

CEC's Fighting Platform Elaborated

• Point number one calls for:

The establishment of a New Bretton Woods international monetary system. The present free trade system of "globalisation" is destroying the nation's agriculture and industry. The Citizens Electoral Council will work for a "New Bretton Woods" system: A return to the best features of the original Bretton Woods system including tariff protection, fixed exchange rates and government support, through banking and otherwise, for agriculture and industry.

This is the single most important objective of the CEC, in that it addresses the greatest crisis facing our country today, which is the looming disintegration of the global financial system.

The original Bretton Woods system came into being at a conference of 44 nations beginning on July 1, 1944, in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, convened on the initiative of U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt. On July 22, the group agreed to create an International Monetary Fund (IMF) and a Bank for Reconstruction and Development, later known as the World Bank. The main purpose of these institutions was to deal with the economic problems of the European countries that had been devastated by war. They began to function in early 1945, as World War II was nearing its end.

The core of the new system was the arrangement for fixed currency parities, which would make it possible to revive world trade. The value of the dollar was pegged to a specific weight of gold, and, until the end of the 1960s, it functioned as the accepted substitute for gold. Exchange rates of other currencies were to be changed in relation to the dollar or gold, only as a measure of last resort, after national policy measures had been exhausted. Long-term investment and trade could thus be undertaken on a stable currency background, and risk of dramatic currency losses and speculation was nonexistent at that time.

From the beginning, however, there were clashes between the "free-trade" colonial policies of the British delegation, and the concepts of President Roosevelt, who had told Britain's Sir Winston Churchill as early as 1941 that the United States was not going to fight the war in order to restore Britain's colonies. After Roosevelt's death, unfortunately, his understanding of post-war economic policy was abandoned by successive Presidents (with the exception of John F. Kennedy), and the IMF and World Bank increasingly came to play the role of instruments of neo-colonial looting, on behalf of the British-based financier oligarchy. When President Nixon finally took the dollar off its gold backing in 1971, the Bretton Woods system became defunct.

In calling for a New Bretton Woods, Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. has specified five steps that must be taken today:

1. Governments must not attempt to bail out the speculators. Let the derivatives market and other paper values collapse as they may: it's only paper! The only necessary action of government on this account, is to protect people, productive enterprise, and useful trade in hard commodities and science-related services.

2. The credit and issued public Treasury debt of national governments must be protected at all costs; otherwise, the necessary measures of economic recovery and growth would not be possible.

3. There must be no mass evictions, or breaks in continuity of operations of essential production and distribution of goods and essential services. During the 1929-31 Depression, terrible blunders were imposed upon the Hoover administration by Andrew Mellon et al. This must not be repeated today, in any country.

4. The United States must act in concert with other governments, to put the existing financial and monetary system into bankruptcy, and to put a new world monetary system into place.

5. A global recovery program must be adopted to foster immediate recovery in world hard-commodity trade, and to provide an urgently wanted general stimulant for the private economies of the participating nations. The core of such a recovery program is the Eurasian Land-Bridge, creating corridors of high-technology infrastructural and industrial development, with "spiral arms" extending to Africa and the Americas.

• Point number two calls for:

The establishment of a National Bank and State Banks to provide loans at 2% or less to agriculture (family farms), industry and for infrastructure development.

This policy is the cornerstone of what was once known as the American System of Political Economy, as opposed to the British System of free trade and privately-controlled central banks, and was designed by George Washington's Secretary to the Treasury, Alexander Hamilton. A National Bank was part of "old Labor's" program from almost the very beginning, as evidenced in their 1894 and 1899 Fighting Platforms. In 1911, Labor's King O'Malley who said of himself, "I am the Alexander Hamilton of Australia," succeeded in getting the Commonwealth Bank established, over the objections of the leadership of the Party, which had a private deal with the Melbourne bankers. O'Malley's idea, which was not fully implemented, was for a nationally-owned bank to direct credit for the development of the nation, and so break up the private banking cartel. Such a National Bank issues credit, backed by the nation, for development projects, and productive industry at around 2% interest. The credit enables economic development, which increases employment and hence also the tax base. As the loans are repaid, based on the expanded economic development, even more credit can be lent out, and the process expanded indefinitely.

