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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: From 1930 to 1950, Father (then Monsignor) Sheen's weekly talks on The Catholic Hour presented Catholic teaching in a way that had never been done before... Rooted in his thorough knowledge of the philosophical thought of St. Thomas Aquinas, he preached the Gospel and showed how it applies to personal moral decisions and the great social issues of the time. - <http://fulton-sheen.cua.edu/bio/index.cfm>

Gleanings from Msgr. Fulton Sheen's "Communism and the Conscience of the West"

It is characteristic of any decaying civilisation that the great masses of the people are unconscious of the tragedy... we are definitely at the end of a non-religious era of civilisation which regarded religion as an addendum to life, a pious extra, a morale builder for the individual but of no social relevance, an ambulance that took care of the wrecks of the social order until science reached a point where there would be no more wrecks, and which called on God only as a defender of national ideals, or as a silent partner whose name was used by the firm to give respectability but who had nothing to say about how the business should be run.

Civilisations are cyclic, they are recurrent, they go through the same phenomena of birth and death and never come to life again. Religion, however, is a continuous upward linear movement, rising to new heights after the decay of each particular civilisation. As a Christian civilisation grew out of the Greco-Roman world, so a new Christian order will grow out of the decay of historical liberalism and communism.

- From *Social Credit Challenge*, 4 July 1948

OF WEALTH WE HAVE SO MUCH YET KNOW NOT HOW TO DISTRIBUTE IT!

Watch: At the 2016 world business and technological/educational conference in Davos, Switzerland, are interviewed a number of prominent world figures involved in these fields. <http://www.weforum.org/events/world-economic-forum-annual-meeting-2016/sessions/a-world-without-work>

Wallace Klinck on the recent Davos World Economic Forum

It's enough to make a Social Crediter cry. Watching them at the 2016 "World Business and Technological/Educational Conference in Davos, Switzerland, struggle and agonize over issues that C.H. Douglas analyzed, predicted and prescribed remedies for, in detail, nearly a century ago, is enough to make a Social Crediter cry. How utterly tragic that of wealth we have so much and know not how to distribute—a situation for which surely any sane extraterrestrial race of sentient and intelligent beings would be delighted beyond description.

How long must we labour to re-invent the wheel? The time is far overdue when world leaders must terminate the endless dialogue and get busy with

practical implementation of the appropriate changes which are required to our increasingly dysfunctional financial system. They talk about Keynes but never about Douglas, whom Keynes almost certainly plagiarized and then neglected utterly to follow through with beneficial policy recommendations.

Of course they never, ever, mention the message and examples provided by Jesus who was clearly the Greatest Economist of all time. That would be altogether too embarrassingly "unscientific" for serious and sophisticated minds. And so - mankind had (and seemingly has) neither ears with which to hear nor eyes with which to see—and so also, with great cause and sorrow, Jesus wept. (One might add, neither brains with which to think.)

The East Indian fellow came close to revealing normal and healthy instincts in quoting some source claiming that we should be eliminating work so that we can play. Wow!

Several months ago, I forwarded material to the Scandinavian technology expert from, I believe, M.I.T., but received no response and from his comments here he appears to be awakening but yet to have considerable progress to make. *(continued on next page)*

(continued from previous page) We should make a concentrated effort to contact some or all of these luminaries and provide them with a barrage of Social Credit documentation. I suspect that certain of the Asian folk might possibly prove to be most openly receptive and less inhibited by irrelevant and pseudo-moral Puritanical “hang-ups” of the particular genre which tend severely to impair Western cognition and empathy.

In relation to ‘The Fourth Industrial Revolution’ Wallace Klinck asks:

We are told that within about twenty years approximately fifty per cent of American “jobs” will be eliminated by automation and artificial intelligence—a marvellous achievement, provided that we have the basic intelligence to ensure wide and full distribution of the product of such magnificently productive resources.

Are we to erect an enormous mountain of consumer wealth, enclose it with an electrified fence and tell starving consumers peering through the wires that if they have no money because they have no stupid “jobs” that they must leave empty-handed, and that this is just their misfortune?

