

FACTS

National Civic Council
Western Australia
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THE JOB BEFORE US...

At the beginning of last year, it was clear that at its end one critical political factor would remain unchanged - the nation would still be affected by **political paralysis**; the principal political parties would continue to fail to come forward with solutions to halt Australia's economic decline, which is now worse than at any time since the Great Depression.

The question inevitably arises: 'What is to be done?'

Throughout its fifty year history the Movement has approached every major problem by applying the same method of approach:

1. Identify the problem
2. Analyse its nature
3. Propose a solution
4. Project a "force" into the field of action.

Within Australia, the Movement's strategic objective's include:

(i) Meet the residual challenges which remain from the struggle against Marxism, that is, to meet the challenges posed by the likes of militant environmentalism and militant feminism.

(ii) Simultaneously it has a serious responsibility in relation to the problems created by the Cultural Revolution of the Sixties, some of which interlock with Marxism's 'residues', so to speak, and some of which have a life of their own.

TWO PROBLEMS

This task, however, encounters two serious problems. It is by no means as easy to define what is to be done, as organising to defeat the communists in a particular union election, while the atmosphere of the time is dominated by a widespread apathy, of a new and hitherto unfamiliar type. The reasons are not far to seek, but perhaps we may, for the moment, set them aside. One symptom is the increasing sense of alienation towards all political parties as vehicles which may provide some kind of solution.

Over the past two years however, a new element of understanding has become apparent. At the general level, some are clearly beginning to understand that it is necessary in some way to strike a blow in defence of fundamental principles. The underlying change of mood among reflective groups in Australia is so substantial that perhaps it is merely the tip of the iceberg of a change in the mood of the community as a whole.

- ATOMISATION OF INTERESTS

The present reaction, however, is limited to specific, rather than to general, interests. Some are concerned with the problems of the family. Some believe that until the attack on religious orthodoxy is checked it will be impossible to solve any other problem. Some are concerned with the community's general impotence in the fields of defence and foreign policy, believing that this country will find itself in an impossible strategic situation unless it confronts the problem of arming itself to meet the challenges which will eventually come. Nevertheless even this limited change offers the opportunity of progress.

The Movement has accepted this 'atomisation' of interests, and sought to cater for it by fashioning organisations, each with a single limited objective so as to provide the individual with the vehicle to exert his energies on behalf of the single interest which absorbs him.

In detail, this work breaks down as follows:

(i) To deal with the problems of policy and organisation associated with the beleaguered family, the Movement has fashioned the Family Association which has its 60 odd branches throughout Australia, and some 2,000 members.

(ii) To create a cohesive movement to fight the battle of Christian orthodoxy - which includes the Anglican as well as of the Catholic communion - the Movement has begun AD2000. The monthly magazine is meant to lay the foundation of an organisation which is determined to present and justify views which are both rational and orthodox in relation to the crisis of orthodoxy within the various Christian churches. The **Thomas More Centre** is the organisational vehicle of this aspect of the work.

(iii) In the universities, the NCC student groups carry on their traditional work which, to put it briefly, is to fight for the democratic control of student organisations and to engage in the battle of ideas, central to our work in every area of national life.

(iv) The building of grassroots branches of all arms of the Movement in every Federal electorate of the country.

(v) The continuance of the traditional industrial work, performed as opportunity offers.

While these organisations are all separate and autonomous,

the Movement provides much of the infrastructure which they lack. In this way it becomes possible to impart to the various autonomous movements the strength of a single collective effort.

No movement can exist without its own newspapers and magazines. Hence an entirely new content and appearance has been given to *News Weekly*. The *AFA Journal* has an altogether more pleasing presentation. *AD2000* has been put on a more or less secure financial basis. The new *Bulletin of the Thomas More Centre* is second to none throughout the world.

A good deal depends on the future role of those who do not belong to the Catholic communion. The Catholic origins of the Movement have led some to believe that "no non-Catholic need apply" for membership. Nothing could be further removed from the truth. The NCC contains non-Catholics; both as members and as officials. There is nothing whatever in the constitution, philosophy and programme of the NCC which should make a Protestant (or an agnostic) feel unwelcome. The only question which would be asked of him or her to qualify for membership is precisely the same as would be asked of a Catholic: "Do you believe in the program of the NCC? Will you adhere to its constitution and rules?"