The Citizens Electoral Council in 1994 drafted legislation for a National Bank, which legislation is ready to implement immediately. It is contained, together with four accompanying pieces of draft legislation, in the CEC's 1994 policy document entitled, *Sovereign Australia: An Economic Development Program to Save our Nation*.

Old Labor always defined its primary enemy as the "Money Power", which works through "central banking" as opposed to national banking. So-called central banking really means private bankers exercising control over the nation's finance, and has been in existence in its modern form since 1694, when the Bank of England was first chartered. Witness how Alan Greenspan and the U.S. Federal Reserve, which was established under private banker control in 1913, has spent the past five years organising bail-out after bail-out of the financial system, in order to keep the bankrupt private banking system afloat. Our own Commonwealth Bank functioned brilliantly under Sir Denison Miller, whom O'Malley recruited to run it, but, after Miller's death in 1923, was corrupted in the later 1920s, when the government of Stanley Melbourne Bruce transformed it to be part of a British scheme of an international network of central banks controlled by the Bank of England. As for the Reserve Bank, which is also privately controlled by such luminaries as Janet Holmes á Court and the Mont Pelerin

Society's Hugh Morgan, and before him Bill Kelty, it was established as Australia's central bank by H.C. "Nugget" Coombs, one of Prince Philip's mates, and the father of Aboriginal land rights, who once bragged he belonged to the "international freemasonry of central bankers". As you remember, the Commonwealth Bank was partially privatised under the Keating government, and then finally sold off altogether, something which would make John Curtin, Ben Chifley and all the veterans of the old Labor Party roll over in their graves.

John Curtin, in his 1937 Fremantle Town Hall speech said:

To deal with unemployment and to make that industrial and economic preparedness which is the essence of national defence and security, three related monetary measures are necessary:

1. National control of credit to ensure its adequacy to maintain and increase employment.

2. National control of interest rates, in order to keep to a minimum the monetary and capital costs on production and industry.

3. National direction of investment with the object of assisting in the promotion of a balanced economic development.

The Commonwealth bank is the logical instrument to function for the community in effecting monetary re-adjustment and economic reconstruction. The Labor Government will legislate so that the Commonwealth Bank would be able competently to control:

- (a) Credit for the Nation
- (b) Rates of Interest
- (c) Direction of general investment
- (d) Currency relations with external markets

... The Labor Party points to the planks of its platform and insists that the Commonwealth Bank must have its original charter restored. The policy of the Government must be given effect and the people's authority established in respect to an indispensable national service.... If the Government of the Commonwealth deliberately excluded itself from all participation in the making or changing of monetary policy it cannot govern except in a secondary degree.

• Point number three calls for:

The repeal of all Federal and State anti-union legislation passed over the past several years, beginning with the Federal 1996 Workplace Relations Act, and Western Australia's Industrial Relations Reform Act of 1997.

These two union-busting Acts are an undisguised attempt to annihilate the living standards of working people. As the CEC has continuously exposed, the union-busting campaign that produced these Acts has been run top-down by the British Crown, through its chief economic warfare unit, the Mont Pelerin Society, and the Queen of England's personal mining company, Rio Tinto. A Rio Tinto executive, Mike Angwin, actually wrote Peter Reith's *Workplace Relations Act*, and it is the H.R. Nicholls Society, one of the front groups of the Mont Pelerin Society, which has led the union busting campaign in Australia for the past two decades.

What will these Acts be replaced with? The traditional award system involved quarterly adjusted industry awards set by the arbitration court. This was based on two broad labor principles: an arbitration system to settle disputes, and the principle of the "living wage" handed down by Justice Higgins in the famous Sunshine Harvester case of 1907. This said that a worker should be able to be paid, such that he could provide for a family of two parents and two children. Those principles, taken in their broadest contexts, would be the basis of an industrial policy, and a CEC government would dialogue with the relevant interested parties, to design the fairest possible industrial relations system.

• Point number four calls for:

The repeal of recent fascist laws that have taken away the civil rights of Australians, including the Federal Defence Legislation Amendment (Aid to Civilian Authorities) Act 2000, aka the "Shoot to Kill" bill, which allows the army to use "lethal force" against Australian citizens, and "racial vilification" legislation, such as the Victorian Racial and Religious Tolerance Act 2001, which allows the Establishment to fine or jail whomever they please, using politically correct pretexts.

