A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

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The Price of Freedom is Eternal Vigilance

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Community Must Look After Itself! By Neville Archibald

If there is one true thing I have learnt over the years, it is that a successful community is always one that comes together in crisis. Whether it be flood, fire or other important community need; the ability to help each other brings it's own rewards. The idea that a crisis is the only time this occurs, is probably not really correct. We merely see it then more clearly, and the media is quick to pump it up – it makes good news. We see the importance we place on this sense of community when some of those true pillars of community depart this life. The coming together at that time can amount to hundreds of people. I am not talking celebrity at this point; but a greater impact felt due to the passing of one who always stepped up to help, without question. One who just did what was needed and never expected a return. It is they who hold together the foundations of local life and encourage others, not by mere words or slogans, but just by being!

We must all strive to imitate them to the best of our abilities. Each will have expertise in various fields and each will have time that can be made available – we just need to act. In the coming year, we may well be confronted with a need to come together to overcome the threats we may face. One leading economist has warned of financial difficulties and others are beginning to agree. The war in Iran and it's flow on effects are probably greater than many realise. It is not just that fuel supply will restrict us from travel, or restrict product delivery; it is also that our future food supply is under a cloud of both indecision and inability.

A key component of agriculture these days is urea. A fertiliser that many crops now rely on is also made from oil reserves and comes chiefly from overseas. If this is not added at the same time as the seed is sown (for broad-

acre crops) or used to boost growth during development (irrigated or greenhouse production) then yields will be insufficient to make enough money to 'break even'. Farmers and business's will not plant if this is the result expected.

To top it off, diesel costs being as high as they are and uncertain to boot, likewise stops the sane from planting. Even if it may look possible now, many are looking at the harvest time questions of the cost then, and whether even delays in procurement could mean harvest is ruined while waiting. In any farming enterprise, seasons are the factor that most effect production. Sown too late or not being able to harvest at the right time have huge implications on success.

These questions of food production may not be clear to many at this point, as the full impact is a season or two away. Our reliance on imported food is also one of those difficult situations to assess. Most of our supermarkets now stock a greater proportion of imported foodstuffs than ever before, the suppliers are reliant on both shipping and a similar farming situation in their own countries. When we begin to feel the pinch of shortages here, they will too. Any extra for export there, will dry up fairly quickly, as each country wishes to feed it's own first – and rightly so.

While I do not wish to create a negative outlook or an unfounded fear of what might be coming, it would be remiss of me not to point out what I see as possible. In the same way that energy supply costs have skyrocketed, so too could food prices during a shortage. With ever increasing numbers of people now reliant on food banks and help to feed their families (Foodbank and OzHarvest show about 36% are seeking some form of food relief) our proximity to a serious situation for many is closer than we may think.

It is said that man is only ever three meals away from anarchy, remove a meal or two and you may have unrest, any longer and you will see worse.

It is with this in mind that I speak of communities becoming closer. Knowing your neighbours and your locality, and being involved, strengthens our ability to cope. Now is the time to be considering our options. If our government continues to sit on it's hands in these matters, and allows foreign corporations to run our infrastructure and food production, we must ask if we can rely on them if this situation worsens.

To be self sufficient, alone, in your neighbourhood is not enough. It takes association with others to truly make a difference. Not only that, but by getting together, the talking and activity will bring up questions about the direction of this country and where it should be going. This has been the part most lacking in recent years as we have allowed ourselves to be pulled along, with the globalists leading the way. They are intent on making us dependant, their catch cry of an inter-dependent world is really just a desire to create a situation where every

country can be subject to restriction by the various scarcities they can link to their idea of controlled production. The shortcut to avoiding this, is to make sure you can produce everything you really need locally – the basics of life first, then other things will follow.

Community gardens and a resurgence of real farmers-market style events will bring their own rewards. Not only in social connection, but healthier living, exercise and the most important of all – empowerment. A strong community builds both resilience and direction. To get back in control of our future, we need the push this will give us. If the food shortage does not occur, we will still have benefited, if it does occur, then we will be better prepared to weather the storm.

