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The Price of Freedom is Eternal Vigilance

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THOUGHT OF THE WEEK: “One thing becomes clear out of this turmoil of rising and falling “Empires” of the first millennium B.C., particularly that calamitous succession of Assyrian, Neo-Babylonian, and Persian “Empires,” from 933-605 B.C., 625-538 B.C., and 538-332 B.C., respectively, and that is: in a world where treasure had become totally equated in the peoples minds with “Wealth,” as expressing relatively large sums of the monetary unit, no sooner had one power gathered all such treasure in a given area into its store houses and safe deposits, by conquest, plunder, and sack, than such treasure, temporarily creating boom, moved on again, as likely as not to form the base of those “credits” granted by international money power towards the purchase of arms and the best of mercenary soldiers by that next power destined to arise and be the new “conqueror.”

– *The Babylonian Woe* (p.34) By David Astle. Published 1975.

BAIT AND SWITCH AND BANKING DIRTY TRICKS By James Reed and Arnis Luks

Freedom movement folk have rightly perceived that the real problem behind the banking Royal Commission, the herd of elephants in the room, is that perennial problem of centralisation and monopolisation; that the banks are too big, and have all the problems of bigness. Bob Katter recently (June 2018) introduced into the House of Representatives the Banking System Reform (Separation of Banks) Bill, and it will soon be introduced into the Senate. This is supposed to deal with the “dirty tricks” problem that has been outlined in a February 7, 2019, Media Release by the Citizens Electoral Council, entitled, *Treasury’s Dirty Trick in Hayne’s Report*.

Extract

“Above all else, the banks were desperate that Commissioner Hayne’s final report didn’t recommend structural separation; according to journalist Michael Pascoe, this was the subject of the illegal insider trading leak that caused bank shares to suddenly rise at 11:00 AM on Monday. Treasury, which has a revolving door with the banks, epitomised by Dr Ken Henry who wrote the letter on behalf of the banks that gave the all-clear for the royal commission on certain conditions, ensured the banks got their way. Former APRA Principal Researcher Dr Wilson Sy, who has direct experience with Treasury’s methods, explains how. The Australian Treasury has played dirty tricks on the public in the final report of the Hayne Royal Commission (HRC). This was probably why Kenneth Hayne refused to shake hands with the Treasurer Josh Frydenberg on its delivery.

The public does not know that the HRC final report was not written entirely by Kenneth Hayne (KH), but substantially by the Treasury.

The Dirty Trick

A dirty trick is defined in this article as a recommendation which does not follow from the work of the royal commission. The terms of reference specifically forbade the HRC from investigating system structure:

We further declare that you are not required by these Our Letters Patent to inquire, or to continue to inquire, into a particular matter to the extent that the matter relates to macro-prudential policy and regulation. ...End Extract

After reading this Media Release are convinced neither Commission recommendations nor CEC Glass-Steagall will resolve the issues, but intensify them. With the existing Bail-In laws and now the further possibility of separation between Banks and Brokers (using financial instruments), the banks are again in a position to be insulated from another Global Financial Crisis - It was the Brokers fault and we need to be "bailed in" (seize the depositors funds to keep the banks liquid). A classic second rate expert telling a first rate expert 'what or how' to do something instead of insisting on results - policy - ensuring the bureaucrat's or banker's head is served on a platter for failure to deliver.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glass%E2%80%93Steagall_legislation (continued next page)

(continued from previous page) Bait and Switch are used to deceive politicians and the public into believing that the **recommendations resulted from a thorough and comprehensive investigation by the commission...** The refusal of Kenneth Hayne to shake hands with the Treasurer Josh Frydenberg appears to be just theatre for public consumption. Turnbull would be pleased...

MENDING A MORTGAGED WORLD

Jeremy Lee's paper to the Inverell Forum - 2009

To emphasise the point, in 1937 ~ in the middle of the great Depression ~ the Federal government set up a Royal Commission into Finance and Banking. In his summary, the Chairman, Sir Mellis Napier said:

“... That the Commonwealth Bank (i.e. at time a government-owned peoples’ bank) can make money available to governments or to others on such terms as it chooses even by way of a loan without interest or even without requiring interest or repayment of principal...”

