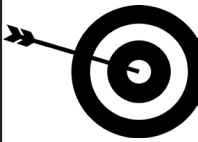


A WEEKLY COMMENTARY



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The Price of Freedom is Eternal Vigilance

Vol. 61 No. 15

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IN THIS ISSUE

A Time To Reflect of What Others Have Already Done By Arnis Luks	01
Will We Net Zero, from our New Power Generation Plans? By Neville Archibald	05
The Circus (Poem) By Neville Archibald	09
"The Magic of the Price System" By William Waite	10

A Time To Reflect of What Others Have Already Done By Arnis Luks

Civilisations are built upon the shoulders of giants. The Law Lords were experienced judges adjudicating in both civil and ecclesiastical courts. The common law was immersed within ecclesiastical law, or the natural law if you like. Today law is simply work-orders issued from Parliament. Parliament does not balance nor temper the law in relation to how things work best - as natural law.

The Breakdown Of All That Is To Be Human

The UK Courts have had to go to great lengths to now determine that woman is a biological female. We have gone mad, we are delusional to think that we can make a woman something other than what she naturally is, simply by passing a law.

Do we really need to vaccinate every living creature to make it fit for human consumption? Since the beginning of time, we never have and yet somehow, today we find this necessary. We have turned away from what is natural to some other.

We have deviated from the natural order that we now produce diseased food. Creatures living in cramped conditions and being force-fed unnatural diets are trying to tell us something. Chooks need to scratch in the soil and eat grass and seeds and insects. Cows and sheep need to graze in the paddocks. This is not rocket science, it is the way things work best being a reflection of the natural law.

This week is Holy week. From the Christian Calendar the first day of this week being Palm Sunday, is set aside to worship Him. The crowd was laying wreaths of palm leaves to herald Jesus the new king as He entered Jerusalem. By Friday of the same week the crowd was calling for His crucifixion.

How fickle the crowd (humanity) was found to be. As individuals we are called to 'be ye separate' so we are not easily swayed as when we are amongst a crowd of our peers. The failings of us all was exemplified with Peter's denial. He could not deal with the pressure from the crowd. However, after the Resurrection, Peter was the first to run towards the risen Christ on the beach. He persevered regardless of previous failure.

After the Resurrection and before His Ascension into heaven, the disciples were meeting in the Upper Room. Confused over the preceding events, He, the risen Christ, appeared amongst them. After His Ascension into heaven, and again with the disciples meeting in the upper room, they received the Holy Spirit. The significance of the preceding events then became apparent, which empowered them to overcome their own physical and intellectual infirmities. The same calling is upon us, with the same fallen-world awaiting redemption and leading into the true light of the world.

Lent is a time of preparation for the celebration of the miracle of Easter. The Resurrection is the hope of our Christian faith that there is more to this life than earthly existence. The Ascension and Pentecost - receiving of the Holy Spirit assists us to overcome our inadequacies. This seasonal-calling to serve, to be like Christ is an inversion of earthly greatness, surrendering our assets to His service, reinforcing our unique calling to follow Him as 'fishers of men.' I surrender all to Christ.

This is a beautiful story that needs to be retold each season, so it never loses its savor - its timeless message – a call to militant Christian Service – to bring about God's Kingdom on Earth as in Heaven. Unless I am mistaken, and I am sure I am not, everything Jesus has done has profound political-and-religious ramifications of which we should, not only take note, but make every effort to bring about in His Kingdom on Earth as in Heaven.

We are privileged to have a choice of what we do with our lives, to follow Him or not. The Disciples made the better choice which cost them their all. Some modern day Christians are still being martyred for their faith. We, in the West are not at this time asked to make this same sacrifice, however, the calling is equally significant from our privileged position - 'from whom much is given much is required'.

Next week is Anzac, where the West was called and many answered that call which cost them their all. This does not detract from our own calling to do the likewise.

As a man I entered the church again and took a course for confirmation. As an older man I have continued with this study, again searching for truth that is to be found. In the process some more rough corners were being knocked off my personality. It has not stopped, nor will it ever, as a greater understanding shows itself across a lifetime.

