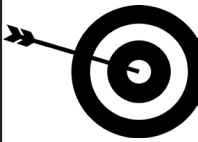


## A WEEKLY COMMENTARY



# ON TARGET

- NEWS HIGHLIGHTS
- BACKGROUND INFORMATION
- COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS



The Price of Freedom is Eternal Vigilance

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### Just Sweat the Small Stuff! By Neville Archibald

Despite the bumper stickers of the 90s proclaiming, '*Don't Sweat the Small Stuff*', this is exactly what we are being asked to do. It was a comment originally alluding to the concept of prioritising what truly matters in life, and all the other things will fall into place. By paying attention to the true fundamentals of life (our direction) the minor disputes arising in our lives will resolve themselves.

To me it goes hand in hand with the concept of telling a lie and then having to go the route of endless ever changing lies to cover each one up. Don't tell one in the first place (or own up to your mistake) and you don't have to remember what it was you last said. Just keep telling the truth and you can't get caught out; not only that, but you don't get sidetracked on a path of endless confusion.

Now we have been through yet another election, where we were asked (more realistically told) to make our choice on the basis of the small stuff. What colour electricity we want, rather than do we want enough and will we own it ourselves.

Debates, supposedly about policy and direction, were on the size of the cuts or promises, or the speed of change. The direction each of these choices take us in is no different. The question, to use a nautical term, was did we want to tack Eastward or Westward on our journey South? Of course we must tack to catch the wind at the angle which propels us forward (backward in this case) labor the port tack (left) and liberal the supposed starboard tack (in my opinion the slightly less left, rather than the right). But we stay on a general course towards totalitarianism. One lot calls for Rule by government alone, and the other by big industry supposedly. Considering the shape of things in the real world, I see very little difference between the two, especially when you begin to see who controls government. The revolving door of Parliament sees many politicians walking

into jobs, cushy jobs, with the big industrial power houses of the elite controlled businesses, those that are effectively now running much of the world. Both purported sides are guilty of this.

The big stuff which should be of concern, the direction our rulers are taking us, is left behind in the endless, pointless, discussion on who gets to net zero first and by what means. Both end up putting energy control into the same private hands, and not, I might add, Australian hands. The once 'essential service', crucial for maintaining a strong, independent nation - free from the dangers of foreign control, has given way to prostitution to the highest bidder. Sometimes those very companies whose ethics or political freedoms are questionable at best. Whose host countries benefit, but their political actions are the opposite of our Australian quest. (see the CCP ownership of Australian wind farms)

The political debates over who will inflict the least pain on the average Australian, showed little difference in many cases, as an initial figure spouted by each, ends up reverting to a similar figure and costing, by the end of the term in office. Leaving us to make the same decision again in three years. Knowing instinctively that it really makes little to no difference in the long run.

Housing will still be a problem, immigration will still be in dispute - but growing. A voice (designed to divide us into two nations) defeated overwhelmingly in a referendum, will still be trickling down into our lives, dividing us more and more as the policies behind the push are still being pursued.

*'But these things aren't really the small stuff, they are huge!'*, you say.

I agree, they are huge problems, but they are the small decisions when compared to making your choice between electing the two major parties heading in this direction, or in electing a few independents or minors who truly put Australians, united, first. I am not picking anybody in particular to replace the duopoly of ineffective choice we are constantly given: promoted by the two party preferred bullshit reporting we get shoved down our throats. A technique designed to specifically push only two versions of that same direction I first commented on. I am asking that this direction be recognised as the wrong direction for this country, and hoping that instead of picking the worst of the two, we might consider anything other than them. Even an untrained monkey who randomly chooses something, has a 50% chance of making a right decision on balance. We couldn't get any worse! But choosing the trained ones each time, as we do, we find ourselves faced with the realisation that the bias they are trained for, only ends up in the worst outcome for us.

There are other 'Small Stuff' problems we face in this world that we are constantly being defused by. Instead of rising anger at lack of justice for the ever increasing corruptions we see, we are given other stories to take the edge off, to decrease the rising indignation we feel. The Epstein story, with accusations of paedophilia, sex trade and blackmail, involving some of the highest people in office around the world,

gets left behind to fade, while other pictures are painted over this whitewash. The death of an early whistle-blower, is ruled suicide, gets but a small space with little questioning being brought to bear by reporters. The very reporters who should be taking advantage of this new prompt to further push for justice. No, they remark on it and leave it be, unwilling to rake the coals and use this new wood to fire up the flames of true justice and accountability.