But, like every economy in the world, Australia has now transferred its constitutional power to create its own money into private hands. And the same private hands have indebted Australians, and hold mastery over the people and their governments. To quote a former A.L.P. Federal Treasurer, one-time deputy Prime Minister Dr Jim Cairns, in his book *“Oil in Troubled Waters”*

“... I want first to explain how money is obtained or supplied in a capitalist economy. Banks certainly create credit or, more exactly, they create money. Creation of money by banks is a simple process... The banks, therefore, can create deposits by lending to customers... within very wide limits, the trading banks decide how much or little to lend and who to lend it to... Not only have the banks power to create money within wide limits, but they do so.

As well as determining the total volume of money, the banks decide also to whom they will lend. It is obvious they will prefer rich and powerful people and the companies associated with them; they will prefer ‘old customers’, and they will not be too keen to lend to poorer people, to ‘battlers’, or to persons or even companies who may be competitive with their associates. The power to create money and to decide who should get it is a vast and significant social and economic power and for this reason, the Labor movement has always believed it should not be a privately owned power but be exercised solely by a public or peoples’ bank...”

That, for all its sins, was the old Labor Party in Australia – the party of Andrew Fisher and King O’Malley, of John Curtin and Ben Chifley; of national sovereignty and Australian ownership and mateship.

Many people find it difficult to comprehend that the old Labor movement was gradually captured after World War II by a totally different idea – international Marxism.

The new Labor used the same words, but had never had a blister on their hands. They weren’t ‘workers’, or patriots, but international academics. They followed Marx’s belief that the Debt System would finally destroy Capitalism and deliver the Marxists a global slave state.

Karl Marx put it this way in his book *Das Capital* -1867:

“... Owners of capital will stimulate the working class to buy more and more of expensive goods, houses and technology, pushing them to take more and more expensive credits, until their debt becomes unbearable. The unpaid debt will lead to bankruptcy of banks, which will have to be nationalized, and the State will have to take the road which will eventually lead to Communism...”

By 1983 when the Hon. Bob Hawke became Prime Minister with Paul Keating as his Treasurer, the old A.L.P. had been subverted by the programme of gradualism from the Fabians and the Socialist International, who were one arm of the Money Power.

Treasurer Keating, despite earlier promises, allowed 13 foreign banks to hang out their shingles on Australian soil. The magazine *Euromoney* awarded him title of “Treasurer of the Year”.

The Commonwealth Bank, hitherto an icon known as the “Peoples’ Bank”, and founded by the Labor Party before World War I, was sold to the private banking monopoly. Incidentally, it is instructive to consider how modern Treasurers, whether Labor or Liberal, are rewarded by the Banks. Paul Keating is currently chairman of Lazard Carnegie Wylie, a subsidiary of the international bank Lazard Freres; while Peter Costello is an advisor to the International Monetary Fund.

“Deregulation”, so passionately argued by John Howard, Treasurer in the previous Fraser Liberal Government, was allowed full sway by Hawke and Keating. Australia increasingly became “internationalized”. It progressively wrecked its own farming and manufacturing industries, corporatized its resources, allowed foreign ownership of its vast minerals and mining, and lived on foreign debt. It excused this by calling it “free trade”. The largest single shareholder in each of the ‘big four’ allegedly Australian banks was, and is, Chase Nominees from America.