Inflation, the silent thief.

Before COVID, the price of milk was $1 a litre, now it is approaching $1.85. This in just 6 short years. Bread has had similar rises, in 2018 a standard supermarket white loaf could be purchased for around the $1.30 mark, fast forward to now it is between $2.50 and $2.80 (almost double guaranteed). Similar grocery prices for other items have risen as well. A can of popular dog food could be found commonly at $3/kg, that same can now is over $4.50 – not the biggest price increase, but still higher than my wage increases over the same time.

This insidious creep of inflation impacts us all, the need to eat cannot be denied, and while we can shop the 'specials' or the no-name brands, you can only go so far. The other cost of living issues, things like Insurance, rates, vehicle registration, etc have also risen significantly. If you have saved money from a previous time, that money now buys only half of what it used to in many cases. The work you did then, has been devalued in real terms.

Our politicians mention it in passing, as a figure in low percentages, the 4.8% that inflation is currently running at, does not sound bad, after all it could be higher! What is not often mentioned, is that it is like compounding interest, and like compounding interest on a loan, it will break you in a very short time if you do not pay it off. Sadly this is something we cannot 'pay off' as individuals, it is entirely an economic policy to be dealt with by government. With the Lab/Lib uni-party, one 'side' battles the seesaw of employment while the other focuses on inflation (usually). They see it as a seesaw because that is the teaching and that is the response they get when asking their economist advisers.

> *'Economic policy in the western world is often presented as a choice between only two alternatives - a knife edge between the Scylla of inflation on one hand, and the Charybdis of unemployment on the other. A. W. Phillips, a British economist, developed the theory in the late l 950's, that the two alternatives*

were constants in the choice of economic policies. The 'Phillips curve' presented economists and policy makers with a neat picture of various rates of unemployment, each associated with a level of inflation. The curve, sloping downward to the right, indicated that the lower the unemployment rate, the higher the inflation would be.'[1]

This seesawing has continued on to this day, despite the many methods used to supposedly control it, they do not work. Combating Inflation is possible and it does not come at the expense of unemployment, let me first make that clear. (This of course also does not take into consideration that 'unemployment' is the end goal of labour saving is it not? That whole question of 'unemployment' being bad, is only because it is associated with un-em-payment, or lack of wages distributed because of production efficiencies.) It has been done successfully before.

Both a program for full employment and it's alter-ego inflation (forcing people to find other employment or means of income to boost money available to spend on increasingly higher priced goods) have the same out-comes. Keeping people from the leisure that would otherwise be theirs to use. The old saying, 'idle hands are the devils tools', only plays into the globalist or socialist hands. It would be more appropriate to my mind, if it was referring to 'idle hands allowing time to see reality'. With time to reflect, we may well start asking our politicians and their instructors why so many things they touch turn to night soil. We might then have time to think, and to discuss the obvious disconnects between what is promised and what is achieved. While we are so busy on the treadmill, running to keep up, our time for considered thought is far, far less! Any time we do get is used to pursue rest/recreation (which we do need to continue to function).

This formula being used to keep us busy, I have no doubt, is intentional. It has been discussed before, it has been seen as a false assumption before; but has been quietly removed from discussion and teaching in economic circles – it works as it should – it controls us.

'Writing in 1974, well known world economist Professor F. A. Hayek said bluntly: "The responsibility for current world-wide inflation, I am sorry to say, rests wholly and squarely with the economists, or at least with that great majority of my fellow economists who have embraced the teaching of Lord Keynes.What we are experiencing is simply economic consequences of Lord Keynes. "It was on the advice and even urging of his pupils that governments everywhere have financed increasing parts of their expenditure by creating money on a scale which every reputable economist before Keynes would have predicted would cause precisely the sort of inflation we have got. They did this in the erroneous belief that this was both a necessary and lasting effective method

of securing full employment."' (1)

Jeremy Lee: *Censored Economics* (1)
https://mail.alor.org/Storage/Library/PDF/Lee_J-Censored_Economics.pdf

