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The Price of Freedom is Eternal Vigilance

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: SECTION 18C – REPLY TO LEUNIG

No, freedom is the shield of truth, my friend. Without it, tyranny is round the bend,
 When prophets can be stoned or even worse And only sycophants can publish verse.
 To claim that freedom lovers wish to hate Is stooping to ignoble insult, mate.
 It is unworthy of your genius, I say, And in debate a most ungenerous way.
 Opponents of this law are on the ball If there's to be a fair go for us all.
 In other nations folk are sent to jail To prop opinions that in fact are frail.
 That's not the Aussie way, old man, To stifle talk and most unjustly ban. - *Nigel Jackson, Belgrave, Vic*

THE ANZAC DAY TRADITION - THE DAWN SERVICE

It is often suggested that the Dawn Service observed on Anzac Day has its origins in a military routine still followed by the Australian Army. The half-light of dawn was one of the times favoured for launching an attack. Soldiers in defensive positions were woken in the dark before dawn, so by the time first light crept across the battlefield they were awake, alert, and manning their weapons; this is still known as the "stand-to". As dusk is equally favourable for battle, the stand-to was repeated at sunset. In 1927 a group of returned men returning at dawn from an Anzac Day function held the night before came upon an elderly woman laying flowers at the as yet unfinished Sydney Cenotaph. Joining her in this private remembrance, the men later resolved to institute a dawn service the following year. Some 150 people gathered at the Cenotaph in 1928 for a wreathlaying and two minutes' silence. This is generally regarded as the beginning of organised dawn services. Over the years the ceremonies have developed into their modern forms and have seen an increased association with the dawn landings at Gallipoli of 25 April 1915. ***

LE PEN ON THE FOUR SOVEREIGNTIES by James Reed

French presidential candidate Marine Le Pen has vowed to "destroy the New World Order" when she is elected President of France, warning the European elites that she will "dismantle their corrupt, self-serving institutions with my own two hands if I have to." **See:** <http://yournewswire.com/marine-le-pen-destroy-new-world-order/>.
 "The people have spoken and their message is clear: the New World Order is finished," Marine Le Pen said.
 "The elite are not safe hiding behind their propaganda fuelled media institutions, making unaccountable decisions in Brussels, and silencing citizens who speak out against this insanity. When I am President a tidal wave of revulsion will be coming their way, the likes of which has never been seen before."
 In a recent BBC interview, Marine Le Pen outlined out her vision for reclaiming French sovereignty:
 "When I am elected President, I will go to the European Union and say that I want four sovereignties back.
Legislative sovereignty: our laws are more important than EU directives. **Territorial sovereignty:** we decide who comes and stays in our country, we want borders. Thirdly, **economic and banking sovereignty:** I have the right to promote economic patriotism if I so wish. And of course, **monetary sovereignty.**"
 She believes that the EU is set to breakup just like the former USSR did:
 "Something fundamental is happening: the comeback of nations, of sovereign states, with people, with frontiers. People now want to be in charge of their destinies. For a long time they were prevented from doing so." ***

PETER HITCHENS LET'S RIP INTO NEO-CONNERS AND TRUMPETERS!

by Chris Knight

Ok, I was wrong about Trump and I am angry. People like Peter Hitchens, have argued that puppet Trump has dropped bombs for the terrorists:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-4394216/PETER-HITCHENS-noble-cause-Bombs-Al-Qaeda.html>.

Here is a big beefy chunk of sense from him about why this is so:

“Consider first that early on Friday morning the United States Navy launched 59 cruise missiles on behalf of Al Qaeda. If this is not bad enough for you, note that the President of the United States did not even bother to pretend that he was seeking United Nations cover for what he did.

Note next that in the same week our Prime Minister, Theresa May, made a duty visit to pay homage to the medieval despots of Saudi Arabia, who kindly buy our warplanes and bombs, and are currently using them to savage effect in Yemen.

And President Trump was playing host at the White House to the head of Egypt's military junta, General el-Sisi, whose security forces undoubtedly massacred at least 600 protesters (probably many more) in the streets of Cairo in August 2013.

And then mark that the pretext for this bizarre rocket attack was an unproven claim that President Assad of Syria had used poison gas. Yes, unproven. The brutality of Sisi and the Saudis is beyond doubt. They didn't use gas, but our leaders' outrage at Assad's alleged gas attack looks a little contrived if they keep such company.

Also what happened to the rules of evidence? Many people have written, spoken – and now acted – as if the charge was proven. Why the hurry?

Now, Mr Assad is not a nice person. I have been writing rude things about his bloodstained and wicked regime for years. But he is not insane.

He knows that the use of poison gas is the one thing that will make the USA intervene against him. They have said so. He is currently winning his war against Islamist fanatics, with conventional weapons.