The Irish Rovers - Lord of the Dance

I danced on the morning when the world began
I danced in the moon and the stars and the Sun
I came out of Heaven and I danced on the Earth
In Bethlehem I had my birth

Dance, dance, wherever you may be
I am the lord of the dance, said he
And I lead you all wherever you may be...
And I lead you all in the dance, said he

I danced for the scribes and the Pharisees
They would not dance and they wouldn't follow me
I danced for the fishermen James and John
They came with me and the dance went on

Dance, dance, wherever you may be
I am the lord of the dance, said he
And I lead you all wherever you may be...
And I lead you all in the dance, said he

I danced on a Sabbath and I cured the lame
The holy people thought it was a shame
They cut me, they stripped me, and they hung me high
And left me there on a cross to die

Dance, dance, wherever you may be
I am the lord of the dance, said he
And I lead you all wherever you may be...
And I lead you all in the dance, said he

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black
It's hard to dance with the Devil on your back
They buried my body, but I'd gone...
I am the dance and I still go on

Dance, dance, wherever you may be
I am the lord of the dance, said he
And I lead you all wherever you may be...
And I lead you all in the dance, said he

Well they cut me down but I leapt up high
I am the light that will never, never die
I live in you and you live in me...
I am the lord of the dance, said he

Dance, dance, wherever you may be
I am the lord of the dance, said he
And I lead you all wherever you may be...
And I lead you all in the dance, said he

Dance, dance, wherever you may be
I am the lord of the dance, said he
And I lead you all wherever you may be...
And I lead you all in the dance, said he...

God is still working with me. I am not perfect, and yet we are called to 'be ye perfect as our Heavenly Father is perfect'. The Christian Calendar has seasons and festivals to ground us, to take an honest look at ourselves, and our own unique calling. I am an unfinished work with many challenges ahead. Those parts of me that were hidden are slowly making their way to the surface so they can be dealt with - God willing I am given a long life to work this through.

Meeting many senior folk, I have come to accept that this is their same greater-calling that continues for their whole lifetime - if they listen. They have stayed the course - 'wherever you may be, dance, dance'. Our redemption is an ongoing work. There is much that can be done and I have this lifetime to do it. This is a very differing message - that the job is already done for you and you can sit back and wait.

The parable of the ten denarius illustrates this finer point, or the virgins with their oil lamps. I read these parables as a caution to those who profess their faith that 'it is an already completed work'. Much to do and only this lifetime to do it. It is a challenge and an opportunity. Happy Easter.

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Will We Net Zero, from our New Power Generation Plans?

By Neville Archibald

With all the hype and political point scoring involved in 'Green' energy and the 'Net Zero' promise, I cannot see how this can actually work. Especially if you consider the price rises and the outlook that is currently being discussed as a part of the circus of re-election, then look at 'on the ground' proposals and how they are panning out.

Each debate or discussion is superficial, an argument over whose promise is bigger, whose policies will cast a longer shadow. For shadows they are, it is only ever the silhouette we see, not the inner workings and the devil is always in the detail! Just how good will these competing policies be for we everyday Australians, and I don't mean those whose investments are being included to make them money! I mean those of us who just need to power our lives, in the very ways we need to live out our everyday expectations. With this in mind, we must look seriously at whether these expectations are being met. At whether these can be met by a 'Net Zero' generation policy. What needs to be discussed is the reality, in the form of an overview, what it will look like long term, not just the spin to buy votes.

With this in mind, how are we faring? Are the generation programs succeeding? Are they viable? Lets discuss Pacific Blue, who recently announced the closure of the first commercial wind farm in Australia. This wind farm is the Codrington wind farm near Port Fairy in SW Victoria. It is set to be decommissioned in 2027 due, in part, to the high cost of replacing it's ageing blades.