'Inflation in Australia has produced a welter of confused argument about possible remedies, generally resulting in a vague suggestion that we must "tighten our belts"; "produce and export more"; and accept "heavy financial restrictions" to solve the problem. The latter generally embraces increased taxation, restrictions on bank lending, higher interest rates and a multitude of controls.' (2)

So starts the book *Consumer Price Discounts* by Jeremy Lee. Sub-titled: The Answer to Inflation. (2)
https://alor.org/Storage/Library/PDF/Lee_J-Consumer_Price_Discounts.pdf

Here Jeremy sets out a plan that works to keep inflation under control. As the original Liberal/National party policy said:

'*the Liberal-Country Party Opposition launched a simple and direct policy campaign for the 1949 Federal elections. They promised to reduce the burden of government. They promised to reduce taxation. And they promised to put the shillings back into the pound.*'

One of the key features of government is the management of weights and measures; price or monetary value is no different!

'*Price is an essential feature of money. The expansion of the nation's money supply - the bulk of it in the form of financial credit (cheque money) - without reference to prices is highly irresponsible and immoral. It robs those on fixed incomes and those who have saved or invested. A government which openly says that it is following a policy of "controlled inflation" is admitting that it is pursuing a policy which robs people of their savings.*' (2)

During the latter years of the war, a program to halt inflation was instituted:

'*Government policy provided that in future, necessary relief from increased costs could be met either by price adjustment or payment of price stabilisation subsidy*"

'The concept of a comprehensive price-subsidisation programme is neither new nor revolutionary. It was introduced during the second World War in the United Kingdom, Canada, New Zealand, Australia and. Later, the U.S.A. A new type of financial policv was made necessary by the war situation which smashed the widespread myth that the depression conditions in the 'thirties were "the result of an inevitable shortage of funds.' 2

'*Explaining the need for the subsidisation programme, the Minister for Customs, Senator Keane, was reported in The Sydney Morning Herald, April 14th, 1943 as saying:*

"We must not look upon subsidies under the new plan as payments to which an industry is not entitled. They are not payments because the industry is inefficient in comparison with other industries, and they do not resemble doles. They are payments because the Government considers it more economical to meet increased costs through subsidies rather than through rising prices".'

'*A study of the Hansards reporting the debates in the Federal Parliament on the introduction of price subsidies reveals that there was no dissent from the Leader of the Opposition, the then Mr. R. G. Menzies, or his colleagues Mr. John McEwen and the late "Artie" Fadden, and the Bill was not opposed.*' (2)

Australia then managed to stop inflation for a period of several years. The methods used were legitimate and caused no insurmountable issues. Being done under an emergency powers footing, the banking industry had to toe the line. After the war, these emergency powers lapsed and a bill was presented to make them permanent. This would have seen inflation stopped from that time on. Despite this being Liberal/Country party policy for some time, pressure by the banking and industrial corporations swayed the vote and stopped it. By April 5th 1950, the Prime minister capitulated and a retreat from their 1949 election promises occurred.

A similar proposal was later promoted as the Peterson Plan. The Queensland Premier, Mr Bjelke-Petersen, took it to Canberra in 1974. This was at a time when a rural crisis was in full swing. No genuine argument was put forward to rebut it, it seems to me that the uni-party was active even then, it closed ranks and as I said before, even though the Country Party of the time had it as previous policy, the influence of a 'New Look National Party' (in transition from the original Country Party) and a smear campaign against our promotion of it at the time (the League of Rights that is) saw a demonisation and allegations of 'far Right' influence. Essentially the equivalent of what we are seeing today, as people come to their senses and realise that the Uni-party is not working for the Australian people. The moment intelligent discussion and a questioning of existing policies begins, the 'opposition' finds some reason to besmirch those asking for change. The world turns and all things old are repeated again. Smears and accusations are made and will continue to made, while we fight to regain control of our parliamentary system. We should not be surprised at this, decades of observation has allowed this little black duck, to see that far from helping us improve our lot in life, more and more restriction; more and more taxation; and

more and more inflation, has robbed us all of our rightful inheritance. Each improvement in production, each 'labour saving device' implemented has not allowed us to access either the excess product or the saved time for leisure. We must start to ask ourselves : Why Not?