Are the perhaps ten per cent of remaining employed, who themselves have increasingly insufficient income to purchase the goods produced, to be requisitioned to maintain the possible ninety per cent of unemployed? Surely this is the road to chaos!

Clifford Hugh Douglas and his colleagues explored the financial, economic, political, sociological and psychological aspects of this issue following the First World War. Douglas discovered the fatal flaw in the price-system which condemns us to eternal servitude in evermore useless and destructive activity as the economy becomes increasingly capital intensive and displaces labour as a factor of production. While engaged in investigation of some cost-accountancy irregularities at the Royal Aircraft Factory in Farnborough, he established beyond peradventure that the price-system becomes increasingly non-self-liquidating as prices are comprised more and more of costs which do not distribute effective consumer purchasing-power, within the same costing cycle, because of allocated capital charges and goods brought in from a previous costing period.

Economic orthodoxy has attempted to discredit his thesis on the grounds that incomes have already been distributed in respect of these earlier items. Douglas was entirely aware of this fact and pointed out, however, that these incomes have already been spent and cancelled and will no longer be available as effective demand, i.e., as incomes capable of extinguishing a financial cost. The end result is that society must become increasingly indebted to the banking system which creates “money” through its lending activities.

We are compelled to create essentially undesired consumer goods and new capital works for which latter we are not properly credited in final prices, and to engage in all manner of activity - increasingly irrelevant, useless and positively destructive (the U.S. economy would collapse overnight if military expenditure were eliminated) - merely to distribute incomes in order that earlier production might be purchased. The physical costs of production are met as production takes place and the financial system should reflect this fact. Money in the modern economy is simply accountancy and should reflect rather than control what we do. “Money” should be the servant and not the master of mankind.

The major obstacle to a proper resolution of this problem is a particularly noxious prevailing Puritanical Work Ethic which abhors freedom and leisure. The banks are creating zillions of dollars (or pounds) of new “money” as consumer loans all the time. The main objection to this is not that they are creating this very necessary monetary demand but that they claim ownership of the credit which they create and loan against the community’s real wealth, which wealth they do not create.

To put the matter bluntly, the prevailing banking system is not only a gigantic counterfeiting racket but, more importantly, a perpetration of grand larceny insofar as the banks not only hold a virtual monopoly over the creation of the community’s “money” but through their claim of ownership of this “money” they have literally expropriated the communal capital. The appropriate solution to this inequity is not for the State to expropriate the nation’s real capital but rather to give all citizens a beneficial ownership and inheritance in it through enhanced real consumer purchasing power.

If the banks can create untold amounts of money as consumer debt, all to be extinguished as effective income when spent, there is no reason whatsoever why we as a society cannot issue this required purchasing-power by creating it, without registering it as a debt, and distributing it to all citizens as an inalienable inheritance deriving from the Cultural Heritage of humankind—to provide independent income and supplemental income to all citizens, working or otherwise, and to compensate retail prices at point of sale so that prices reflect realistically the phenomenal increases of technological efficiency which we are achieving daily.

From a technical standpoint a major part of the problem appears to be that accountants cannot define money in the context of their limited two-dimensional art while economists seem oblivious to the costing issues in production and are caught up in heady abstract theories involving false assumptions about price elasticity, etc. The twain unfortunately appear unable to meet in a realistic and unified comprehension of the realities involved.

(continued on next page)

(continued from previous page) My understanding is that in the days of "Merrie England" the people enjoyed approximately 150 holidays per annum and worked only a few weeks of the year to provide their essential material living requirements. By this standard the modern economy is little more than a tyrannical, soul destroying Work State. In consideration that we are properly charged in prices for real capital depreciation but wrongly not credited for our much greater real capital appreciation, little else might realistically be expected. Any nation that accounts its real assets as a liability is surely headed for oblivion.

The important consideration regarding "work" is that people find demeaning and stifling a situation wherein their daily activities are subject increasingly to external authority and they have no practical choice in the matter because they live in perpetual insecurity, living as they do always on the precipice of financial disaster. The only reason that this is tolerated with vague and ill-defined resentment is that the average

citizen has not the slightest knowledge of what is actually the nature and source of his oppression and the malignant governance of the world's affairs.

