Council For The National Interest

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Newsletter - December 2016

The Executive is pleased to advise our members and supporters that behind the scenes the CNI has been very active with policy development and lobbying. Under the chairmanship of Denis Whitely the Policy Group, with input from 12 or more people, has been meeting monthly with an important contribution to formulating priority of action over the multitude of issues facing our national interest including letter writing and lobbying federal and state politicians.

We are living through turbulent times with our society experiencing a culture war embracing moral relativism, multiculturalism, political correctness and the death of truth and reason.

Australia is reflecting the demise of western civilisation and our distinctive Aussie culture is being eroded by the mind numbing restriction on freedom of speech. Australia once had the reputation as being one of the most open and inviting societies before the imposition of human rights and racial vilification laws which has led to current accusations of hatred, bigotry, bias and racism whenever issues are raised. Some of those issues are discussed in the following items of national interest.

The Drug Epidemic: The CNI forum on drugs of 14 August 2016 featuring Jay Basik (Joe Baxter of Drug Free Australia came down with pneumonia and Jay took her place), Peter Lyndon-James of Shalom House and Prof Stuart Reece, presented an overwhelming amount of evidence on the effect methamphetamine is having on our society. Prof Reece detailed the research showing the effect of marijuana damaging DNA which will result in generations of Australians suffering the consequences, plus the cost to taxpayers in health and social demands. There is no safe use of marijuana no matter how much parents and grandparents might claim their youthful experimentation did no harm. Marijuana is the entry level drug to heroin and then onto the brain destroying methamphetamine.

The CNI is now developing a drug policy to promote to the state government as the current State Govt Meth Strategy, while very well intentioned and financed, is not concentrating on reducing the demand but putting most emphasis and effort into rehabilitation. Sweden's compulsory rehab of problem drug users has a proven history of success and should be the basis of a future rehabilitation program. Naltrexone implants are very successful and the WA Govt is the only government body funding this program. The death rate for methadone treatment is 16 times greater than naltrexone although methadone is widely promoted by the harm minimisation activists. Naltrexone has proved to be an important component in the rehabilitation of drug addicts, the pity is that it has no Federal funding.

The feedback from those who attended the drug forum all commented on how much they learnt about the drug epidemic and its effect on Australian society. Peter Lyndon-James certainly had the most emotional impact with his presentation of how devastating drug addiction is on the person, family, friends and society. Peter's personal history rates him as highly qualified and experienced in the field of drug rehabilitation. Peter has an overwhelming demand for his rehab services which receive no government funding. For effective rehab the addict has to be willing to admit they need help, Peter only admits addicts into his program who contact him directly. Friends and relatives of addicts can be part of the problem and as such cannot influence the rehabilitation program.

CNI has been lobbying politicians in an effort to influence the government to implement a prevention program based upon the highly successful anti tobacco smoking campaign that has seen Australia advance as a majority tobacco smoke free society. Such an anti drug campaign would be quite confronting as it visually highlights the devastating effect illicit drugs such as meth has on the human body. An effective prevention campaign will reduce demand as highly publicised drug hauls by police and customs officials makes for good headlines, but they have not reduced demand over the past 40 years.

Why has the war on illicit drugs been lost for so long? Simply because the proponents supporting a policy of harm minimisation and legalisation have been extremely successful over those who advocate prevention and prohibition. The successful Swedish model of compulsory rehabilitation delivered the lowest levels of drug use amongst OECD countries compared to Australia's harm minimisation programs that has delivered the highest illicit drug use in the developed world.

Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications: Inquiry into Retirement of Coal Fired Power Stations:

The CNI submitted an argument for the retention and expansion of coal fired power stations on the basis that the IPCC proposals are not backed by scientific facts. Carbon Dioxide is not a pollutant and greenhouse gases comprise less than 1% of the earth's atmosphere and are irrelevant to the temperature of the earth.

To set a Renewable Energy Target, emission reduction targets, direct action plans, non productive climate bodies, emission intensity targets has resulted in Australia moving from a low cost electricity nation to one of the highest cost to the detriment of Australian industry and economic growth. In spite of this fact state governments are rushing to meet Federal Govt mandated targets, and in some cases exceeding those targets, resulting in more closures of coal fired power stations, increased energy costs and decrease in reliability. South Australia is a working example of poor energy reliability and increased costs and the closure of Hazelwood in Victoria will be the next example.

Our submission included reference to NewsWeekly, Mar 31, 2012 which raised the issue of external sources of influence funding the campaign to close Australia's coal industry.

The closure of Australia's coal fired power stations and the increased reliance on renewable energy will increase electricity costs for everyday Australians, particularly the lower income earners and for Australian industry damaging our international competitiveness, will harm energy reliability and energy security and the hoped for reductions in CO2, even if achieved, will NOT provide any measurable reduction in the temperature of the earth.

Hon Mike Nahan, Treasurer, Minister for Energy.

An extract from a CNI letter to the Hon Mike Nahan following the article published in the West Australian, August 22, 2016 headed "Green power surge for WA".

Overseas, many countries have been destroying their economies as a result of plunging into solar and wind power. It is reported that electricity prices in Germany, Spain and the UK increased by 78%, 111%, and 133%, respectively, between 2005 and 2014. A number of other countries and also, some States in the USA have had similar experiences. Germany and Britain are reverting to low cost coal fired power generation using clean coal technology.