- POLITICAL PARALYSIS

The unsolved question is what to do in the political field. Australia's central political problem is essentially that of political paralysis. It is now commonly accepted that electing either major party may do little or nothing to advance the solution to the radical problems of our society. In August 1988, the former Attorney-General in the Fraser Government (Mr. R. A. Ellicott Q.C.), writing admittedly of the Liberal Party, used words which could be applied to either. He said:

"they [the people] do not know what the party stands for. If the Liberals win government in their present state, it would be by default, not because they are ready for government...All this of course, can only lead to the destruction of the Liberal Party, and the strengthening of other political forces. It may lead to the emergence of a new party."

Long before Mr. Ellicott spoke Mr. Kim Beazley Snr. (Mr. Whitlam's former Education Minister) described the Labor Party thus:

"When I joined the Labor Party as a boy, the branches were filled with the cream of the working class. When I leave it, it has been replaced by the dregs of the middle class."

Those words spoken by distinguished members of the Liberal and Labor Parties respectively — remain applicable to both major parties.

In this regard, it is vitally important to understand what the Movement can and what it can't do. In Europe, where there is a tradition of Christian Democratic Parties, its role would certainly be quite different. Here, the tradition of secular politics is

paramount. What the Movement can do is limited. Yet it may, under some circumstances, be decisive.

A NEW POLITICAL PARTY ?

A structurally sound political party can achieve little unless it possesses three adjuncts — a coherent program covering every major aspect of public policy; a strong conviction within the community that hard things must be done and that the community is prepared to accept them; and finally, simple leadership and 'guts'. It is because neither of the major parties has any of these qualifications today — as distinct from the era of Menzies, Curtin and Chifley — that a stalemate exists.

That, as Mr. Ellicott pointed out, on the model of what Menzies achieved in the forties, in establishing the Liberal Party on the ruins of the old U.A.P., might be an argument for a new party. However, the stalemate subsists in the fact that while neither present party can solve the basic political problems of the country, no alternative party with the prospect of winning government has any prospect of existence while the present parties occupy the ground.

Whether the ultimate resolution will come by a revolutionary change within one or other of the existing parties, or by a new Party, or will not come at all, will to a considerable degree, depend on the nature of the political work to be undertaken by the Movement.

Whichever it is to be, there is no organisation better equipped than the Movement to make a serious contribution whether in the fields of philosophy, policy, programs or organization. But unless our ordinary members, in different districts and electorates are prepared to campaign, study and to learn, we will simply repeat the cliches which are all that most politicians, economists and other alleged public leaders have to contribute. We will lack the capacity to provide the leadership for whatever is to come.

It is too early to say that, in this field, something will inevitably happen, but for the first time in twenty-five years it is possible that it may.

This is the kind of moment of which Shakespeare wrote:

*"There is a tide in the affairs of men
Which taken at the flood, leads on to fortune;
Omitted, all the voyage of their life
Is bound in shallows and in miseries.
On such a full sea are we now afloat,
And we must take the current where it serves,
Or lose our ventures."*

Those lines sum up the proper role of the Movement: in a moment of great emergency to act as a catalyst for those forces which perhaps do exist within the Australian community to be assembled for the good of the nation.

1991 FINANCE DRIVE

Dear Supporter,

On the 14th August, 1991, the NCC will observe the fiftieth anniversary of its establishment. Its history speaks for itself.

In the forties and fifties it helped to turn back the tide of communist power in the unions. In the fifties and sixties it helped to establish and sustain the D.L.P. In the seventies and eighties it fought the 'protest movement' in the universities. Few would deny that during those decades it played a crucial part in overcoming the subversive attack on Australian institutions.

New decades, however, bring new challenges.

Despite the overthrow of communism in Eastern Europe, the Left remains powerful in Australia. The Halfpennys and Carmichaels still hold union office. The militant environmentalists and feminists dominate much of our culture. The Left-wing leadership's of most teacher unions have consciously set out to substitute humanist for Christian ideas and attitudes from the minds of the young, while lowering the standards from the minds of the young, while lowering the standards of purely secular teaching.

To these is now added the financial collapse which Australia has witnessed during the past year, with the attendant tide of bankruptcies, business and farm closures, the growth of unemployment and loss of personal savings by tens of thousands of families, especially the elderly.

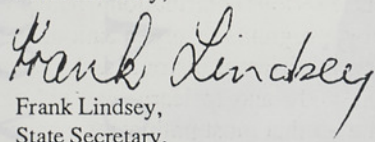
The political leadership has failed to meet these challenges. What is desperately needed is a change at every level of public life, which can ultimately be reflected politically.

The NCC - with a coherent philosophy, a sound and original economic program, a clear perspective on the measures needed to ensure the defence of Australia - is indispensable to future political development in this country.