We must also ask ourselves: Why do the politicians who supposedly have our best interests at heart, refuse to ask these questions themselves?

Jeremy's final paragraph in, *Consumer Price Discounts:* The Answer to Inflation, is a fitting ending to this commentary:

> *'There is nothing accidental about inflation It is a deliberate policy being used against the free society It has been defeated before, under circumstances more adverse than those of the present. It can be defeated again, if the means to do so is placed in enough responsible hands before the final chance has gone.'* ***

From the Archives: On Target Vol. 40 No. 09. (12th Mar 2004)
https://alor.org/Storage/OnTarget/Volume40/Vol40No9.htm

Costello - The Modern King Canute By Jeremy Lee

The latest statement from Treasurer Peter Costello, with the endorsement of Prime Minister Howard, on policies to tackle an aging population are bizarre. Costello has told us that because the average age of Australians is rising, the future will reveal fewer tax-payers supporting more welfare recipients. As this will become increasingly difficult, people will have to work longer, and retirement from work will become a thing of the past.

He went on to urge Australian retirees to return to the workforce, at least part-time, and added that employers would have to be 'educated' to provide jobs for older people. All this is the irrational conclusion of a tax-obsessed ideologue. It flies in the face of natural law, true justice and the peace, good order and happiness of Australians.

As mentioned before, the State of the World Forum, held in San Francisco in 1995, dealt almost exclusively with the question of work and production. It was far more realistic than Howard and Costello in acknowledging that modern technology was replacing human workers at an astounding rate. The Forum concluded that within a short time the global economy would require no more than 20 per cent of the workforce to produce and distribute enough for everybody. This is already evident in Australia. Our primary industries and manufacturing take well under 20 per cent of the workforce. Allowing another 10 to 15 percent for transport and distribution, Australia could cope with an unemployment rate of 60 per cent without any reduction in current production.

The whole game in western industrial economies now is to give the illusion of full employment. This blind policy is aided by the fact that under the present

system everybody needs a job to live. Taxes are at the highest rate in human history to cater for the casualties caused by this way of doing things. But they're never enough to meet the dislocation being caused in the process.

Costello tells us that unemployment is at about six per cent. Nobody believes this is the true figure. Polls run in Queensland show over 80 per cent do not believe the official unemployment statistics. Unemployment is closer to 20 per cent. Many so-called jobs are part time. We have over two million people on disability pensions. This is, in most cases, a disguised form of unemployment.

Rather than honestly face this breakdown in the social order, Costello simply looks into the future and compares the number of tax payers with the number of tax receivers. The balance is swinging away from tax payers. What to do? Force more people back into a glutted workforce so that the figures will look better! No matter that the real position will become worse. All this before Costello has solved the problem of youth unemployment, which is catastrophic in some areas. Perhaps he intends to deal with this by extending 'work-for-the-dole'. In fact, why not put former retirees and pensioners into the same programme. Don't call work-for-the-dole what it really is - slave-for-the-government!

Persisted with, this Costello madness has the potential to escalate the crisis in Australian society to breakdown. We need a different approach and a new vision. Why not classify all Australians as "share-holders", entitled to a dividend depending on the nation's performance each year? The first thing would be for Peter Costello to produce a properly-audited balance sheet for the nation - Australia Inc. This should be sent to every adult Australian, just as Telstra has to make its balance sheet available to share-holders.

Any true growth in Australia would result in a dividend to be paid to all share-holders - even if they're old age pensioners!

In modern economies, where we don't need everyone working as a result of the continual improvement in automated productive capacity, sooner or later the policy of "full employment" will have to be abandoned, in favour of a share-holders' society. It will take a lot for politicians to accept this. Only a constructive awakening among ordinary people will finally force the change.

Meanwhile, all you old geriatrics, retired gardeners, volunteers and wheel-chair operators, get down to CentreLink immediately and demand the job that Costello and Howard say you must have! They'll welcome you with open arms! They have so many vacancies that need filling. ***

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