NATIONAL WEEKEND 2015 DVDS

Philip Benwell MBE

800 Years of Magna Carta

Robert Balzola

The DOGS of War

Bernard Gaynor

Thankyou

The DVDs of the National Weekend 2015; including the full set of lectures from the National Weekend Seminar and The New Times Dinner Toasts and Dinner Speakers are available direct from Doug Holmes 08 8289 0049 - M0421 925 557 posted for \$30.

KATTER SAYS TPP GREATEST THREAT TO AUSTRALIA'S SOVEREIGNTY IN DECADES

Katter leads crossbench in opposition to TPP.

A university in the United States has found that the much-heralded Trans Pacific Partnership trade deal will cost the American economy 448,000 jobs and significantly decrease their Gross Domestic Product. One of 12 nations in the deal, Australia signed the agreement in New Zealand last week.

The Global development and Environment Institute at Tufts University near Boston said President Obama's promises of sweeping economic benefits are wrong and the treaty will actually harm America.

The analysis said U.S. jobs would be "hardest hit" of all the nations in the agreement.

Meanwhile the TPP along with the National Interest Analysis was tabled in the Australian House of Representatives today prompting the Member for Kennedy and leader of Katter's Australian Party, Bob Katter to form a cross bench alliance, citing the TPP as the "greatest threat to Australia's sovereignty in decades."

Mr Katter, Senator Glenn Lazarus and Greens' Trade Spokesman Senator Peter Whish-Wilson fronted a joint press conference at Parliament House to oppose the ratification of the TPP, which is expected within weeks.

Whilst full details of the TPP Agreement were laid before Parliament, all three attacked the Government's own analysis of the Agreement – an analysis which is unlikely to highlight the real losses to Australian manufacturers and producers.

"There has been a hole a mile wide torn in the sovereignty of Australia," Mr Katter said.

"If there is a product which some foreign corporation is producing or distributing in Australia and they have invested money, then we can't stop that product from coming in - so what is left of our sovereignty is now vanishing away".

"Andrew Robb, one of the most appropriately named Ministers that I have encountered in my time in Parliament, has greatly erred here, so maybe we should call him Rob-err. He has an extraordinary eagerness to please foreign corporations and to get foreign investment – but what he calls foreign investment I call the stealing of our country! I defy him in the last 10 years to tell me where any significant jobs have been created by foreign investment, that hadn't already started 15-20 years ago. And in the last 10 years, since this fanatical free trade business has been going on, I defy them to point out to me where there has been one benefit for the Australian economy."

Mr Katter pointed to the absurdity in the Government's own figures published today – which cited \$109 billion in sales to TPP countries, versus \$1,109 of investment in Australia by TPP countries – meaning a staggering ten times more imports than exports, all of which compete with if not eradicate Australian producers and manufacturers.

"Mr Robb says that this agreement will open up avenues for Australian manufactured goods – for iron and steel, ships and auto parts to name a few. But manufacturing – it's already all gone. There is no capital investment by Government, no motor vehicles produced, no white goods produced – no manufacturing left in the country. We allow slave labour produced goods into the country without any tariffs or restrictions on them whatsoever.

Instead of trading aggressively and collectively, we have the weakest trading position of any country on earth. The Government keeps pressing ahead talking about foreign investment as if it's a good thing – when we all know it's just selling your country off because your country's broke, the Government's broke, and the only way to get out of trouble is to sell off the assets," Mr Katter said.

SECTION 18C AS A "WEAPON" by Ian Wilson LL.B.

The use of section 18C of the Racial Discrimination Act is in the news again, with a new case, very different to anything that has come before it. The new case involves a Queensland University of Technology academic who has made the section 18C complaint against students and other staff over comments that were made when she ejected students from an indigenous-only computer club in 2013. The applicant has it that the comments have caused her to suffer "offence, embarrassment, humiliation and psychiatric injury", and she seeks compensation of just under \$250,000.