In Australia, South Australia is a classic example of the disaster flowing from the headlong rush into unreliable renewable energy – closure of low-cost black coal mine at Leigh Creek with the loss of hundreds of coal mine jobs and leading to the closure of the coal fired power stations at Port Augusta. The result is South Australia cannot generate enough electricity to meet the State's needs leading to a meteoric rise in electricity costs as it purchases electricity from coal fired power stations in Victoria.

The response has been disappointing but predictable stating "The Liberal National Government of WA considers climate change an international matter. As such, legal instruments to facilitate greenhouse gas reduction and lower emissions electricity generation are primarily a matter for the Commonwealth Government. The Government of WA will continue to comply with Commonwealth laws regarding greenhouse gas reduction, such as the Renewable Energy Target."

Maybe this desire to blindingly accept flawed centralised policy, adopted by a Federal Govt led by a United Nations influenced Foreign Affairs Dept, might explain why the growth of minor parties has become an issue in Australian politics.

Safe Schools Coalition Australia.

The Hon Peter Collier responded to a CNI letter regarding the SSCA federally funded program in which we state: "that Roz Ward, La Trobe University, architect and manager of the SSCA program has conceded SSCA "is part of a broader Marxist strategy to change society" she said "it's not about stopping bullying... (it's) about gender and sexual diversity."

Also stated in the letter was "that the concept of 'gender fluidity' has no scientific basis and that the concept of gender ideology harms children. The expectation for a conservative government Minister of Education with the authority to ban the use of such material in Western Australia, has not materialised.

Instead the response has been to state: "It is worth noting that of over 1100 schools, public and non-government, in Western Australia, only 26 have registered on the website." In regard to gender fluidity the Minister refers us to the Dept of Health Gender Diversity Service at PMH.

Subsequently we advised the Minister that he and his department should read a report by Sydney University Law Professor, Patrick Parkinson who describes 'gender fluidity' as an "odd and unscientific belief" emanating from the humanities, not the sciences.

While it is easily accepted the socialist left wing parties of Labor and Greens would promote the SSCA program with its internet links to pornography, however to have federal and state conservative governments willingly allow such material into schools for the brainwashing of future generations is beyond belief.

We advised the Minister that as only 26 schools in WA have registered on the SSCA website there would be minimal impact if you discontinue this program in Western Australia, please do so in the best interests of all children and out of respect for parents.

Uncharted Territory:

The recent US Presidential election proved to be an interesting time of observing paranoia on a world wide scale. Journalistic commentary belittled Donald Trump to such an extent he was a threat to human existence with nuclear weaponry at his fingertips. Within the hallowed halls of the University of WA similar dire warnings of doom and destruction emanated from academia, especially amongst superannuated Labor politicians. Hillary Clinton was lauded as the salvation of Obama's campaign of denigration of American exceptional-ism who would wipe the "deplorables" from the political equation. As the dust has settled and realistic journalism has slowly acknowledged that Donald Trump might have his human foibles, but a new political environment will descend on Washington. What does a Trump Administration have in store for Australia? Crystal ball gazing by professional political commentators have a multitude of scenarios as Trump assembles his management team.

Regardless of Trump's plans to make "America Great Again" he is inheriting a shaking, quivering, bowl of economic jelly never before experienced in American political history which will affect Australia and the economic circumstances of the world.

David Stockman, former Budget Director (1981-85) under President Reagan, makes some important observations and predictions about the economic and political health of the USA and it's impact on the world. Trump is inheriting a national debt of nearly \$20 trillion USD representing 108% of GDP compared to Reagan's \$1 trillion at 30% of GDP. Furthermore Trump has to face Congress with a \$20 trillion debt ceiling in March 2017, the political ramifications of that reality will set the scene for his Presidency. The day of fiscal reckoning is coming and that may be in March. Trump might well try to drain the swamp but he is arriving at the end of a 35 year fantasy with unsustainable debt to weigh him down. The turn around will not be quick or easy as the indicators have the economy in decline and recession staring him down. (especially note, also for Australia) Public and private debt is \$64 trillion compared to 1980 \$1.5 trillion and accumulating in a declining economy. USA GDP growth rate was 3.8% (1953-1971) 3.2% (1971-2000) 2.4% (2000-2007) 1.2% (2007-2015) and to reinforce the dire state of economic growth, world shipbuilding orders in 2016 are the lowest since 1996 and which peaked in 2007. Also Caterpillar's order book is drying up as commodity boom time contracts. Real Net Capital Business Investment from 2000 to 2016 is down 35%, (investment in plant, technology etc) exacerbated by debt fuelled stock buybacks of \$0.5 trillion in 2009 and \$2 trillion in 2016. The market delusion is another bail-out, when and if the crash of 2008 repeats, unfortunately it will more likely be a bail-in as some bank depositors throughout the world have already experienced. And David Stockman's advice to Trump? Take the punishment early, lance the boil immediately, start digging the way out of the mess and maybe in 4 years time the electorate might have forgotten the misery of recession.

Does Australia have smart enough parliamentary leaders to prepare for whatever outcome eventuates? Highly unlikely if the backpacker tax is any indicator of a smart parliament.

And on a joyous note let us all enjoy our families and friends through the Festive Season Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our members and supporters.

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