catering, ATC, etc. etc) seems to be making a dollar or two of profit except Qantas. Funny that.

• Getting desperate for cash, Qantas tries to rearrange its finances and perhaps repatriate some funds to Australia.... and runs smack into a concrete wall of uncompromising Asian Governments, regulators, financial institutions and a less than helpful but "Oh so sorry" Asian "Partner".

Perhaps you like to sell your business? We make you velly good offer? The Qantas Sale Act will be no help because there is nothing left to sell. That is what is going to happen to Qantas Alan. You have absolutely no experience whatsoever in operating in Asian markets and neither has Qantas apart from flying in, filling up and departing, yet you think that running an LCC operation in a bog in Ireland is suitable experience for operating to the shores of the Middle Kingdom?

Take the old Asian custom of "gifts" also known in vulgar terms as kickbacks. How are you going to deal with the necessity of those Alan? Australian law prohibits them, but I guess that the Qantas auditors and your own "robust internal processes" will keep you safe. Well, except that they didn't, did they?

Qantas one of 11 airlines fined $1.1 billion for rigging cargo prices – *The Australian* Quote: The fine comes three years after Qantas was fined $40 million for price-fixing in the North American air cargo market. In 2008, Qantas also agreed to pay a fine of $20 million under a deal reached with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission over the European price-fixing cartel.

Never mind Alan, the Board knows how to deal with the thorny problem of Asian business customs. They will keep you safe. Leigh Clifford comes from Rio Tinto. They know all about Chinese corruption don't they? **Rio Tinto mops up after China bribery mess** – *The Australian*.

So how are you going to do the "exploiting" Alan? Tell us about the mass of trained Qantas managers who know instinctively what to do when there appear to be employees on the payroll that have never been seen; when invoices appear that cannot be reconciled. What happens when you discover that the security guards on your stores and property exist to prevent you from accessing them after hours when the real business is being conducted? Do you understand that you had better give your Chinese managers about Ten percent of the shareholding lest they be enticed away to your loss? Have you ever had to write on a Six million dollar invoice "Please do not ask for credit as refusal often offends", Alan? Alan? Tell us about your vast experience of the orient! Do you like Chinese food? Is that it? Somebody should tell this bog Irish idiot that he is not doing business with another Belgium or Holland. He knows nothing about the East - where business is played by rather different rules. Just ask Cathay and Swire, they have only been in the game for what? Two hundred years? And you are going to encroach on their territory? Continued in *The Bulletin*

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