What is interesting, legally, about this case is that apart from one race-based comment, which a student denies making (the burden of proof will thus be on the applicant to establish proof of the identity of the alleged statement-maker), the statements taken to contravene section 18C do not appear to be directed at the applicant's "race, colour, or national or ethnic origin". This point is made by Simon Breheny in his article on this matter (*The Australian*, February 5, 2016, p.12), and he goes on to argue that section 18C must be repealed because it "is being used as a weapon, not a shield". There are also informative critiques published in *The Weekend Australian*, February 6-7, 2016, p.16 by Janet Albrechtsen and Tim Wilson, but nobody exactly makes the critique I think should be made.

WILLIAM INGE, CHRISTIAN MYSTICISM AND NEOPLATONISM by Chris Knight

Sir William Ralph Inge (1860-1954) is a religious philosopher with an enormous output, who is today completely neglected by modernist philosophers. Inge was very much "old school", and out of step with the scientific-empiricist road taken by his fellow British philosophers, as represented by, say, Bertrand Russell (1872-1970). Inge is one of the last of the British idealist school e.g. F.H. Bradley (1846-1924), who in general saw a rational order to the world that indicated the non-materialist, non-reductionist and holistic nature of the universe. In a sense, the individual components of the world system are less "real" with only the whole, or Absolute/God being a completed reality.

Inge in his 1914 lecture "*The Religious Philosophy of Plotinus and Some Modern Philosophies of Religion*", through analysing ancient Greek thought says that: "The reality of our world consists in its power of expression under the form of processes in Space and Time, the ideas and purposes of the Divine mind. The truest view of the world is that which sees in it a system of law - not, however, in the limited sense in which naturalists talk of natural law, but a system of

The applicant could very well lose the case. In whole or in part, the remarks of the students, which essentially amounted to a free-speech right to criticise the policy of having an indigenous only computer club, could be upheld. In other words, even if the remarks were "offensive", the statements may not have a sufficient connection to the "race, colour, or national or ethnic origin" of the applicant.

If the applicant was successful then this case would show that almost any remarks regarded as "offensive" (harm is not a necessary part of section 18C) by someone of a particular "race, colour, or national or ethnic origin", would constitute a section 18C violation. This would almost completely destroy free speech and it may go to contravene, believe it or not, Australia's obligation to allow "free speech" under various UN human rights documents. If so, there could well be complaints to the United Nations - the irony of ironies - and/or, a High Court test of section 18C based on human rights law and our "international human rights" obligations.

This is something I would very much like to see, so I look forward to the Federal Court decision in this matter. ***

Also listen to John Cleese on political correctness here: <https://youtu.be/ukisoucFlk4>

harmonious values, which may be classified under three heads - the Good, the True, and the Beautiful.

Our world as it really is, is the sphere in which these three divine attributes are exhibited under the form of purposes in process of realisation".

The world thus has a trinitarian structure as reflected in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

As Inge said: "God is imminent in the world, not in the sense that he lives his own life in and by means of the visible universe, but because the universe derives its being from Him, reflects His thoughts and purposes, exhibits everywhere footprints of His Wisdom, Goodness and Beauty, and in various degrees of conscious desire, strives to be reunited with Him".

What a pity 20th century philosophy took the narrow scientific path given by Bertrand Russell, rather than the spiritual idealism of the likes of Inge. Could our present cultural crisis be a product of a lack of idealism and acceptance of crass materialistic values and philosophies given by the hard scientific, rather than the religious worldview? Of course it is! ***

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THE CORE OF SOCIAL CREDIT by James Reed

Apart from quoting extensively from the works of Major Douglas, few would go wrong reading the delightful philosophical history of social credit penned by John W. Hughes, *Major Douglas: The Policy of a Philosophy*, (Brightest Pebble Publishing, 2004). The book contains a very interesting discussion on Douglas's A+ B theorem, along with an historical account of criticisms and their refutation.

The book, however, while excellent on social credit economics, also shines on social credit philosophy, as illustrated by its title.

