

20 May 1999

INQUIRY INTO OLDER WORKERS

Summary

- Social slippage is a national failure.
- Economics spread viruses when jobs go and wages rise.
- Moral policy is directionless and animalist.
- Illboding future looms n our multicultural nation.
- Solutions are presented for the national good.

1. Social Slippage

- 1.1 It's a sad reflection that the blessing of Almighty God has not prevailed upon Australian lawmakers in facing up to the social disparity created by them.
- 1.2 Economic success has come at a huge cost of disintegrated families and communities with its huge spiralling effect becoming irreversible.

2. Economic Virus

- 2.1 Australia formerly rode on the sheep's back and the mineral boom and is now driven by greed.
- 2.2 Creation of economic efficiency in Australia is not per se a highly intellectual entity, despite its current superficial success.
- 2.3 Policy basics of letting market forces operate with minimalist impediment, and unlimited reward for high achievers, are sure fire for the short term.
- 2.4 The anomalous fulcrum, of expanded working hours and jumping wages/job downsizing, is disparate in social terms and yet attracts little attention, while-ever noone rebels.
- 2.5 The parameters of low inflation, with high growth and high nominal jobless produce a 'rational miracle', and meanwhile the real underemployment stares in our face as a 'national death rattle'.
- 2.6 The unlucky or less gifted quarter of the population (from Census and percent survey data) are condemned to economic penury at best and social tragedy at worst, with the tail stretching away from the rich in hideous distortion.
- 2.7 Free rein to Darwinian economics is so easy and greedy and prosperous, if only it weren't strength sapping our nation's eyes and ears.

3. Moral Decrepit Policy

- 3.1 Where can my neighbour and I meet to celebrate unity, or rejoice in equality and fairness, when forced down separate paths making one greedy and the other jealous? Australians have a need to know.
- 3.2 With gentle forcefulness, I claim that Australian lawmakers have proved historically flawed and law-less in moral application of their power.
- 3.3 Social conscience dropped from the Australian political agenda postwar when it became replaced by compromise, and substitution of reality, with national harmony the big loser.

4. Illboding Future

- 4.1 A diverse multiculturalism is fine if the core Australian moral value is a stable product, otherwise it's an omen of foreboding in which the more multi the greater the omen.
- 4.2 The seed of discontent simmers in fertile land in contemporary Australia, with our standard political correctness and ambiguous equal opportunity.
- 4.3 As the world's most multicultural nation, a contented progressive Australia can flow from proactive moral legislative measures, and will reduce the risk of unmitigated experimental disaster from internal division and external vulnerability.
- 4.4 The leaders of our parties and institutions have become peevish, among, some groups with unprecedented candour lit by fermenting signals of political extremism.
- 4.5 The recent firearm buyback had redirected our festering discontent into sullen crisis avenues, without addressing the mounting issues.
- 4.6 Standing Committee might seize upon the connection, between universal human endeavour and social stability, rather than premature celebration of unity in a distorted national psyche.

5. Proposed Solutions – from my Constitutional foundation submission

- 5.1 Solutions lie within Standing Committee grasp, if this submission crosses party lines to gain general acceptance, via personal goodwill or humility.
- 5.2 It is recommended that proposals on Australians For Work (appendix A) and Bill of Rights and Accountability (appendix B) be adopted in Federal legislation to reunify our socioeconomic culture.

MARTIN KJAR

A. AUSTRALIANS FOR WORK (AFW)

- 1.1 This submission proposes the establishment of a federal statutory body, Australians For Work (AFW), with its mission to complement the economic workplace and foster a classfree egalitarian society.
- 1.2 The AFW proposal reflects a national desire to redirect the uncaring response of elitist economic achievers and aspirants which threatens to impale fragmented people in a divided country into a classist society, with a great swell of citizens turning apathetic, cynical and angry from disempowerment, under-employment and under-use.
- 2 The AFW is presented to the Constitutional Centenary Foundation as an urgent remedy which cannot await the PRO scheme commencement (Part B of this submission), if the aim is to safeguard national unity and sovereignty, and therefore requires an extraordinary path for lobbying decision makers to seek its adoption.
- 3.1 The AFW will oversee complementary state, territory and local programs for willing and able permanent residents.
- 3.2 Proactive federal AFW programs for all remaining citizens not engaged in its decentralised programs represent a further major part of its scope.
4. One AFW model is to offer fulltime (38 hours) paid engagement for younger persons (18-48 years), and means tested part time (20 hours) paid engagement for middleaged persons (48-60 years) in a mixed employment, national service provision and volunteer work setting.

B. BILL OF RIGHTS AND ACCOUNTABILITY (BRA)

- 1 The 1980's debate on Constitutional changes revealed problems in attempts to develop a Bill of Rights by its focus on claims for personal rights, and activist group rights, without apparent legislative or judicial examination.
2. The future debate on civil rights issues may progress further if it :-
 - 2.1 Examines responsibilities in conjunction with rights.
 - 2.2 Focuses on matters which can lead to a more unified nation rather than on sectional issues that may divide it.
 - 2.3 Consolidates various entitlements and responsibilities existing in both federal laws and in uniform state and territory laws.
 - 2.4 Strives for nationwide uniformity of entitlements and responsibilities that community groups may consider beneficial in preventing transgression, through unawareness, by travellers or people moving interstate, including :
 - Self defence at home and in public.
 - Personal privacy.
 - Parental care.
- 3.1 A regular federal Constitutional Convention (Con Con) system is proposed to be instituted within the BRA Act, for an ongoing debate on Constitutional issues.
- 3.2 The representation at Con Cons is proposed as 60% elected and 40% appointed, as a more democratic balance than equal representation, in view of typical referenda requiring around 60% "Yes" vote for their passage from a majority of states and an overall majority.
- 3.3 The Constitutional Centenary Foundation is encouraged to conduct a further Quest in the year 2001 to list and prioritise issues for Con Con deliberation in the foreseeable future.
- 4.1 A federal referendum system is proposed for yielding regular "As of right" decision making opportunities to help unify the population by catering for national aspirations, except on emergency defence matters.
- 4.2 The Public Referendum Opportunity (PRO) section of the BRA Act will establish a Public Referendum Every Ten to Twenty Years (Pretty) system, with the first public referendum scheduled for 20 10.