He had even finally got the USA to stop demanding his dismissal. Five days before the alleged attack – five days! – America's UN ambassador, Nikki Haley, announced: ‘Our priority is no longer to sit there and focus on getting Assad out.’”

Now that is a mighty big change in direction in a few days, and it is incredible to think that a gas attack could cause such a 180 degree policy turn around.

Hitchens goes on to say that the place where the gas attack took place is one where Western journalists cannot go without being killed, so they rely on information from, well, terrorists:

“No independent Western journalist could go there. He or she would be killed or kidnapped within hours. Any report which comes from that region is filtered through people who you never see in the film that does get out. I have met men like them on my travels. I would not want to offend them. These are the Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, alias the Al-Nusra Front, alias Al Qaeda, the Syrian ‘opposition’ which we in the West have been supporting for several years.

Yes, that's right, the people we have been helping are not Liberal Democrats or Girl Guides or Quakers. No, they are the same movement which destroyed Manhattan's Twin Towers.

The only big difference between them and Islamic State is that we drop bombs on Islamic State. And we drop bombs on behalf of Al-Nusra/Al Qaeda. I've noted here before how these people have publicly kidnapped, killed and even sunk their teeth into the entrails of dead enemies.”

Don't expect objective news reporting from these entrap corpse-biters!

Hitchens also says that a “British doctor” who has been featured in news outlets treating gas victims, Shajul Islam, was struck off the British medical register for misconduct in March 2016. He was charged in 2012 with terror offences in Britain, but not convicted as the trial was aborted because a key witness was abducted. Hitchens concludes on the same sort of civilizational-pessimism that many of us have:

“The once-wealthy and powerful West is falling to bits. It is bankrupt and increasingly at the mercy of people who have begun to demand something in return for their trade and their loans. It is all very sordid, and bodes ill for the future, but I would mind it less if we admitted what we were doing, rather than pretending these wretched events were some sort of noble act.”

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FINANCIAL COLLAPSE WATCH by James Reed and Arnis Luks

Ref: <http://www.collapse.news/2017-03-31-the-next-financial-crisis-could-be-centered-around-pensions.html>.

Apart from the concern about nuclear-armed NATO submarines being on war alert, ready for war which the elites hope to provoke with Russia, there is the major concern about a looming fiscal crisis.

In the US, due to a multiplicity of compounding factors, such as **industry job losses, a reduction in the tax base**, and changing demographics, nearly one million Americans face the possible collapse of their pension plans. For example, the US state of Illinois had for its government-run pensions a \$ 111 billion deficit in 2015, which is rapidly growing. It was reported in June 2016, that the Teamster's Central States pension Fund is in financial trouble and may fail this year, wiping away the pensions of thousands of Americans.

With America \$20 trillion in debt, and Trump wanting to reduce American debt, it is unlikely that the US government will bail out the pension funds. Sadly, many aged Americans will have to get to like the taste of tin dog food. It will be their reward for a lifetime of sacrifice and hard

slog: <http://www.smh.com.au/news/national/pet-food-diet-a-shaggy-dog-story/2008/09/08/1220857456741.html>.

The Australian State Super Funds are no different

The WE Australian October 11, 2016 reported: <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/state-politics/state-employees-super-liabilities-blow-out-to-125-billion/news-story/5aac00e72c81ab41ad5753b49348f0ac>

State employees' super liabilities blow out to \$ 125B
The superannuation liabilities of state governments have blown out almost 20 per cent over the past year to more than \$125 billion.

The NSW government last week announced that it had no budget debt but had made no progress in eliminating superannuation liabilities to its public servants in the 11 years since pledging to eliminate them by 2030.

WHAT! I'M NOT ON THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL PEOPLE LIST? Uncle Len, the Powerless, Meditates

Imagine my surprise when conducting the in-depth research that extreme right wingers know, love and expect from yours truly Uncle Len, I came across this article about the world's most powerful people: <http://www3.forbes.com/business/the-worlds-most-powerful-people-2016/21/>.

Predictably the list was of leading US, Russian, European political leaders, with a few bankers thrown in for good measure.

Public sector funds are selling assets to pay retirees.

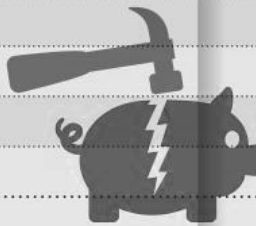
The NSW Auditor-General has reported the shortfall between the state's public sector superannuation liabilities and the assets funding them blew out by \$11bn last financial year to \$71.2bn...

In the same period, Victoria's liabilities grew \$5bn, Queensland \$3bn and South Australia \$2bn.

Queensland maintains a fully funded superannuation scheme and the Palaszczuk government recently transferred out \$4bn to prop up the state budget, arguing the scheme was over-funded...

