

Council For The National Interest

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SPRING NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2015

Free Speech Imprisoned by the Year 2020 was the title of the last CNI forum presented by Bill Muehlenberg on 4th August at RPYC. The forum was very well attended by members and the feedback was very positive in regard to content and relevancy to current political times.

There are past examples of restriction of free speech experienced by Andrew Bolt, now currently a complaint lodged under Tasmania's Anti-Discrimination law on the Catholic Archbishop Porteous of Hobart upon the audacious publication of the Australian Catholic Bishop's letter "Don't Mess With Marriage." Considering the Federal Government has indicated a plebiscite on the issue of same sex unions does this mean it will be illegal to have a debate? Will state laws be suspended to enable a debate? Has our Australian culture sunk to new levels of disapprobation in the shadow of Section 18c of the Racial Discrimination Act?

Family First Senator Bob Day, speaking in the Senate, said: "The persecution of Catholic Archbishop Porteous of Hobart is a black mark on Australian history and free speech."

He added, "How on earth can a man of the cloth, explaining to his congregation his church's teaching on marriage, be accused of 'inciting hatred' towards those who want gay marriage? The older generation are shaking their heads in disbelief at how out of kilter this is with their Australia. "You have to wonder whether this is the Australia our forebears shed blood, sweat and tears to create." (NewsWeekly)

Are we suffering the unintended consequences of 35 years of multiculturalist, anti racial, anti vilification and anti discrimination laws forced upon a society that innately perceived the evil of cultural relativism? In the national interest is it time to wind back the clock?

When is No Policy, Good Policy? October 20th saw the launch in Perth of the Australian Liberty Alliance political party by guest speaker Dutch parliamentarian Geert Wilders.

The ALA has brought the Islamisation of Australia discussion to the forefront of political awareness with an anti-Islam policy as a defining platform.

Islamisation has been a smouldering contentious issue for several years resulting in grass root organisations such as Reclaim Australia together with numerous fringe groups.

Mainstream political parties and the media have downplayed, derided, ignored and cast this background groundswell as being racist, bigoted, biased, red neck, right wing extremist, in spite of high profile commentary by Senator Cory Bernadi and others who have been cast as "out of step" with contemporary Australia.

Subsequently the established political parties have no policy on this growing problem apart from accepting the status quo, just more of the same. Uncontrolled muslim immigration within a program of refugee and migrant quotas has now created a 2% muslim population and a growing concern by a cross section of Australian society that an incompatible ideology will result in the situation evident in Europe and personified by Geert Wilders at the recent ALA party launch.

At what stage will Labor, Liberal and minor parties clearly articulate their policies to overcome the fear generated by the European experience, especially in light of the latest mass invasion of Europe by illegal immigrants? Australians have indelible memories of the Rudd-Gillard boat fiasco with concerns that Australian culture and identity, the very core of being Australian, are at risk by an incompatible and intolerant ideology.

In the national interest the CNI is embarking on a policy development to determine a course of action that will unite Australians in a vision to accommodate muslims in our communities within

the context of maintaining the culture that established Australia as a great place to live. Is that stretching the imagination or just foolish contemplation? We invite members and fellow travellers to contribute to a discussion by way of written submission via post or email and ultimately produce a coherent policy.

As part of the debate the latest Roy Morgan Research poll is included as a reference as it may on the surface reflect a “she’ll be right mate” complacency that may evaporate as changing economic circumstances post boom take effect along with a more high profile ALA education campaign to recruit more members.

CNI has a history of undertaking policy development in areas of foreign affairs, defence, climate change, treaties, trade, electoral reform etc since establishment back in the 1980's.

Roy Morgan Research 20 October 2015 – Latest Poll Update

Today 57% (up 22% since July 2010) of Australians support an Australian population of over 30 million in 30 years’ time – a stunning increase from only five years ago. Only 9% (down 15%) support a population of under 25 million, a further 23% (down 9%) support a population of 25-30 million and 11% (up 2%) can’t say.