By the time John Howard became Prime Minister in 1996, the rout was almost complete. The biggest international gathering of financiers ever held in Australia met in Sydney within three months of the election, and, under the chairmanship of John Corzene, C.E.O. of Goldman Sachs and now a United States Senator, instructed the new PM on acceptable policies if he wanted his programme ‘bankrolled’. Howard hastened to comply! This distasteful episode was fully reported in the *Australian Financial Review*. (continued next page)

(continued from previous page) Mammon, the international money power, was rampant and supreme throughout the industrial world, with its sights set on the New World Order, or Global Government. From Bob Hawke onwards our governments have been “globalist” – without ever asking the people at elections. Howard himself once said of Globalism that it was ‘inevitable’. There was nothing else. While he continued to deliver the plums of office, his party idolized him. But when reality caught up he couldn’t even retain his own seat in Parliament!

The new Rudd Government, with Treasurer Wayne Swan running the economy is the same horse with a different jockey. The whole game is to bail the banks – the perpetrators - out of their own mess – at the expense of the victims, the people. Australia is destined to sink into disaster unless it regains sovereign control over its own money system. There is no reason why it should not do so.

Australia has been described by the World Bank as **“the richest per capita nation in the world”**. Yet we have one of the largest per capita foreign debts on record. Both Labor and Coalition parties campaigned on this while in Opposition. In fact, when Treasurer Costello was seeking office in 1996 he drove a “debt bus” round Victoria highlighting the Foreign Debt. But during his term in office he conveniently forgot all about it and the Foreign Debt more than tripled!

Neither major party makes any attempt to deal with our Foreign Debt when in office. The same debt conditions, with variations, prevail worldwide. The banks, which own the world’s money, control governments and elected politicians. Ordinary people starve in the midst of plenty, or work with their spouses to pay lifelong mortgages, which are now passed to their children. Australian housing debt levels are actually worse per capita than those in the U.S.A.

But absolute power corrupts absolutely! Wall Street and its global fraternity wallow in self-indulgence, taking their bloated bonuses and profits while communities and families collapse around them. Their luxury limousines and corporate jets pass by the homeless and the jobless on their way to the latest party, the snow-fields or their yachts. No political parties in office dare breath against their will!

And, finally, when the loan packages accumulate into billions and trillions they gamble on such a scale that they are past accurate accounting and the banks themselves no longer trust each other. They demand that governments bail them out and charge their victims - you and I – for the cost of doing so. It is monstrous and must be changed.

But who is speaking out? No politician I am aware of dares say anything. Their parties are mortgaged to

the banks; and the media, which survives by corporate ownership and advertising, toes the line in a manner which flies in the face of free speech.

As for the Church? Once it championed the poor and spoke resolutely against usury and exploitation. It stood for limited government. The only group Our Lord took physical action against were the money merchants who had turned His Father’s House into “a den of thieves”.

It was a Bishop who led the campaign for Magna Carta in Britain against the despotic King John.

Both Catholics and later Protestants opposed monopoly while defending private property. Christians advocated a just relationship between employers and workers and Magna Carta, 800 years ago, banished the money lenders from the country. But by the time the Bank of England was founded in 1694, the Churches gradually became mute, finally joining the queue for loans.

In 1960 the Congregationalist Union of Scotland, after an exhaustive hearing on finance and banking, issued a report which gained some attention. Included in its findings were the following: “We believe that the virtual monopoly of credit enjoyed by the banking system is contrary to all reason and justice....”

After taking evidence from bankers, economists and industrialists, it published a comprehensive report which is still available. It should be mandatory reading in all Churches.

Pope Benedict the Fourteenth wrote a valuable Encyclical on the nature of fair and unfair contracts and the evils of compounding interest. Indeed, the Old Testament contained much on the forgiveness of debt and the idea of a Jubilee; while Our Lord Himself went further in the Lord’s Prayer, urging us to pray: “Forgive Us Our Debts, as we forgive our Debtors.”

In 1931, as the Great Depression reached full intensity, Pope Pius XI issued his Encyclical *Quadragesimo Anno*, in which he stated that those who controlled credit had become so powerful that: “none dare breathe against their will” – preventing a just relationship between employers and labour in the economy, and a just price for goods and services.

On October 15, 1991, Pope John Paul II was reported in the global media in these terms: “The Pope hit out yesterday at the kind of financial austerity plans imposed on debt-ridden nations by foreign lending institutions such as the International Monetary Fund.