Douglas began his outline of his worldview by stating that there is a rational order in the universe, a "canon" or a "Logos". Famously in *The New Age* of 23 April 1925 he said: "Now it is my own belief, and I might almost say that it is almost my only religion, that there is running through the nature of the Universe something that we may call a "canon". It is the thing which is referred to in the Gospel of St John as the 'Logos', the 'Word'. It has an infinite variety of names. The engineer and the artist refer to it when they say they have got something 'right'. Other people mean the same thing when they talk about absolute truth, or reality... Genuine success only accompanies a consistent attempt to discover and to conform to this canon no matter what sphere our activities lie. For instance, I have no doubt whatever that there is one single test which can be applied to any financial scheme which is put before you for your consideration, and that is whether it represents reality, just as we know that the fundamental falsity of the present financial system is that it distorts and perverts reality".

WHY JAPAN WILL NOT NEED TO SURRENDER ITS IDENTITY TO RELENTLESS IMMIGRATION by James Reed

The core argument from the elites is that nations need immigration for economic and cultural grounds (to increase "diversity"). Japan too is subject to this ideology, but strongly defends its racial-ethnic identity by resisting immigration. Although Japan has one of the lowest birth rates in the world, it is moving to deal with economic issues by thinking smart and turning to technology, especially Artificial Intelligence and robotics.

Robots are common in industrial production but according to *The Guardian*, February 2, 2016, fully automated farms are now occurring. Robots do all the farming from replanting young seedlings, watering and even harvesting crops. Humans still plant the seeds, but perhaps not for long.

Contrast this with Australia and the US

Australia, the US and much of the Western world still operate with a 19th century frontier model of society: fill up the country and burn it up fast there is no tomorrow.

Geoffrey Dobbs in his article "Balance in Social Credit", *The Social Credit*, April 11, 1953, said that one of the last things Douglas left before his death was "The Chart", a diagram which explained the nature of Social Credit as the policy of a philosophy. A "philosophy" is a worldview or conception of reality. The philosophy of social credit is Christianity, the New Testament conception of reality. This produces social credit policy which then divides into economics and administration. By contrast the present policy which dominates the world is Old Testament Philosophy, leading to monopolistic policy and old economics and old politics.

Dobbs says that from 1918 to 1934, Douglas was emphasising economics, and after that, politics, and Christian philosophy, but these threads of his thoughts were intertwined. Against the economic reductionist view of social credit, Dobbs said: "Both 'economics' and 'finance' are techniques. Techniques, of course, have their importance, but to form a World Movement, and to argue and advocate and oppose techniques, without reference to the policies they are used to promote, is insane. But if policies are to be upheld or opposed, that is politics, and the assessment of policies is only possible on the basis of philosophy; so that all the components of Social Credit are immediately brought in unless sanity and a sense of proportion are abandoned".

Social Credit then, is perverted, if restricted solely to financial and economic issues, because these issues are part of an organic whole, and all ultimately are based upon differences in philosophical world views.

Thus, those of us seeking to defend Western Civilisation, ultimately grounded upon Christian values, are as much doing social credit as those meditating upon aspects of the A+ B theorem. ***

Thus, the Obama administration, according to the *Washington Examiner.com*, February 4, 2016, is ordering the US Customs and Border Protection agents to release illegal immigrants and no longer require them to appear at deportation hearings. One Border agent said: "We might as well abolish our immigration laws altogether". Indeed, since the "go free" policy was ordered, thousands more than usual of Latinos have crossed the border, including "hundreds of criminal foot soldiers".

A number of papers discussed this and related issues in the winter 2016 issue of the US journal the Social Contract, including a paper by Julian Bradford: "*The Terrorist Threat Amid the Refugee 'Crisis'*" and E.S. Rubenstein: "*Most Jobs Created Since 2008 Go to Immigrants*".

America, unlike Japan, is going down the immigration plug hole, set to disappear as ancient Rome did, being dissolved by the universal acid of diversity. ***

WILL CHINESE FARMS BRING “DOOM” TO US ALL? by Brian Simpson

Y-Y Liu (et al.) "Emergence of Plasmid-Mediated Colistin Resistance Mechanism MCR-1 in Animals and Human Beings in China: A Microbiological and Molecular Biological Study", *The Lancet*, Infectious Diseases, November 18, 2015, reports on the evolution of polymyxin resistance via horizontal gene transfer.