A clear majority of Australians 69% (up 11%) support immigration (of 210,000 in 2013/14) remaining the same 37% (down 10%) or increasing 32% (up 21%) while 26% (down 14%) want immigration levels reduced and 5% (up 3%) can’t say.

Importantly, more Australians believe immigration has a positive effect on Australia 37% (up 4%) than a negative effect 31% (up 1%) while 19% (down 2%) believe immigration has little effect and 13% (down 3%) can’t say according to a special Morgan Poll conducted over three nights last week with a cross-section of 647 Australians aged 14+.

Not surprisingly, a vast majority of Australians support both Skilled migrant immigration (89% cf. 8% oppose) and Family reunion migration (79% cf. 16% oppose).

In addition, the negative debate about Muslims and Asylum seekers has had little impact on how Australians consider these types of migration – 65% of Australians support Muslim immigration up from 54% support in July 2010, while 28% of Australians oppose Muslim immigration.

A large majority of Australians support Asylum seeker immigration (71% up from 52% support in July 2010) while 21% of Australians oppose Asylum immigration.

Analysing by Federal Voting Intention

However, a political divide emerges for both Muslim and Asylum seeker immigration:

For Muslim immigration:

Greens supporters heavily support Muslim immigration (95% support cf. 1% oppose);

ALP supporters also clearly support Muslim immigration (74% support cf. 20% oppose);

L-NP supporters are more evenly split on Muslim immigration (54% support cf. 41% oppose).

For Asylum seeker immigration:

Greens supporters heavily support Asylum seeker immigration (95% support cf. 0% oppose);

ALP supporters clearly support Asylum seeker immigration (78% support cf. 17% oppose);

A majority of L-NP supporters support Asylum seeker immigration (59% support cf. 34% oppose).

Gary Morgan says:

“Despite recent media coverage about the dangers of Islamic terrorism – a clear majority of Australians support Muslim immigration (65% support cf. 28% oppose) – this is significantly higher than five years ago in July 2010 when 54% supported and 35% opposed Muslim immigration. A large majority of Australians also support Asylum seeker immigration (71% support cf. 21% oppose) compared to a closer split in July 2010 (52% support cf. 39% oppose).

“Significantly, a rising number of Australians support a ‘bigger Australia’ – now 69% (up 11% since July 2010) of Australians say they want immigration levels of about 210,000 immigrants in 2013/14 to either be increased 32% (up 21%) or remain about the same 37% (down 10%). Only 26% (down 14%) of Australians want Australia’s immigration levels to be reduced.

“The support for maintaining or increasing current levels of immigration is also reflected in the clear desire for Australia to have a larger population. Now 57% (up 22% since July 2010) of Australians wants Australia to have a population of over 30 million in 30 years’ time – this is the first time a majority of Australians have wanted Australia to have a

population of over 30 million. Now only 9% (down 15%) of Australians want Australia to have a population of under 25 million in 30 years' time. Australia's current population is just under 24 million."

These are the main insights from the special Roy Morgan telephone survey conducted over the three nights of October 13-15, 2015, with an Australia-wide cross-section of 647 men and women aged 14 or over.

For the 'poll-watchers' out there this latest telephone Morgan Poll revealed a two-party preferred lead for the L-NP 54% cf. ALP 46% based on how a cross-section of 601 Australian electors said they would vote – similar to the latest Morgan Poll conducted over the last two weekends which showed the L-NP 56% cf. ALP 44% on a two-party preferred basis.

Mondragon Co-Operative a Way to Save Australian Manufacturing?

The Record, 29 May 2013, Peter Rosengren

After a billion dollars of subsidies in Australian taxpayer funds have flowed into the ongoing effort to sustain Ford Australia in the last 10 years, the company has announced, as almost everyone knows, that it will cease production of its motor vehicles in Australia by 2016.

For the estimated 1,200 workers who will lose their jobs at the Geelong engine factory and Broadmeadows vehicle assembly facility, and the hundreds or thousands more in dependant industries, the news is crushing. Ford Australia's closure is part of a global economic picture. The most important reason advanced by the motor vehicle giant was that manufacturing cars in Australia costs twice what it does in Europe. At the same time, manufacturers in Asia can produce similar or identical vehicles for a quarter of the cost.