“One must state firmly, so that the whole world hears it, that a country’s foreign debt can never be paid at the expense of the hunger and poverty of its people,” he told a meeting of Brazil’s Bishops ...”

Yet our politicians quote these unscrupulous international financiers as though they were infallible! (continued next page)

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In fact, on 2nd April, 2009 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors from the Group of Twenty (G 20) Industrial Nations gathered in London with the Managing Director of the IMF and the President of the World Bank, and Chairmen of the International Monetary and Financial Committees and Development Committees of the IMF and the World Bank to address the global financial crisis. What mandate have Prime Minister Rudd or Treasurer Wayne Swan been given to accept the decisions of such a group?

Both Treasurer Peter Costello and Treasurer Wayne Swan bathe in the waters of the latest IMF statistics as though they were, and are, Holy Writ!

Treasurer Paul Keating was feted as "International Treasurer of the Year" in the early 90s, even while thousands of Australian farmers were evicted off the land with interest rates between 20 and 30 per cent!

Since Pope John Paul's condemnation – almost 20 years ago – both Catholic and Protestant churches

CAMPAIGN TO HAVE COUNCIL VOTER ELIGIBILITY THE SAME AS FEDERAL AND STATE ELECTIONS.

Prior to the last Council elections we saw banners encouraging people to nominate for a position while other banners encouraged people to exercise their vote.

Another banner encouraged people to enrol so they could vote, which proved interesting because everyone who is enrolled on the State and Federal rolls is automatically enrolled for Local Government voting. Therefore every Australian citizen over the age of 18 would be entitled to vote for Federal, State and Local Government.

So who else should be entitled to vote for Mayors and Councillors?

A little known provision in the Local Government Act permits non-Australian citizens to seek enrolment for Council polling, provided they have been a resident within that Council area for at least 30 days.

Without precedent

Voting at Federal and State elections is open only to Australian citizens. Why would it be different for Councils?

It is considered a norm that only the members of the cricket club elect the club officials. It is considered the only people entitled to elect a company Board of Directors are the shareholders (members). If any non-Australian citizens wish to vote at Council elections, they should be encouraged to firstly become a citizen of Australia.

Tasmania is the only other State to permit non-Australian citizens to enrol for Council voting

Without reflecting on any non-Australian, it is essentially a common-sense custom within Australia to permit only 'members' to vote at such elections.

ON TARGET

have kept their silence while crisis has engulfed the world around them. Most pay usury on their church buildings without complaint, or charge interest on their investments. In the battle against Mammon the Churches are comfortably out of view on the sidelines! They watch with averted eyes the breakdown of families in their own congregations.

For as long as I can remember, in this fabulously well-endowed nation we have had an average ten per cent of the population living below the poverty line. It's going to be much higher before long. Within forty kilometres of my home town of Toowoomba in Queensland there are over 70 different church congregations, meeting for services each week. Some provide social assistance to casualties in society. But they never speak out publicly against evil policies which render so many into insolvency.

Toowoomba – a city of churches – has one of the highest crime rates in Queensland. It's more or less the same throughout the Western World. ***

The campaign launched by Ken Grundy from Naracoorte urges people to support an effort to amend the Local Government Act. A prepared letter for sending to MP's is available from him for wider distribution by phoning 0458 624 701.

Tasmanian readers may like to pursue this issue as well, since their State has the same rule as SA. ***

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Viv Forbes contributed his usual valuable article in the OT issue (Feb 8). I would however, offer a comment where he referred to water from the Menindee Lakes being "squandered to the sea" for environmental flows in the Murray Darling Basin affairs.

Maybe the water could have been sourced from another part of the river system but environmental flows are necessary to flush the massive salt load from the river.

The further the water travels its quality gets progressively worse. If there is no outflow, the river actually becomes a dam which means stagnation.

-- K Grundy, Naracoorte, SA

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