The blades of a Wind turbine are at the heart of it's power. These are not only the capture point of the wind power, but also the largest replaceable part – or they should be. Made from fibreglass, they suffer from stress fractures due to flexing, which they do constantly. I have used fibreglass in canoe making, and while it is a great medium to use and has many benefits, it also does have a lifespan. In a canoe the flex eventually causes cracks and fractures to appear, these can cause water to leak in, a reseal of the canoes outside surface can fix this. Sadly, the long blades of a wind turbine are subject to far more stress than a canoe and the shattering or breakage is a lot more devastating than the end of life for a canoe. You will all have seen the videos of turbines self destructing in strong winds and the complete demolition of a tower, generator and all. Before it gets to this stage they need to be replaced. Every build will need to address this as a simple maintenance cost, there is no way around it at this point. The rest of the structure should be capable of a long life if maintained correctly. The biggest problem, as I see it, is their height. We can design cars and other machinery to get a long life out of them, replaceable bearings, wear surfaces and general parts are not such a big deal. Unlike a car; however, where you can take out the motor for a rebuild, these giant constructions are so far up in the sky that working at heights takes on a new meaning.

If we are going to be making structures of this size, then to factor in the longest possible life means we must design the repair and rebuild components needed so that they are as easy to do as possible, this should be essential. Planned obsolescence aside, it is either a functional item or it isn't. The disposal of these replaceable parts also needs to be a factor then into consideration for the long term viability. Is this taken into consideration or do we just accept a shorter lifespan.

In an Article from "Renew, Economy" Sunday March 30th, 2025, they say:

"At this stage, Pacific Blue is not pursuing a repowering option for Codrington, as the site's grid connection would require significant upgrades and today's turbine siting requirements would preclude the installation of latest generation turbines, resulting in a non-financially viable project," the spokesperson said.

Repowering a wind farm has become common in some countries, but it is more than just a cosmetic makeover, with Codrington a case in point: its 1990s design turbines are only rated at 1.3 megawatt (MW) each, with a hub height of 50m and blade tip height of 81m.

Today's modern turbines are rated at between 6 MW and 8MW of capacity, with tip heights above 200m. And they are only likely to get bigger.

The size difference alone means new foundations, new sites as the turbines need to be spaced differently, and upgraded infrastructure to send any extra power into the grid.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/australias-oldest-commercial-wind-farm-to-close-as-cost-of-repowering-is-too-high/>

Not only is the scale now considered too small to be viable, the existing infrastructure has barely made it to its expected lifespan. After much searching and running into answers that suggested the wind farm was profitable, there was always a 'let out' that suggested not all factors were taken into consideration. I could not find a total profit and loss calculation to show that all costs involved in its creation and maintenance were eventually paid for by the electricity it produced. The nearest I could get was when I asked AI the question, "did the net electricity production from the Codrington wind farm actually end up paying for its total cost."

The answer:

"No, the Codrington Wind Farm's net electricity production did not ultimately cover its total costs, leading to its closure in 2027. The cost of replacing the aging turbines with more efficient, modern ones proved to be financially unsustainable."

Why is it that we are continuing to allow inferior builds to be a part of our future? Is it because we don't realise they are inferior, or have we begun to accept the fiction that we are financially limited to options that will only lead to tearing them down to build a replacement that may well be no better. If past civilizations could create structures like the Aqueducts of Roman times (that still hold water) why can't we make a wind turbine that lasts long enough to pay for itself many times over? Are we so hooked on endless production cycles that we must build and rebuild just to keep

the economy ticking over? This is how it seems to me.

Here is the dilemma we face. Each time you look for a real world answer to a basic question, the answers are evasive and paint a picture designed to confuse. We are presented with visions of these installations standing on their own, without subsidies, yet to dig deeper shows a different picture. The reason electricity prices have gone through the roof are not addressed, the longer term viability and cost structure is also not being considered. Then of course we must discuss another very important point, if there is a profit, who gets it? Does it go back to Australian owned companies to be spent in Australia, ultimately to benefit us all?

If you look into the history of this development you will see it started out with a company called Pacific Hydro.

***Pacific Blue** (formerly **Pacific Hydro**) is an electricity generation and retailing company headquartered in Melbourne, Australia. The company was founded in 1992 and was soon floated on the Australian Securities Exchange. It was later bought by a consortium of industry superannuation funds and de-listed. It is now owned by China's State Power Investment Corporation. [2]*

From Pacific Blues own website:

“In 2016, Pacific Hydro was acquired by the State Power Investment Corporation (SPIC) through its subsidiary, State Power Investment Overseas of China (SPIC Overseas).”