The polymyxin class of antibiotics are the final group of antibiotics used to treat bacterial infections. This new super-bug has a gene MCR-1 which bestows resistance to these antibiotics. China has been a breeding ground for other diseases: possibly the "Black death" plague of the Middle Ages (14th century), killing 50 million Europeans, as well as the "Spanish flu", which actually came from China. Why has this superbug arisen at this time in China?

Michael Sheridan (*The Australian*, November 24, 2015, p.10) in an article provocatively entitled "China's Farms could doom modern medicine") says:

"Scientists have known for a long time that southern China, with its mixture of millions of people and millions of livestock, its living conditions, its climate and its habits and customs - from spitting in the street to drinking ducks blood as a delicacy - was an incubator for global diseases".

It is clear that this resistance will spread throughout the microbiological world so that modern medicine will indeed end. Surgery as we know it will not be possible.

The world, medically, will thus return to the Dark Ages in many areas. The Establishment hopes to deal with this problem by combating the overuse of last-line antibiotics - sorry, a good idea but it's too late now as the monsters are loose. Globalisation will spread disease and ensure that after the next "Black death", globalisation will be, no more.

WHO'S AFRAID OF THE ZIKA VIRUS? by Brian Simpson

The next great pandemic scare is the Zika virus, which is said to be causing masses of severe birth defects, microcephaly in South American babies. Babies are born with small heads and a brain that has failed to fully develop. In Brazil alone there have been almost 3000 cases since July 2015. The Zika virus is a flavivirus, which was identified 70 years ago in the Zika jungle of Uganda and is spread by mosquitos.

Various pro-vaccination sites have said that the situation somehow refutes the anti-vax case, for why would one risk the health of one's baby for the population to acquire immunity?

Of course this assumes that it is the Zika virus which is responsible, which has not yet been conclusively proven: it is still a hypothesis.

Further, it is thought by the medical establishment that a vaccine would take 5 – 10 years to develop anyway, so in the meantime public health measures such as controlling mosquitoes will need to be rigorously undertaken. As well, the threat is to pregnant women, so they will need to be very careful of mosquito bites. Most other people affected by Zika virus recover quickly, so it is possible that natural immunity will increase in the future.

ZIKA HOAX EXPOSED BY SOUTH AMERICAN DOCTORS:

Brain deformations caused by larvicide chemical linked to Monsanto; GM mosquitoes a 'total failure'

(NaturalNews) Despite all the public hoopla, all the cases of microcephaly being discovered in Brazil have never been scientifically linked to the Zika virus. A group of doctors from South America are now saying the brain deformations the world is witnessing are caused by the **mass fumigation of low-income Brazilian people** with a chemical larvicide, not by mosquitoes carrying the Zika virus.

What we're seeing with the brain deformations of children, in other words, is more like the history of **thalidomide**, a prescription medicine given to pregnant women that caused children to be born with limbs missing. But the official narrative on all this is pushing a false link with Zika in order to justify more chemical fumigation, more vaccines and more genetically engineered mosquitoes.

From the doctors at *Red Universitaria de Ambiente y Salud* (the Red University of Environment and Health): (http://www.naturalnews.com/files/Informe-Zika-de-Reduas_TRAD.pdf)

A dramatic increase of congenital malformations, especially microcephaly in newborns, was detected and quickly linked to the Zika virus by the Brazilian Ministry of Health. However, they fail to recognise that in the area where most sick persons live, a chemical larvicide producing malformations in mosquitoes has been applied for 18 months, and that this poison (pyroproxifen) is applied by the State on drinking water used by the affected population.

Learn more:

http://www.naturalnews.com/052943_Zika_virus_hoax_larvicide_chemical_GM_mosquitoes.html

ANOTHER ONE WHO CAN'T SEE THE WOOD FOR THE TREES!

And, still a centralist....

Europe is sliding into “a modern 1930s” and authorities are “making it up as they go along”, Yanis Varoufakis has warned as he launches a new movement which he says will “democratise” the continent.