Other things like the falling birth rates in the developed countries, which should be of utmost concern, becomes a discussion on the lifestyle factor. The problems of rising infertility and of still births and miscarriages are not even mentioned in passing; but, the talking heads who bring this conversation up, have a thinly disguised conversation of baby birth trends and social changes of recent times. They smile and grin idiotically, it seems to me, as they explain it away as easy as the push for supplements and fitness, as a cost of living or a social decision. Never once contemplating what many, in maternal circles, are now actually seeing. That these, once concerning, medical problems are not to be mentioned. It is entirely our decisions they wish to examine, not the implications raised by these concerning figures, which tell another story entirely. Those who do bring it up are accused of false or misleading data, and like those who questioned the wisdom of a nationwide roll-out of an entirely new and experimental inject-able therapy, they are demonised for their wish to further examine what they have legitimately noticed. If there is truly nothing to see, why is it a forbidden discussion?. To me, the big question, the serious question, is regarding any connection it might have to, 'this new wonderful safe and effective medical treatment' as they say. Then of course the myriad other health related issues that are skyrocketing and have similar questions pending.

Do we need to wonder why we haven't been allowed full access to the experimental data from this unprecedented roll-out. The data they made this decision for us on, or why no control group, in the true sense of scientific experimental procedure, has been followed up. This part certainly doesn't seem small; but, the biggest part of this story is yet to come, we have not had anything like an acceptable discussion around it's safety, yet we are preparing to roll out this technology for everyday use! The use of mRNA for everything! Is this not concerning to us?

More small stuff to debate is the reality of climate change, CO2 and 'warming'. Chicken Little is still running around squawking that the sky is falling, panicking many into making choices they are not keen on, but will for the sake of caution. There are many more who are beginning to ask the pertinent questions that should have been asked in the first place: why all previous predictions keep getting revised as they fail to meet their catastrophic conclusions on time? Why, if CO2 is so bad, was the level so high during the time when the so called fossil fuel loads were grown? Why do we supplement the atmosphere in green houses with CO2 to enhance growth? What about the earths actual health in times past, when CO2 was three times higher than it is now? it didn't end then, it flourished. Are we so naive

to believe we know it all and cannot question these dire predictions without being slandered as Nut-jobs?

To top it all off, governments are now giving the green light to the release of 'cloud brightening' aerosols to be trialled in the upper atmosphere. To block the sun's rays and reduce the planet's temperature. It is being done, it has been done, and looks to be done even more into the future. Like gods playing at being Gods, these people care not one whit, for what the actual earth's population might want, they alone are in control, they can not be wrong!

The Climate debate is the small stuff, the actual megalomaniacs playing god over the planet, is the big stuff we should be focused on. What right do they have to subject us all to their guessing game, their gamble, that will not be at their expense? They could hole up and live through it with the wealth they have accumulated, or so I believe they think. We cannot. They don't stop there either, many of them are pushing hard to control how we are to live, what we are to eat and how far we can travel. They are happy playing god over us all, yet we do nothing, not even question our leaders about what path they see us taking?

The world spins on its axis and the likes of Krakatoa explode, causing an ash cloud that circles the earth and cools the planet for the next few years. This cycle has happened time and again over history and the earth rights itself to continue on, sometimes after triggering an ice age or interglacial cool period, where things die off. The sun shines on, solar flares and activity on it's surface change it's output, enough to alter our climate even, but the models rarely take these variations into account. To believe we can manipulate with any certainty the weather cycles planet-wide, is insane. Imagine another volcanic eruption, far bigger than Krakatoa, the one they also keep promising is just around the corner in geological times. They've already dimmed the sun to save us all, hallelujah! Now how do they wash it out after an ash cloud threatens to add to it and send us into a rapid-decent ice age? do they play with making volcanoes erupt or not too? Do they throw more chemicals into the air to stop that! We breathe the air, we use it to grow things, it provides us with rain to water our crops. In the 80s the acid rain from sulphur compounds in the air was of extreme concern to these very people, now it is okay to use these same compounds freely! What changed? The colour of the money? Or have the gods of control just got bigger weapons to use against us now, and are no longer afraid to do so?

It is the big stuff they are clobbering us with, that we should be concerned about. The little stuff that just gets us arguing over what size hammer they use is pointless, I, for one, am sick of being hit. When does it stop.

To my mind it shouldn't even start! \*\*\*

God is a trinity, a relational structure. Every work of the devil is to divide us into warring camps - Trump vs Harris, Ukraine vs Russia, Israel vs Palestine, Sport team A vs Sport team B, Liberal vs Labor, Democrat vs Republican, Husband vs Wife, Young vs Old. Resolution is to be found in upholding this relational structure, of community, of discussion, love if you like.

## **The Problem of Dried Bread! By Neville Archibald**

I want toast, crunchy and hot on the outside, soft and still bread-like inside. When I spread the butter on, it should melt and soak in, so I still get the crunch but also get a warm squishy centre.