If what Wikipedia says is true, then Pacific Blue, a Chinese Government body, now owns much of our basic infrastructure. Read on:

“Power stations owned and operated by Pacific Blue include:

Wind

- Codrington Wind Farm
- Challicum Hills Wind Farm
- Clements Gap Wind Farm
- Crowlands Wind Farm
- Portland Wind Project
- Taralga Wind Farm

Water

- Eildon Pondage Power Station
- Lake Glenmaggie power station
- Ord River Hydro Power Station
- The Drop Hydro
- William Hovell Power Station, a hydro–electric power station in the Hume region of Victoria, Australia [7]”

It is interesting to note that all of the above mentioned are now, according once again to Wikipedia, owned and run by China. Are all profits etc are being sent out of the country?. Once again, this push to make Australia “Net Zero”, with claims continually made that we will be better off, seem to me to be confusing. If it is such a great thing, and so good for us, why is it overseas companies that are benefiting. From a business perspective, there must be a cost benefit, either due to subsidies or one off government involvement, initially to get them started. How does this work, Mr Bowen?

When wind-farms such as these are decommissioned, who buys back the land? Who pays for the land rehabilitation?

The original sale to Chinese interests was in 2014-15, when Tony Abbot led the Liberals in power. So to look for help from the Liberals to relieve us from Minister Bowen's visions and the Labor push to Net Zero, would be a fools errand. Does Net Zero perchance mean, we get nothing from all this clean green power. That we as a country will make zero net profit from these decisions made on our behalf?

In another article discussing wind, solar and pumped hydro, the successful tenders appear to be underwritten by our Government and promised other guarantees.

“Canberra has said it will provide revenue underwriting for successful CIS tenders, with an agreed floor and ceiling.”

<https://news.nab.com.au/news/from-wind-farms-to-solar-power-pacific-blues-blueprint-for-the-future/>

What does that mean? A guaranteed price range for the electricity sold? Underwriting of possible losses? So the taxpayer, via the government, agrees to fund investors if they make a bad decision? If for some reason they cannot make a profit? Who then decides how much the profit should have been?

Just how transparent should these decisions be? Why is it that these important points are not brought into any real discussion of this matter? Is it now China's privilege to earn money from our costly power generation, while they burn our cheap coal in their ever expanding collection of coal fired power stations? Is Minister Bowen happy to send much of this potential income overseas, or does he realise it is a money losing prospect, despite his claims of how good “Net Zero” will be for us? The next question of course will be Yambuk Wind-Farm, finished in 2011, 4 years later. This too will soon be up for re evaluation, what will this decision look like?

All the energy debates and the ‘cost of living’ political discourse, is simply shadow dancing around the real problem. We have lost control of our own financial future. No matter how hard we work, or what available resources we have to work with, it will never be ‘we the people’ who are allowed to benefit from it. Our monetary system, the system that allows us to swap what we have, is not in our control. Our effort, is to be rewarded by what someone else decides is enough, at their whim we can be shut down. Their finger manipulations may look like a cute bunny as a shadow on the wall, but I think they are really just giving us the finger. ***

The Circus By Neville Archibald

*The Circus, yes the Circus, is coming to town
the great big parade that is led by a clown
but wait there are two now, who are leading the charge
one not quite small, and the other not quite large.*

*The first is El Bozo, is that Spanish, that name?
the second Red Buttons, who looks quite the same
they've got tricks up their sleeves, that many desire
giving out candy, doing acts to inspire.*

*They try to be different, each one so unique
but the tricks that they know, no longer do speak
of mystery or magic, we know they're not real
just tricks that are old, so we no longer feel
like falling about laughing, or even a smirk
no the tricks that they have, no longer do work
instead, we turn away from these colours so bright
we seek out diversions. from others that night.*

*Once they competed for our laughter and to score
their tricks were different, in design and more
now so much the same, like they are twins or brothers
and we long for some clowns, not like the others.*

*Perhaps for a ringmaster, with whip in his hand
taming fierce predators, that eat up our land
a shark so adept, to shuffle cards in a clump
so then all of our hands, come up with a trump
but then out come the ponies, they trot as they go
around in a circle, as only they know
adorned in their bright silks with a monkey astride
run in formation, in the big-top's inside.*