Speaking to *The Independent* as he outlined his vision of the DiEM25 (Democracy in Europe Movement 2025) project, the self-described “erratic Marxist” says he wants to remove power from an unaccountable, authoritarian elite and distribute it fairly to the continent’s citizens.

Seven months after resigning as Greek finance minister, Mr. Varoufakis now thinks “the signs are everywhere” that Europe is echoing history. “We don’t have Nazis doing Kristallnacht in Berlin. [But] We have Nazis in Greece doing something similar in a suburb of Greece, where they are attacking in the middle of the night the shops and houses of migrants.”

“There are big differences, but from the perspective of an economist we have terrible similarities.” Along with the rise of far-right parties across Europe, Varoufakis points to the high level of unemployment throughout the eurozone as a significant cause of the tensions that exist.

It is still at crisis levels, and is twice as high as in the US and the UK – who are now reaching what economists consider ‘full employment’. “If unemployment was still 10-11 per cent in the UK or the US, the administration would have collapsed,” Varoufakis says. “But in Europe we have no democratic process!”

In Varoufakis’ mind, Europe is run by an elite that is more unaccountable than ever. The European Parliament is a toothless body, “a parliament in name only, a parliament that cannot legislate. It’s the only parliament ever that can’t.” Major political decisions, like how to deal with debt or respond to financial crises, have been handed over to the Eurogroup (the 19 finance ministers whose countries use the euro) and the European Central Bank, the supposedly apolitical body that controls interest rates across these countries.

Neither, he says, are properly scrutinised.

After spending five fraught months in negotiations over a new debt deal for Greece, Varoufakis has since become a whistle-blower on how the political process worked in practice. He claims the role of national governments has become “extremely limited” and anyone that dares to criticise this “sinister process” is quickly smeared.

“As soon as you criticise, you are immediately cast out as anti-European,” he argues, while politicians who turned a blind eye towards this process were “mightily rewarded”, both with election funds and favourable treatment in the press. It is these beliefs that have provided the impetus behind his new project, DiEM25.

His belief is that democrats in the 1930s should have tried to create a pan-European movement that crossed country borders and political parties. Given that he sees the seeds of the 1930s in today’s Europe, that’s what he’s going to try and do.

Without changes, Varoufakis believes the eurozone is “doomed”. “When the European Central Bank, which is based in Frankfurt, is incredibly unpopular in Germany; when Greece is a basket case; when France is finding it impossible to contain its budget while also containing unemployment... this is a European economy that’s disintegrating.”

He is adamant that DiEM25 must be more than “just a think-tank and... an internet community” but he thinks the movement can be largely leaderless. He’ll inevitably be its figurehead, but won’t be its chief, and there will be no official ‘steering committee’ or centralised body organising how it works.

So which comes first – a mass of motivated people or the figures that lead them?

“It’s true the anti-slavery movement had to have leaders, but at the same time it was founded on the moral indignation of common folks, who created circumstances for leaders to spring up.” It was the same with the civil rights movement, he suggests. Malcolm X and Dr King “came after lots of anonymous people created a movement first.”

He hopes the “conversations” that come out of DiEM25, both online and through events like Tuesday’s launch in Berlin’s Volksbühne Theater, will eventually lead to a “basic consensus” on how to bring more democracy to the way Europe is run. Then they can fight elections.

DiEM25’s first steps towards transparency will be to demand that the Eurogroup allows cameras behind its closed doors and keeps minutes of its meetings. Varoufakis thinks his struggle to strike a new deal for Greece last year would have been far easier if meetings had been filmed.

He relays how the German finance minister, Wolfgang Schäuble, knew that the deal being offered to Greece was unpalatable – and admitted to Varoufakis he wouldn’t have been able to push such a deal through the Bundestag if they were in each other’s shoes. Varoufakis says Schäuble, Germany’s finance minister, was more frank behind closed doors. It “would have changed the narrative completely” if that conversation had been on camera, Varoufakis says. But who has the power to grant these wishes? “Well, it’s an interesting question isn’t it? The fact that we don’t have that answer is part of the problem!” Ultimately he thinks these concessions will only come once “there is outrage surging through Europe.” Frustration, Varoufakis suggests, is coiled up across Europe today...