My problem is the toasters. I have had toasters over the years, with all sorts of fancy knobs or dials, but all have been the same: in the end they just make dried bread. Insufficiently burnt on the outside but dried out all through. The butter soaks in, but the bread cracks and falls in two, or the crunch is akin to eating wet, powdered, crumbs. Bits fall off as you eat it and land butter side down on the table or floor, not to mention the jam you might try to spread, if the dried bread hasn't broken from the buttering, the jam will definitely do it.

Try as I might I cannot find a mass produced toaster to recreate the sensation of real toast, fire burnt toast. The hot coals glowing so hard they make a golden brown outside rapidly and the centre remains as it should, not to mention that hint of smokiness. Each new machine no longer glows bright inside, instead, a poor feeble gleam, that doesn't seem to be able to get up the courage to radiate the same confidence of the fire that created the perfect coals. Today's machines, make yester-years primitive apparatus seem old fashioned. The first toaster I used needed careful watching and correct timing. It needed me to make the crucial decisions. Now you no longer need to preheat the element, place the virgin bread over it and turn it carefully before it burns too much, watching it all the while to ensure you get that perfect combination! The ultimate toasted goodness! It is all done for you, you place it in, set a dial and push the button. You go about your other breakfast preparations until the dried bread pops out the top, announcing it is done by the action itself, sometimes with a noise that sates your anticipation.

Now this you say, is a perfect example of a 'first world problem'. Who cares really, what you eat in the morning. Often you are so busy, you wander around doing other things while cramming it in, or it sits on a plate in the car beside you, having a bite taken out at every traffic light. You curse the crumbs, or the dripping jam. You no longer load it up, you eat it drier and with less toppings. It suits your busy life and your spotless clothes. Eventually, you may even give this ritual up and just go for the quick fix of caffeine to go. The unsatisfactory remnant of that fire cooked toast now so far removed from your daily round of life that you no longer remember what it was like. No longer strive for the perfection and enjoyment that was the very beginning, the setting up of a perfect morning.

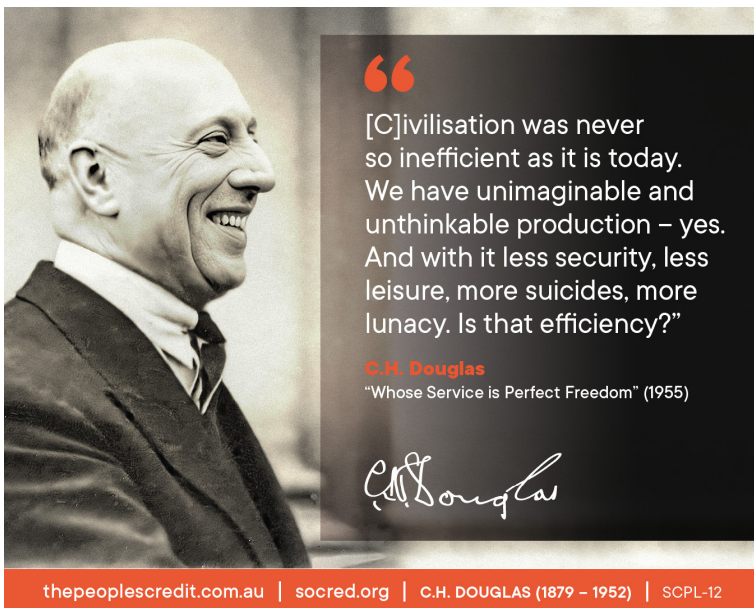
That long forgotten dream is now a wishful, but dim memory of what could be, a lot like the new toaster that promises so much yet never delivers. No matter what settings you adjust, the end result is unsatisfactory and unfulfilling, no matter how much jam or honey is applied it still crumbles and despoils the potential of a beautiful breakfast routine.

We have just had another such routine start in our lives. We placed our offerings in the machine, the glorious machine that makes weeks of promises, of sweetness to come our way. What did we get?

We got what we should, what we deserve, actually. The machine now runs itself, without our input, and we will get what IT decides. We no longer desire cooked perfection enough to take the preparation seriously, we no longer take the time to build the fire or fan the coals, we certainly don't select the wood!. All the preparation that is needed to make that perfect slice of toast (vote), is given over to the company who makes the toaster (the uni-party). They decide how we are to eat it. They give us fancy knobs to twiddle, but the wiring inside still delivers the same thing, dried bread!

The sad part about this parable is that it is true of many things. Our desire for perfection in so many areas has dried up. We are, or seem to be, content in making lacklustre decisions throughout life. Our passion for beauty and form in building, our yearning for the creation of a better world for our children, our very quest to advance in every area of our lives has been taken over by expedience and profit, rather than the pursuit of individual excellence. We are enamoured by the visions, the props we gander at on the mini screens of unreality before us, ubiquitous everywhere!