*The pigs in their tutus, who are out there as well
dressed up as the policies, both of which smell.
With this circus so rotten, the crowd it is bored
staying home, a luxury, none can afford.*

*They stay to the bitter end, as each of them must
for to choose then a clown, to send us all bust
who then curse at each other, haranguing all night
again and again, about which one is right.*

*When this circus is gone, in another four years
another will start, and we'll all be in tears
once more we will gather, to then wail at the sight
our country fading quiet, into the night.*

"The Magic of the Price System" By William Waite *a shibboleth of the financial con*

Milton Friedman famously used the example of a pencil to illustrate the complex organisation required to produce a seemingly simple product. He concludes:

What brought them together and induced them to cooperate and make this pencil? There was no commissar sending out officers or sending out orders from some central office. It was the magic of the price system. The impersonal operation of prices that brought them together and got them to cooperate to make this pencil so that you could have it for a trifling sum. That is why the operation of the free market is so essential, not only to promote productive efficiency but even more to foster harmony and peace among the people of the world.¹

What is a price system? Wikipedia says, "In economics, a price system is a system through which the valuations of any forms of property (tangible or intangible) are determined."² Because we like to think we are free you get the sense that in our "market economy" where prices are presumably settled by the "laws" of supply and demand it is borderline sacrilegious to suggest the regulation of prices. This is nonsense. Prices are always and everywhere influenced by those with financial and political power. In reality ours is a mixed price system consisting of both regulated and free price mechanisms.

The most obvious example of price regulation is monetary policy. If prices are arrived at by the magic of supply and demand the magician's trick is the power of central banks to increase and contract a nation's money supply. Look at it this way. There is no demand without money, because in order for demand to be made effective you need money. If, therefore, there is an authority that can glut and starve an economy of money at will then, it is fair to say, that power controls demand. That authority is central bank boards and whoever they're listening to. There is nothing controversial about this but the acceptance of monetary policy as conventional financial practice shatters any delusions about the "naturalness" of market pricing.

Briefly, how is monetary policy supposed to work? In this country, if the Reserve Bank finds price increases on the CPI basket of goods outside the acceptable inflation range it will increase rates and drain consumer buying power. The drop in demand is supposed to pressure sellers to reduce prices.

As a mechanism for regulating prices monetary policy is so flawed it is difficult to know where to start. Perhaps the worst aspect of monetary policy is that it doesn't even aim for success. It's concerned more with pacing decay than halting or reversing it. It has no method or intention for actually reducing the absolute cost of living. This from the latest Creditor Watch analysis about the success of monetary policy over the last six years:

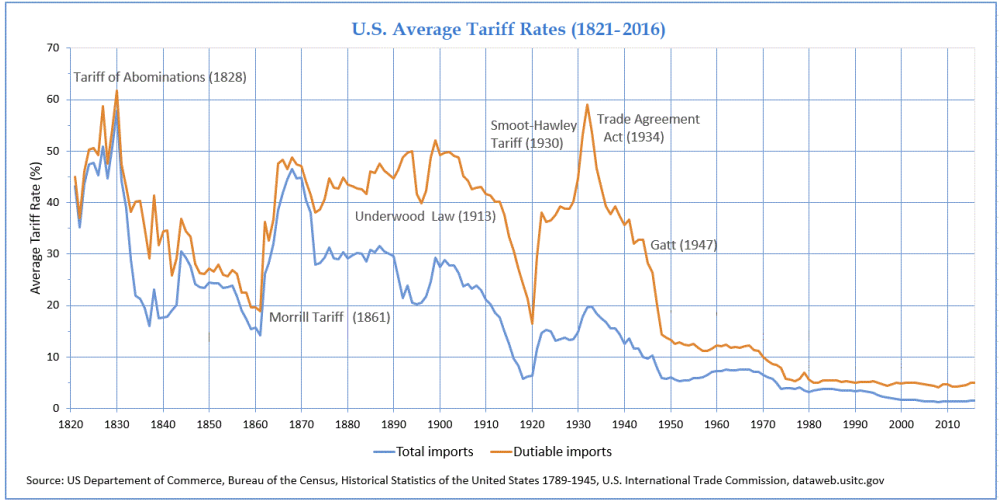
Importantly, if the RBA is successful in returning trimmed mean inflation to 2.5% in the second half of 2026, for the most part, this does not mean prices have fallen or the cost of living or of doing business has declined. Indeed, this measure of