• Point number five calls for:

An immediate halt to the privatisation of Commonwealth and State assets and regulatory bodies, and the reversal of those privatisations where necessary for the public good.

For the past fifteen years, Australia has tripped over itself to sell off its valuable state assets. We are second in the world, in the volume of privatisations in dollar figures, after the United Kingdom, and second in the world in the per capita value of privatisations, after New Zealand. An example of a privatisation that should be reversed for the public good, is the power system in Victoria, which at \$20 billion was the biggest single item in the Kennett government's selling spree after it won election in 1992. That privatisation turned a power service that had taken tens of billions of dollars over decades to establish, into separate generating and grid businesses that have collectively slashed more than 14,000 staff; stopped conducting on-going maintenance like replacing old power poles, instead waiting for break downs; generated a dramatic increase in black outs and brown outs and power spikes; and which were overall incapable of providing Victoria's power needs for a week during a heat wave this last summer, while still selling power on to interstate buyers via the national grid.

Using the criteria of the public good, many other privatisations would be reversed as well. The purpose of privatisation, which, like the union-busting agenda, has been run by the Mont Pelerin Society, is looting pure and simple, and we will stop it.

• Point number six calls for:

An immediate moratorium on foreclosures of family farms, given the cartel-rigged low prices for farm products and the lack of access to credit at reasonable rates.

Since the mid-1950s, the number of family farms in Australia has collapsed from more than 300,000, to less than 100,000. A fraction of this decline is due to increased efficiency, but most of it can be attributed to high interest rates and low prices—both of which are not the workings of the so-called "free market", as is claimed, but of the usurious credit policies of the banking system, and the stacked prices set by private food cartels, whose size allows them to manipulate the so-called free market at will. Dwayne Andreas, the head of Archer Daniels Midlands, the 16th largest food company in the world, boasted in August 1995, "There isn't one grain of anything in the world that is sold on a free market. Not one! The only place you see a free market is the speeches of politicians." Since food is a strategic resource, the family farmer must be protected, the first step of which is halting the exodus off the land. Prime Minister John Howard's talk about "regional renewal", is a fraud, so long as he is not willing to take this essential measure.

Again, in his Fremantle speech, John Curtin said:

The difficulties confronting small woolgrowers and other pri-

mary producers in the marketing of their products, because of lack of finance, give the Labor Party concern; and with a view to assisting them the general policy of the re-organised Commonwealth Bank to be laid down by Labor legislation in the next Parliament, will provide for advances to primary producers against their products at low rates of interest, to prevent exploitation of their financial position by private financial interests.

i Point number seven calls for:

The elimination of the disastrous National Competition Policy at a Federal level, and the immediate non-compliance with such policy at a state level.

It would be hard to find another single policy that has caused as much destruction in Australia as National Competition Policy. Under this policy, agreed to by the states and the Labor Party federal government in 1991, whatever the High Priests of “competition”—the mantra of the free market—deemed to be uncompetitive, is summarily condemned to “deregulation”. Newsagents, dairies, utilities, the postal system—nothing has been spared. In most cases, it can be shown that this “competitive deregulation” decreased competition, because many small competitors have been driven out of business, to the benefit of big business. This is lawful, since the NCP was written by Professor Fred Hilmer, a board member of two of our biggest companies, Westfield and Fairfax. Recently, Channel 9’s *Sunday Program* exposed how Hilmer’s own Westfield financed fake community campaigns to stop rival companies setting up shopping centres in their areas. Like most economic rationalist reforms, National Competition Policy is a corrupt attempt by big business and their political servants to grab a bigger chunk of the economic pie, at the expense of normal Australians. It must be scrapped immediately.

i Point number eight calls for:

The elimination of the Goods and Services Tax, which is a regressive tax which hits poor and working class Australians the hardest, and its replacement by a 0.1% (one tenth of one per cent) tax on speculative turnover.

Come July, everyone in Australia will understand why the Canadians, at the election immediately following the imposition of what they called the “gouge and screw tax”, decimated the government party, dropping it from nearly 200 seats down to just two. And who first proposed the GST here? Not John Howard, but Paul Keating, and the ALP, the Anti-Labor Party, already in 1985.

