

Sub. rec'd 23/1/04

AUSFTA

Submission No: ...172.....

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January 27, 2004
Now February 6th, 2004

The Minister for Trade,
Mr. Mark Vaile, MLC,
Parliament House,
Canberra.

The Free Trade Agreement, America – Danger for Australia.

Dear Minister,

As a child, I grew up just around the corner from Bob Menzies, and my father was a founding member of the Liberal Party, and Chairman of the Studley Park Branch, Kew, Victoria for some 25 years. I say this in the hope that you will actually read this letter.

In the early '70s, I spent some 5 years, off and on, living in the United States. I could never understand why they didn't have a decent Social Security System, or Medicare and similar civilizing structures to make it easier for their citizens to prosper. Many, many Americans spend most of their time just earning enough to survive, an example being the "working poor" who apparently work but don't earn enough to rent a flat!

While I was there, too, I noticed that although they spoke English, most Americans have a very different view of the world. Later, someone pointed out to me that they nearly decided German would be their national language, and that may have something to do with it.

With regard to the Free Trade Agreement, you may recall the Irish Potato Famine when millions of Irish died? The Free Traders at the time insisted that the Irish sell their other types of food, and starve!

In these modern times, there are numerous examples of NAFTA and equivalent agreements being used against the countries that sign them.

Americans just have to win. They have to take all. Losing is not an option.

Many countries have followed the IMF Structural Agreement programs, and their countries have been devastated. Likewise the banking system is set up to snare unwary people (and entire countries) into a web of interest payments and ever increasing debt from which they can never escape – banks creating money from "thin air" have guaranteed that.

Generally, Australians, being far more egalitarian than Americans, would rather see everyone get a "fair go" than take advantage of someone who is down. But this is not part of the American psyche. And why should we Australians give up our relatively self-sufficient status to be tied into a country that doesn't believe in a fair go for its people?

It was only a few years ago that I began to understand a little more about how Americans think and operate. Here is a very short explanation.

One has to go way back to 1536, when John Calvin changed the world forever. He split the world in to the "elect" (the haves), and the damned (the have-nots), and split Christianity into two main groups - those that essentially follow Calvin - the Protestants- and the Catholics and Anglicans.

Calvin's followers were called Hugenots in France, Presbyters in Holland, and Puritans in England. These people mainly settled America and give America its incredibly tough, hard edged character. Most American Fundamentalist "Christians" are an offshoot of Calvinism.

From Calvin came Capitalism, the Protestant Work Ethic, and the American "Manifest Destiny" which Americans use as an excuse to take over the world.

Calvin argued that men are depraved, and have no free will. Because we have no free will, he said people were predestined by God to go to Heaven or Hell. The "elect" go to Heaven. The rest go to Hell - they are equivalent to animals or gun-fodder.

Calvin also said that Banks could charge interest. Banks are now taking over the world, because interest can never be repaid - debt grows exponentially, just like compound interest.

How do you know if you are one of the "elect"? By being rich, or materially well off.

The poor are obviously not part of the "elect", and therefore must be doomed to go to Hell. If you are one of the "doomed", then there is no point in providing Social Security systems, or a decent Medical Systems for those that can't afford it. Furthermore, because you are one of the damned, the "elect" won't connect with you. Thus politicians disconnect from the poor, and say the problems are just too difficult to solve. Parallels exist in Australia.

Charles W. Moore writes: "Another prominent 19th-Century American Protestant, Russell H. Conwell, ingratiated himself with captains of industry by preaching that financial success was a reflection of personal righteousness while poverty was a mark of God's punishment." God help the poor with attitudes like that!

By extension, poor countries are not "elect". And the richest country in the world is America, so it must be "elect" and they think they can do what they want. The "Manifest Destiny" is an extension. .

However, to most enlightened people, free will does exist, and they would say that their job is to make life better for all, not to destroy those who are poor. Fundamentalist "Christians" are wrong. To allow a world to run by Free Markets, cut throat competition and similar concepts is surrendering to "predestination".

Instead of surrendering to Predestination, we must use our Humanity, Free Choice and Co-operation to work together to create a better world.

To fall into the Free Trade Trap and allow Americans - and their companies - to control us and our local laws (as they attempted to do with the MAI) is absolutely fraught with danger.

Please, don't do it.

Yours sincerely,

Clem Clarke