It is a self feeding problem and the more we neglect it, the more the poor imitation of life becomes normalised. The very things we should be striving for are erased from our memories, becoming only something to marvel over and view as past and glorious histories. Something to pay tourist money to see, but never to rebuild or emulate. The truth, the spark, that sets us aside from mere animals, is slowly going out. Our dimming desire for perfection is turning us from toast, to dried bread! \*\*\*





## The "Maladjustment" By William Waite

In search of inspiration I was flicking through Carol Quigley's *Tragedy and Hope*.<sup>1</sup> He begins his section on 'Changing Economic Patterns' with the following:

*An economic system does not have to be expansive - that is, constantly increasing its production of wealth - and it might well be possible for people to be completely happy in a nonexpansive economic system if they were accustomed to it. In the twentieth century, however, the people of our culture have been living under expansive conditions for generations. Their minds are psychologically adjusted to expansion, and they feel deeply frustrated unless they are better off each year than they were the preceeding year. The economic system has become organized for expansion and if it does not expand it tends to collapse.*

For those of you who have had a go at writing about the gap you will appreciate his next sentence. Even Quigley battles:

*The basic reason for this maladjustment is that investment has become an essential part of the system, and if investment falls off, consumers have insufficient incomes to buy the consumers' goods which are being produced in another part of the system because part of the flow of purchasing power being created by the production of goods was diverted from purchasing the goods it had produced into savings, and all the goods produced could not be sold until those savings came back into the market by being invested.*

What he's saying is that a disruption in the flow of consumer purchasing power due to reduced investment causes a backlog of prices which, if not cleared, leads to collapse. He thinks the disruption is due only to an excess of savings over investment. As it happens this is just one of several reasons for the shortage of consumer buying power identified by Douglas.

How essential investment is to our business system is not well understood. The money supply itself comes into existence in the form of investment. This is obvious by a closer than usual examination of what banks do. Banks don't lend money. They actually buy securities. When you 'borrow' money from a bank what you are actually doing is selling a security in the form of a promise to repay at interest. That promise to repay, or promissory note, is seen as a security purchased by the bank. The money you get comes in the form of a bank deposit which can then be used to buy goods and services in the economy. Because the money supply has to be routed through banks who operate in this way there is no viable option for just funding consumption directly. Avoiding these simple facts is key to a long and prosperous career in economics.

While employment is the conduit for incomes, if new factories and capital works (investment) are not constantly being developed we are unable to pay for the products of factories and capital works already in existence. The problem

compounds. Once the new facilities come online the amount of unsaleable goods is larger again, necessitating the building of even more factories and so on. This is why Douglas objected that “under the present monetary system, in order to have sufficient purchasing power to distribute goods for consumption, it is necessary to make a disproportionate amount of capital goods and goods for export.”<sup>2</sup>

The functioning of the economy is dependent on sufficient ‘investment’ (read debt-money) but building factories etc. is not the only way of increasing credit in cycle. Government spending (education, healthcare, defense, infrastructure, etc) and consumer debt, especially mortgages, make important contributions as well. Servicing these debts, however, inflates prices, increases the financial exposure of the community to banks and, as the liabilities pile up, drags on consumer spending.

There are a litany of negative consequences that flow from this ‘maladjustment’. The business community, forced to compete in a consumer economy short of money, has been allowed open slather on the minds and bodies of the public. The strategy of those who survive is to destroy competition, minimise costs and inflate prices by advertising. The result is an economy spiralling into monopoly, low quality products and deeply anxious people. The turnover machine relies on personal insecurity to dissolve sales resistance.

One of the more peculiar outgrowths of this nexus which needs special mention is the mass surveillance system that has been built up on the right of the advertising industry to have nearly unrestricted access to our data. This influence is now shaping the ‘realities’ of billions of people directly with little understanding on the part of those being worked on. The existence of this ‘control grid’ combined with the anxious, atomised subject presents an irresistible opportunity for totalitarian ambitions.

There is an alternative. Where there is a shortfall of consumer purchasing power it could be made up with steady and measured credit injections directly to the public. This would render the old system obsolete. No longer would new investment be required solely to distribute money for consumption. There would also be a reduction in the need for consumer and government debt. The monopoly of credit would be broken, its power distributed and decentralised.

Easy fix. That doesn’t mean we’re going to even talk about it. The monopoly of credit is nothing if not tenacious and people remain mostly blind to the irrationalities of debt-economics and full employment. Politics is reluctant to lead where the public is unprepared to follow.

Even still I remain optimistic. My advice in the meantime would be to invest in your own self-reliance. We can all go out and, as Douglas told it “construct a utopia of our own.”

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<sup>1</sup> Quigley, C. 1966. *Tragedy and Hope: A History of the World in our Time*. The Macmillan Company, New York.

<sup>2</sup> Douglas, C. H. 1936. *The Approach to Reality*. Available from: <https://thepeoplescredit.com.au/wp-content/uploads/pc-pdf/shortform/Approach-To-Reality.pdf>