A true Labor approach to taxation, was enunciated by John Curtin in his 1937 Fremantle speech, which sounds like it could have been written about the Howard, or Hawke and Keating governments:

In its remissions of taxation the Government has favoured wealthy land and property owners, shipping, insurance and other companies; while to a great extent it has disregarded the principle of levying taxes on the basis of ability to pay.

The GST is expected to raise between \$30 and \$40 billion per year. This can be more than replaced by a one tenth of one per cent tax on speculative financial turnover, in the stock market, and in the currency markets, etc. The volume of annual turnover in these markets in Australia is \$50.5 trillion, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics. A 0.1% tax on this would raise \$50.5 billion in a year. This tax would also start to shrink the speculative bubble that is looting the Australian economy. Retirees and pensioners would be exempt from such a tax—they have been taxed many times on the money that has been put aside for their retirement, and their exemption will

have a negligible impact on the amount of revenue raised.

i Point number nine calls for:

The reassertion of National control over Australia’s oil and gas and huge mineral resources, by ‘buying back the farm’; or through other necessary government action.

This is the unfinished work of Gough Whitlam and Rex Connor. Australia is home to the world’s largest diamond mine, the Argyle mine in the Kimberleys, and we also rank in the world’s top six producers of bauxite, cobalt, gold, iron ore, lead, lithium, manganese ore, mineral sands, nickel, silver, tantalum, uranium and zinc. As for reserves, we have the world’s largest economic demonstrated resources of bauxite, lead, mineral sands (alluvial ilmenite, rutile and zircon), tantalum, uranium, silver and zinc, and are among the world’s top six for black coal, brown coal, cobalt, copper, diamonds, gold, iron ore, lithium, manganese ore, nickel and rare earth oxides. Australia also ranks 11th in world production of natural gas, the North West Shelf Project alone responsible for producing, marketing, and transporting one-tenth of the world’s current supply of liquified natural gas. Most of these bountiful resources are in the control of the British Crown’s raw materials cartel, led by the Queen’s own mining company, Rio Tinto. Rex Connor’s vision was to use this huge wealth for the development of Australia. It is important this be achieved, if we are to progress from being nothing more than a glorified quarry for our colonial masters.

i Point number ten calls for:

A dramatic expansion of resources to public health facilities, so that all who need health care will receive it promptly.

This is the long-overdue remedy to one of the most serious public policy problems in Australia today. By starving the hospital system for funds, federal and state governments are presently murdering people. At the Nuremberg war crime trials following World War II, Nazi doctors and government officials were found guilty and hanged for crimes that included, “the inadequate provision for health care”. Yet today, in a developed country like Australia, people dying on overblown waiting lists, or because of hospital accidents that happened in an environment of overworked, inadequately supplied staff, is becoming the norm. Forget the fancy jargon and economic theories used to justify government policy—health care is one of the very highest priorities of government, and it must be adequately funded, full stop.

i Point number eleven calls for:

A dramatic upgrading of State and Federal infrastructure, in water projects, roads, railroads (emphasising high-speed trains), schools and hospitals, and other needed infrastructure to provide urgently needed facilities, new jobs and to serve as the driver for general economic recovery. These projects more than pay for themselves by the economic activity they generate.

Australia is currently suffering what is called an “infrastructure deficit” of around \$100 billion, that is, the amount of money that needed to be spent on infrastructure development to meet the economy’s demands, and wasn’t. In the early 1970s, 8% of GDP was spent on infrastructure; today, it is less than 4%, yet the demands are greater. The result is evident in the state of our roads, railways, bridges, dams, etc.

But, beyond just replacing the collapsing existing infrastructure, we must grow. Grand-scale infrastructure devel-

opment is the engine of economic growth, and this was the principle our governments adhered to when they built the Indian-Pacific Railway, and the Snowy Mountains Scheme. Such large-scale needed projects today include the Alice to Darwin and Melbourne to Darwin railway, the Clarence River Scheme, the Bradfield Scheme, and a water scheme to service Kalgoorlie, among others.

The most exciting and far-reaching infrastructure project in the world today is the Eurasian Land-Bridge project of developing the old Silk Road trade route between China and Europe, with high-speed trains, gas pipelines and fibre-optic cables, which the Chinese Government is committed to doing, in order to face the challenge of developing its huge population into the 21st century. This Eurasian Land-Bridge will have three major lines from Europe across Asia, one of which will run all the way from the port of Rotterdam in Europe, across the Balkans and Turkey, Iran, Afganistan, Pakistan and India, along southern China, and down into SouthEast Asia, to Jakarta, Indonesia. If we build the urgently-needed high speed Melbourne to Darwin railway line, then with high speed catamarans, of which Australians are the world's greatest builders, we can go from Darwin to Indonesia, and effectively integrate Australia into the Eurasian Land-Bridge, and thus into the greatest population markets in the world.