underlying consumer price rises will have risen about 25% in six years.³

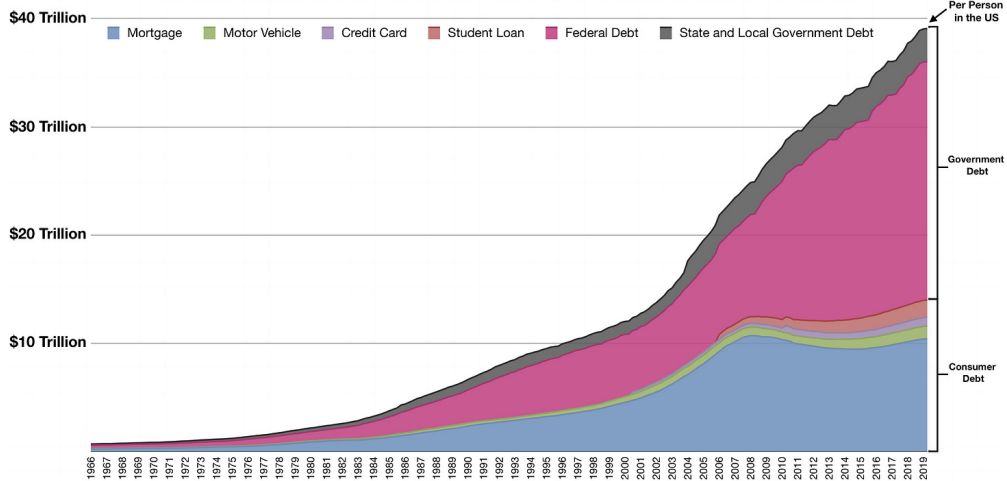
The other thing to consider is the fact that the ABS basket of goods does not include the increased costs to mortgage holders when the RBA raises rates. This means that the inflation rate, as reported by the Consumer Price Index, grossly miscalculates cost of living for the third of the population struggling to pay mortgages. And why don't they include mortgage costs in CPI calculations? "because changes in the cash rate would directly affect inflation if the cost of mortgages was included in the CPI."⁴ In other words, to include mortgage hikes in the CPI measure would invalidate monetary policy as a tool for controlling inflation.

Considering what's happening in the U.S. we should say something about tariffs, another widely used mechanism for price regulation. For decades the price system was the pretense for offshoring American manufacturing. We're familiar with the story. High production costs in the West means Western goods were unable to compete in a globalised economy. The result was the dismantling of American manufacturing, turning it from an industrial powerhouse into a weak, service-centred economy much like our own and, at the same time, greatly improving China's ability to make war.

The following charts show the changes on the financial side that would make Americans the world's most important shoppers. From about the 1970s when tariffs were being dismantled, consumer debt became a serious contributing factor to the American money supply along with U.S. trade deficits and debt to absorb what the U.S. were importing. This has been called America's Global Surplus Recycling Mechanism (GSRM). Its purpose was to stabilise the global economy by making America a sink for the world's unsaleable surplus. Presumably Trump is signalling, by his fiddling with the price system, that America is no longer willing to provide the GSRM role.



Consumer and Government Debt



Source: US Census Bureau Foreign Trade Statistics

Now, with Trump's tariffs, the Government is saying that the affordability gains, which were the selling point for dismantling American industry in the first place, will no longer be available to the American consumer. Instead, by tariff, the government will increase price levels on all (or whatever it ends up being) foreign goods coming into America. In the end the embattled American consumer will enjoy neither cheap or American-made goods.