For the zealous apostles of unrestrained market capitalism, there is nothing particularly disturbing about this; if the logic of the market is that Ford Australia must go, then so be it. But is this really true? For the thousands of Australians who will lose their livelihoods over the next three years, this particular answer is cold comfort – and not particularly convincing. No doubt, Ford's claim that it cannot compete with European or Asian manufacturers was partly true. The world is now financially and economically connected as never before.

Manufacturers simply follow the brutal logic of the market: those with the cheapest labour can produce cheaper products while those who cannot compete go out of business.

But was the foreshadowed 2016 closure really the only option? What was interesting was the response of the major political parties to Ford's announcement, which was even more revealing than the company's decision. It is clear both major political leaders and their parties see no effective alternative or solution to the problem of globalisation's effects in Australia whereby companies choose cheaper labour forces outside this country.

Both Ms Gillard and Mr Abbott have signalled they will not intervene to prevent closure and it is clear that both see the issue simply as one of either keeping a subsidised venture open indefinitely at substantial cost to the taxpayer or accepting the regrettable closure and job losses.

However, in the same week that Ford announced its decision, Pope Francis issued a call for reform of the world economic and financial system which was far from irrelevant to the plight of Australian manufacturing workers being dumped by Ford. "Money has to serve, not to rule," he said in his strongest remarks yet as Pope concerning the world's economic and financial crises.

Speaking to new ambassadors to the Vatican, Pope Francis said a major reason behind the increase in social and economic woes worldwide "is in our relationship with money and our acceptance of its power over ourselves and our society". We have, he said, "created new idols" where the "golden

calf of old has found a new and heartless image in the cult of money and the dictatorship of an economy which is faceless and lacking any truly humane goal”.

A whole world and an era away from Broadmeadows, a young Catholic priest named Fr José María Arizmendiarieta arrived in the Basque town of Mondragon in Spain in 1941 following the end of the Spanish Civil War to find himself confronted by deeply entrenched poverty and economic stagnation. Fired by the social teaching of the Church which had begun in the modern era with Leo XIII's encyclical *Rerum Novarum*, in the years that followed he established a technical college to train managers of co-operatives and then co-operatives themselves.

Fr Arizmendiarieta's early years were largely spent teaching youth and young adults a form of humanism based on solidarity and participation in harmony with Catholic Social Teaching.

The success of what went on to be known as the **Mondragon Co-operative** is a marvel of the modern era. Today, it comprises a range of co-operative-based businesses which have branched out into four main areas: finance, manufacturing, retail and research. The Mondragon Co-operative has its own university, the University of Mondragon, together with a range of polytechnics and 12 centres for the development of technology. In 2010, the Mondragon Corporation reportedly posted a total turnover of 14.8 billion euros, making it Spain's fourth largest industrial group and the nation's seventh biggest financial group. Mondragon employs over 100,000 workers, all of whom are owners of the company for which they work; management is largely drawn from its employee base. In 2009, the United Steelworkers Union in the US announced plans to jointly establish worker-owned co-operatives in the US with the final model being unveiled in March last year.

Ford Australia says it can no longer produce cars in Australia. Julia Gillard and Tony Abbott are both willing to go along with its plans after a range of Labor and Coalition governments have given the company **one billion dollars of taxpayers' money** in the last decade. The truth is neither has really thought of the possibilities which might be explored, a problem which is better defined as sheer conventionalism in our political class. Mondragon, on the other hand, shows what could be possible at Broadmeadows and Geelong – and elsewhere: employment and manufacturing based not on the primacy of capitalism's greed but on the inherent dignity of workers and human beings in general. Mediocrity – and the mediocre – in politics fails us all.

Donations and Membership Subscriptions.

Thank you to all our members and subscribers who have generously donated to maintain the service undertaken by the CNI. As a volunteer organisation we are always very judicious with the funds available and manage our resources to maximise our effectiveness. Monetary support is welcome however we are always keen to recruit new participants at the executive and policy development level. Active participation is essential if we are to have an effective voice in the national interest.