• **Point number twelve calls for:**

A real war on drugs. The present "harm minimisation" policy is a disaster, which merely expands drug usage. The war on drugs must be fought with all the weapons of war, including dramatically expanded physical and human resources to our police and other enforcement bodies. Most importantly, the drug cartels presently launder an estimated \$10 billion per year through Australia's banks, without whose cooperation the drug trade could not function; these banks, who have also financed the decriminalisation/legalisation lobby in this country, must be pursued ruthlessly.

• **Point number thirteen calls for:**

Regarding immigration, while the CEC is opposed to the pious fraud known as "multiculturalism", because it pits one group against another, we warmly welcome those coming here to make a better life for themselves and their families. Expanded immigration quotas would be established reflecting labor shortages, and for the same physical economic reasons which the Labor Party welcomed the "new Australians" after World War II—to help build our nation. From the very beginning, Australia has been a nation of hope and opportunity for people of many nationalities and religious backgrounds. They will help build Australia (which will suffer a severe labor shortage as the rest of this platform is implemented), just as other generations of immigrants have done.

Australia is one of the largest countries in the world, with one of the smallest populations. The great visionaries in our past all recognised the dire need for Australia to increase its population. John Curtin said, in his 1937 Fremantle speech:

The essentials to the building up of the requisite population for the security of the Australian people are work, security, ample food, clothing and shelter. By providing these, the Labor Party will ensure the competence of Australia not only to attract migrants, but to hold them when it gets them. We need increasing population to increase our strength.

Dr. J.J.C. Bradfield, the great Australian engineer who designed the Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Bradfield water diversion scheme, wrote in *Rydges* magazine, in October 1941:

To populate and develop Australia we must spend money

to make money. The money spent would all be for labour and materials of Australian origin. Australia has 2,000 million acres of land of which under 10 percent are alienated. An expenditure of 5 shillings per acre or 500 million pounds, in well thought out schemes throughout Australia during the next 40 years would greatly increase the value of our heritage, and add the population we need to hold what we have. To do this we should endeavour to have a population of 40 millions say 50 years hence. We must plan how to get these millions; closer settlement and common sense in developing our primary and secondary industries will induce people to come here. Australia eventually should easily accommodate 90 million people, 30 per square mile.

Europe has a population of 121 people per square mile, Belgium has 698 per square mile, the United Kingdom 506, Italy 339, Germany 352 and Russia 58 per square mile. Asia has a population of 73 per square mile, Japan 398 per square mile, China and India 200. Africa's population is 13 per square mile, North and Central America 21, South America 13 and Australia 2.3 per square mile....

Australia needs to adopt a long range constructive policy to develop, populate and defend itself. Australia must control her own economic independence, not London. A rejuvenated inland, creating employment and settling a population in comfortable circumstances would be one part of such a long range policy. The nation without vision perishes, but the heart and mind of any vigorous people responds to the dream of its national destiny and will endeavour to make full use of its heritage. We can hold the Commonwealth only by effective occupation.

We must make no mean plans for our future development, for mean plans have no magic to stir any man's blood or awaken enthusiasm in any one. The cost of the major works should be financed by the Commonwealth without interest, as Australia would be spending money to increase its wealth....

Sadly, nearly 60 years after Bradfield wrote these words, we are only half way to the 40 million he envisioned would populate Australia by the early 1990s. There is a very simple solution to the fear of either ethnic tensions due to increased immigration, or that immigrants will take jobs from Australians, or undercut our living standards, and that is rapid economic growth. In other words, the answer to "White Australia", is, a "Growing Australia". And that is the way you give immigrants a real chance to be happy and to contribute greatly to their new country, Australia, as opposed to the counter-productive policy of "multiculturalism", which pits groups against each other for a piece of an ever-shrinking pie. Thus, our forefathers like Curtin and Bradfield could declare with conviction that Australia needed to increase its population, because they knew they had the economic policies to make it work.

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