To be fair we should say that there are some nationalist objectives behind these tariffs. Trump has talked about the re-industrialisation of the U.S., American jobs and, of course, addressing the debt crisis. Even if the present administration were

successful in re-industrialising the U.S., which beyond the tariff's there is no evidence of a plan, solving the interlinked debt and consumption problems remain impossible while the banks maintain their monopoly of the money issue. The problem becomes especially wicked when you consider AI and accelerating automation.

Indeed price regulation is all around us. It is a mainstay of government fiscal policy. *The Australian* this morning has an article about the Dutton government's plan to allow first home buyers to write off interest payments on their mortgages. On the average loan it will save them \$12,000 a year. The detractors are saying it will only increase the size of loans and, consequently, the price of housing. They're probably right. Past performance is the best indicator of future performance.

As the economic system becomes more unworkable we can expect to see more of these piecemeal forays into price regulation. I see the Labour party is up the supermarkets for gouging. There are various paltry tax breaks, energy subsidies, student loan reprieves and whatever. It doesn't take sophisticated argument to show that nothing will bring lasting relief to the cost of living.

There is no magic in the price system. Costs accrue to unfinished products as they move through the supply chain and are finally presented in full to the consumer. It contains as much magic as can be summoned by cost accountants. That is to say none at all. The "magic" of the price system is an artifice of big money to head off interference from outsiders. As it stands today it is nothing more than the power of finance, often through political underlings, to *limit* access to goods and services. Looking around at the obscene wealth of some and the widespread insecurity and poverty of others one must conclude that it has nothing to do with a desirable allocation of resources. Fiddling with the price system is widely tolerated so long as it does not impinge on the twin pillars of financial orthodoxy. These being: 1) the banking system will continue to determine the money supply through its provision of bank credit and control of rates, and 2) final prices are fixed in relation to cost.

There is a method of price management which could make a lasting difference. Credit created free from debt could be applied to down-regulate the prices of essential consumer items. It's a proposal not more complicated than the Medicare rebate scheme with which we're all familiar, the only difference being that the money used to pay the subsidy would not come into existence with a corresponding debt attached, so would not be repayable at interest to the banks. As a point of departure we could put a 15% consumer price discount on domestically produced fresh food and fund it with a credit issue. What have we got to lose? The ACCC has admitted market failure in the grocery sector anyway. It would also moderate the concentration of our banking system and encourage people to eat better. Three birds one throw.

A compensated price tool to supplement demand opens up a range of economic possibilities. We could actually own the wealth we produce without surrendering our future to debt obligations to consume in the present. Such a remedy would begin to

do for Australians what President Lincoln's greenbacks briefly did for the people of the American Republic. It gave them, he said "the greatest blessing they ever had — their own paper to pay off their own debts."

Not only will this not be considered you will not hear of it proposed anywhere outside the limited range of Douglas Social Crediters. An honest, functional financial system would take consumer demand as the starting point and issue money sufficient to produce what is wanted and distribute it. Ideally unstimulated, unmanipulated, financially unhindered demand would be the limiting factor rather than the willingness of the financial system to provide debt. Douglas summarises the DSC case:

The core of the technical accusation made by us against the present financial system is that prices contain items not represented by money anywhere and that these unmonetised items are represented by debt which is increasing and which cannot be liquidated.

Economic insecurity and poverty have important effects psychologically. Market fluctuations, supply-chain disruption, monetary contraction, inflation, bankruptcies and grinding indefinite debt together produce a profound exhaustion. Thousands of insolvencies continue to flow from the financial chicanery engineered for Covid. For example one in eleven hospitality businesses have gone broke in the last 12 months.⁵ Trump's tariffs are set to cause massive disruption in America and around the world. In retaliation the Chinese have halted supply of rare earth minerals and magnets going into the U.S., materials which are vital to U.S. industries and not readily sourced at scale elsewhere. It is inevitable that such disruptions lead to industry slow downs and lay-offs.

Nowhere is there even a hint that the squillions of dollars owed by the people of the world to a vanishingly small minority of unknown financiers might not be perfectly legitimate. It's as though the problem didn't warrant any original thought whatsoever. The asymmetry alone should set alarm bells ringing but the everyone remains completely sanguine, apparently unable to think about it for themselves. I can see why Douglas used the word "hypnosis" to describe it. What other mental state does? ***

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