He doubts Britain can escape the clutches of the next Eurozone crisis, or leave in this summer’s likely referendum and still have access to the single market. Whether you’re Greek or British, escape is, he says, impossible. Reform across Europe is the only option.

After the crushing of last summer’s ‘Athens Spring’, he confesses people in Greece are disheartened. “Their quasi-depression is leading them to privatise their anxieties and fears and stay at home and watch reality television,” he quips. Yet while the omens may be unfavourable, Varoufakis will try.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TO THE AUSTRALIAN

Clearly the 'Safe Schools' programme needs revision ('Activists push taxpayer-funded gay manual in schools', 10/2). The mere fact that it is adversely critical of the practice of asking if a new baby is male or female shows that partisan ideology has overruled common sense. Education editor Natasha Bitá seems justified in advising that the programme 'appears to reach beyond promoting tolerance to advocating activism by students.'

It is possible to promote safety and security for children in schools without going to the lengths of this programme. Controversial matters of sexual orientation and practice should be left to the Year 10 level at the earliest, when students are developing their critical faculty and are more capable of sensible and useful debate. Moreover, any programme should report and treat fairly the views of people adversely critical of non-heterosexual behaviours.

Nigel Jackson, Belgrave, Vic

TO THE AGE

The ongoing unity of the Australian nation should take precedence over any 'empowerment' of our 'native' people ('Let Aboriginal people control their destiny', 10/2). No 'indigenous self-determination' that is promoted should be allowed to jeopardise that unity.

We are now a state composed of people whose ancestry comes from a vast number of nations around the world. Bias in favour of any particular ancestry has become inappropriate. Moreover, intermarriage occurs between Australians of all different ancestries.

Aboriginal policy should be predicated on the principle that any Aboriginal, no matter whether he or she is a full-blood or not, is an Australian first and an Aboriginal second.

Nigel Jackson, Belgrave, Vic

FROM THE AUSTRALIAN MONARCHIST LEAGUE

Following on from the published comments of Mr Neil James, of the ACM ACT committee, calling for the resignation of Professor David Flint, a number of people have brought to my notice that there is now a Facebook page and a Change.org petition also calling for the Professor to step down and have asked for advice on what they should do.

My opinion is that in no way should we become involved. I would further suggest that we should ignore both the Facebook page and the petition and let it die a natural death. I would urge those that may wish to comment not to do so because that would mean you liking the Facebook page or signing the petition which is so easy to do in error.

Professor Flint has a major part to play in the debate, particularly when and if FitzSimons and his fellow republicans get down to letting us know the detail and not the hyperbole of what they propose.

The proper place for any dissension is to raise issues within an organisation and not in the press or social media. - *Philip Benwell National Chair*

WHY IS FREEDOM SO IMPORTANT?

LaVoy Finicum was the Northern Arizona Rancher who loved nothing more in life than God, family, and freedom. As he watched the ever increasing encroachment of government into the lives of the American people he felt it necessary to make a stand for freedom. He drew a line in the sand and that line was the Constitution of the United States of America in its original intent as a charter to protect the freedom of people by putting strict limits on government.

"We are living in a day when that supreme law of the land has been shredded by the very government that took an oath to uphold it.

By their actions the Federal Government of the United States has become lawless and stalks the liberties of this land under the guise of social justice".

Watch Lavoy place his case squarely at the feet of a corrupt and power seeking government:

<https://youtu.be/7g8yfsr7N-E>

His last interview: <https://youtu.be/kmaJkt-pyqc>
Robert "LaVoy" Finicum says of federal agents the day before he was ambushed and murdered:

"They're doing all the things that shows that they want to take some kinetic action against us."

Family Statements available here:

<http://alor.org/Library/Finicum%20Family%20Statement.pdf>

<http://alor.org/Library/Finicum%20Family%20Statement%20Supplement.pdf>

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Note: The views expressed by the writers are not necessarily the views or policy of the Australian League of Rights