The NCC has over 120 Federal electorate branches; about 3,000 hard working members; donors and subscribers to its papers - News Weekly and AD 2000 - total some 25,000 people. The NCC provides the infrastructure which assists associated organisations like the Australian Family Association, student groups, the Thomas More Centre which emphasizes religious and ethical concerns. It is no exaggeration to say that this network of organisations powerfully influences the thinking of no fewer than 250,000 Australians.

During 1991 you can help the work of the NCC by making a contribution to the WA Finance Drive.

Yours sincerely,



Frank Lindsey,
State Secretary.

SUPPORT THE 1991 NCC

\$250

\$150

\$100

\$50

\$25

WA FINANCE DRIVE

Please send your donation to:

The Secretary,
National Civic Council,
C/O GPO Box S 1369,
Perth, WA. 6001.

I/WE support the work of the NCC and enclose a donation towards the NCC's WA Finance Drive.

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____
PH. _____

You can donate by using anyone of the following four methods:

BANK ORDER

This method requires use of a special form - a copy of which can be obtained from the office.

A Bank Order allows your bank to transfer monies from one account to another. It gives you the option of donating quarterly, half yearly as well as yearly, and is the best method of donating.

CREDIT CARD

Please charge my/our credit card \$ _____

- () Bankcard
() Mastercard
() Visacard

Card No. _____

Expiry Date ____/____/____

Signature _____

CHEQUE / POSTAL ORDER

I/We enclose a cheque / postal order, payable to the NCC for

\$ _____

TELEPHONE

The NCC has **Merchant Trader** status, so it can take your donation over the telephone. We will need to know your name, type of credit card, account number and the amount you wish to donate. You can phone our office during working hours on **328 6577**.

N.B. Due to postal costs, a receipt will not be issued unless otherwise requested.

AD 2000 POSTER

ACTION 1

On pages 7 & 8 is printed a poster advertising the March edition of AD 2000. This edition contains excerpts from 'Mighty Like a Rose', an edition of the ABC religious radio programme 'Encounter', in which unnamed women who had unplanned pregnancies, tell of their experiences of having abortions.

The producer, Kay McLennan, states that "the feminists of the 80's have looked at the pro-choice spiel of the seventy's and found it wanting. So they've joined hands with the old guard Right to Life and it's a feisty marriage."

PLEASE CUT OUT THE POSTER AND PIN IT UP AT YOUR LOCAL PARISH (BUT FIRST OBTAIN YOUR PRIESTS PERMISSION) OR AT SOME OTHER PUBLIC PLACE (EG. LIBRARY) WHERE IT WILL BE ON PUBLIC DISPLAY.

AFA BBQ & AGM

ACTION 2

On the opposite page is an advertisement for the Australian Family Associations forthcoming AGM & BBQ.

Please cut the advertisement out pin it up on a work, public library or church notice board (after first obtaining your priests permission). If you should require additional copies please photocopy the original.

SDA/ NUW & TWU TO MERGE

The National Union of Workers (NUW) has reached in principle agreement the Transport Workers Union (TWU) and the Shop Assistants Union (SDA) to amalgamate on a national basis.

Should this eventuate, it will result in an interesting internal political situation in WA where the moderate NUW and SDA are both run by Mark Bishop (who is State Secretary of both unions) and the TWU by its left-of-centre State Secretary, John O'Connor. The SDA/NUW would be by far the larger partner in this amalgamation with approximately 25,000 members between them in WA and the TWU, with just under 8,000 members.

The least likely outcome on a state basis would be an internal fight for control between Bishop and O'Connor. The writer's guess is that John O'Connor will end up in Parliament (probably the Senate).

FEDERATED CLERKS UNION - *DEATH BY A THOUSAND CUTS*

The Federated Clerks Union (FCU) seems most likely to suffer a death of a thousand cuts. It is yet to find a major union with which to amalgamate and has already lost thousands of members from the waterfront to the WWF (Waterside Workers Federation) and in the Taxation Department to the APSBU (Australian Public Sector & Broadcasting Union).

The position of the FCU in the finance industry has also weakened as building societies either merge with or convert into banks, where the ABEU (Australian Bank Employees Union) has coverage. The probable merger of the ABEU and the IEU (Insurance Employees Union) will only worsen the FCU's problems.

TV PORNOGRAPHY & VIOLENCE



008-226667

This is the toll-free telephone number of the **AUSTRALIAN
BROADCASTING TRIBUNAL.**

ACTION 3

**PIN THIS UP BY YOUR PHONE & RING THEM EACH &
EVERY TIME YOU SEE SOMETHING ON TV YOU DISLIKE.**

AUSTRALIAN FAMILY ASSOCIATION

BBQ & AGM

Sunday, 24th March 1991

Time : 11.30am to 4.00pm

Where : **Aquinas College**
Mt. Henry Road,
Manning

Cost : Adults - \$10
Children Under
15 years - \$2



Meat packs, salads & bread rolls will be supplied. Nominal cost for alcohol, soft drinks, tea, coffee, or **BYO**.