STATE SUPER LIABILITIES

At June 30	\$bn
NSW*	71.2
VIC#	27.9
SA#	12.4
WA#	8
TAS	6.9
QLD#	0.13 [^]
TOTAL	126.4



* Total state sector # Total non financial public sector ^ surplus

Unlike the federal government, which has the Future Fund* to support its liability, the states apart from Queensland have only set aside fractions of their obligations and fund the remainder as they fall due.

There is never a concern that the industrial/economic system can provide all the food, clothing and shelter required. Believing that we cannot have a balanced financial-economic system, (up to our availability of raw-material and technological limits) as Douglas proposed, is a form of collective hypnosis that needs to be de-hypnotised - ed. ***

* The Future Fund was established in 2006 to accumulate financial assets to offset the Australian Government's unfunded superannuation liability from 2020.

We all know the names, **but the ones who really rule were not there.** You know, those who regularly meet around a pentagram shaped table with Satan Prince of Darkness, to get their orders.

I am glad that I live in a world where I am not on any such list. Poor in body, but mighty free in spirit. Remember the old rhyme: two men (*in gaol-ed*) looked out through the same bars; one sees the mud, the other the stars. (*Frederick Langridge, 1896*) ***

A DIESEL IN THE SHED by Viv Forbes

You can have your solar panels
and your turbines on the hills;
You can use the warmth of sunshine
to reduce your heating bills.
You can dream you're self-sufficient
as you weed your vegie bed;
As long as you make sure to keep
A diesel in the shed.

When I was a kid on a dairy farm in Queensland, we relied on green energy - horses and human muscles provided motive power; fire-wood and beeswax candles supplied heat and light; windmills pumped water and the sun provided solar energy for growing crops, vegies and pastures. The only "non-green" energy used was a bit of kerosene for the kitchen lamp, and petrol for a small Ford utility. Our life changed dramatically when we put a diesel in the dairy shed. This single-cylinder engine drove the milking machines, the cream separator and an electricity generator, which charged 16 lead-acid 2 volt batteries sitting on the veranda. This 32 volt DC system powered a modern marvel – bright light, at any time, in every room, at the touch of a switch.

There were no electric self-starters for diesels in those days – just a heavy crank handle. But all that effort, noise and fumes were superseded when every house and dairy got connected to clean silent "coal power by wire". Suddenly the trusty "Southern Cross" diesel engines disappeared from Australian sheds and dairies.

In just one life-time, candles and kerosene were replaced by diesel, which was then replaced by clean silent ever-ready electricity. Today, after Aussies have enjoyed decades of abundant reliable cheap electricity from coal, green energy gambling has taken Australia back to the era which kept a diesel in the shed.

Tasmania is the greenest state in Australia. It once had a vibrant economy that created mines, saw-mills, farms, orchards, oil and metal refineries, dams, hydro-power and railways. It is now a green no-go land. Greens have stopped new hydro developments, opposed mining, crippled the timber industry, prevented new wood-chip developments and will probably celebrate when their last refinery closes. Tasmanians get their electricity mainly from hydro assets created long ago by their more productive ancestors. But recently a long drought caused a shortage of Tasmanian hydro-energy - they became reliant for up to 40% of their electricity needs on the Bass-link undersea cable bringing electricity from reliable coal-fired stations in Victoria and NSW. However the overloaded Bass Link cable failed, and an old gas-powered station was brought back into service (importing gas from Victoria) to keep the lights on. Subsequently their politicians hurriedly put 150 diesel generators in their shed (costing A\$11 million per month).

South Australia is the next greenest state in Australia, hosting about 35% of Australia's wind turbines. These were force-fed into existence by mandatory green energy targets and tax benefits. In a burst of green destruction they also closed their gas-fired power stations and demolished their coal-fired station. However wind power failed recently and a storm tore down their life-line bringing reliable coal power from Victoria. Now Premier Weatherill is planning to install up to 200 megawatts of diesel generators in his shed. Many residents are following his lead..

The UK has been badly infected by the green energy virus. Engineers warned that this intermittent and unpredictable supply had increased the risk of blackouts, so the UK government offered subsidies for emergency backup power. This subsidy, plus consumer concerns, put so many diesels in British sheds that they now provide a major backup capacity for UK electricity.

Many Spaniards found a diesel in the shed was very profitable. Their government had been drinking green-ale and offered attractive subsidies for solar power produced. The subsidy was very successful - so successful that someone eventually noticed that some suppliers were even producing "solar" power at night. It was coming from diesels in their sheds.

Finally, our green media likes to feature some green energy enthusiast who is "off the grid". But it usually emerges later in the show that there is a diesel in their shed too. Those who remember the days of relying on a noisy smelly diesel in the shed have no wish to be dragged back there by green zealots. ***

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