Guest Speaker : Mr. Alan Tapper

(Lecturer in Philosophy at UWA & author of the recently released book, 'Families in the Welfare State.')

A lovely, shaded picnic area is available and if it is hot, bring your bathers, as we have use of the College swimming pool.

(CUT HERE)

RSVP : 15th March, 1991.

To : PO Box 467, Mends Street, South Perth, 6151. OR Phone the AFA Secretary on 378 3924 (AH)

YES! I will be attending the AFA's AGM & BBQ.

Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone: _____

No of adults []

No. of children under 15 years []

Please find enclosed my cheque for \$ _____



A monthly journal of religious opinion

MARCH ISSUE

HOW FEMINISTS BECAME PRO-LIFE

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WHY NEWSWEEKLY ?

because "...there is more sound political thinking to be read in *News Weekly* than in any other publication to which I subscribe."

- Sir Robert Menzies

News Weekly's analysis of critical issues concerning :

- unions and industry;
 - Australia's economic situation, including its foreign debt, its interest rates, the future of small and medium businesses;
 - defence and foreign policy;
 - education;
 - the social situation, in which the most significant factor is the disintegration of the family due, in large part, to the operations of the Family Law Act;
 - socio-moral issues;
- is considered by many to be the most valuable journal of social and political comment in Australia.

News Weekly is edited by **B.A. Santamaria** and is far superior to most specialist executive briefs - at a fraction of the cost. If you read *The Australian* and *The West Australian* every day of the year at a cost of more than \$350 per year, would you really know...

* How Australia's overseas debt can bring economic disaster, why interest rates are so high, how the debt crisis can be solved?

* Why trade unionism is on the decline - what John Halfpenny is really up to?

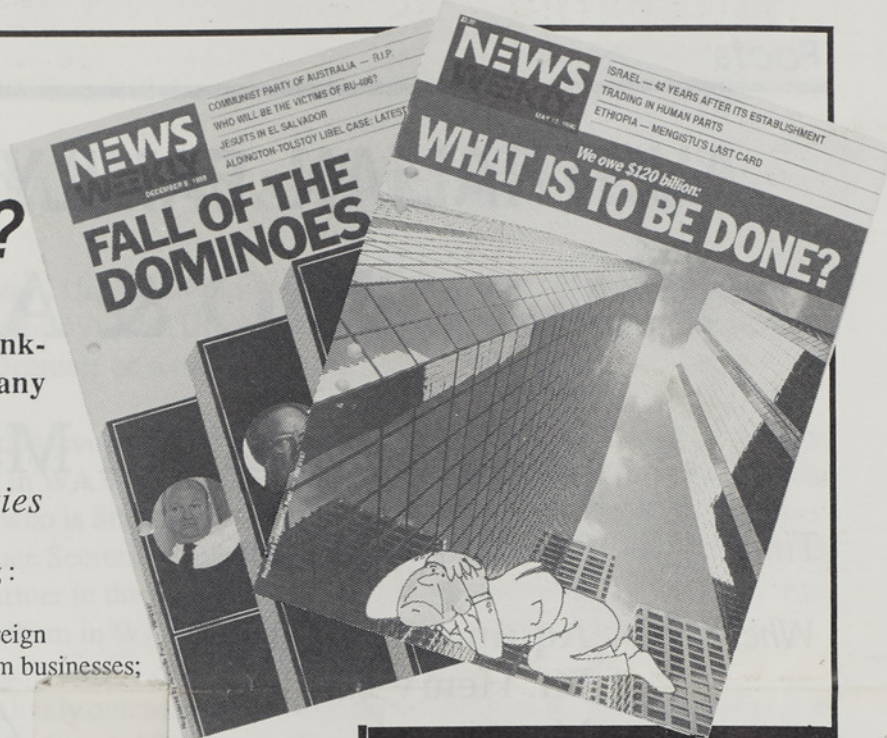
* What is wrong with education in Australia, and what we need to do to rectify it?

* Why Australia's population decline threatens the nation's future independence?

* How the 'greenies' won the battle of Kakadu - and why the environment is too important to be left to extreme environmentalists?

If you had been receiving *News Weekly*, for a mere \$45 a year, you would know. Not only does *News Weekly* publish the facts - it substantiates and explains them.

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G.P.O. Box S1369,
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