

LETTER TO THOUGHTFUL PEOPLE

(Sent to various targets by TRA Executive member, Maurie Fabrikant)

I think you will agree that Victoria in particular, and Australia in general, is experiencing an extremely low level of economic activity. Both State and Federal governments are admitting that about 11% of the workforce is unemployed so it is highly likely that the true figure is substantially higher. I think you will also agree that virtually all Australians are – at least indirectly – affected by this extremely high level of unemployment. We see increasing levels of bankruptcy; previously successful businesses collapse because their sales have been decimated or because of “shonky” management practices. We see increasing social problems; large numbers of young men and women now have good reason to believe that they will never find employment regardless of their attempts to do so. We also see a national debt that is astonishingly high and promises to continue to rise, probably at an increasing rate; it is now of the order of \$10,000 per Australian citizen!

Our politicians seem to be divided, basically, into two camps:

1. those who say that a little more “tinkering” with the present economic system – for example, adjusting interest and various tax rates and providing more money for post-secondary education – will overcome our present difficulties; and
2. those who say that there must be a considerable change in our taxation policy; namely, the replacement of our existing, narrow-based, wholesale sales tax by a wide-based goods and services tax with a simultaneous substantial reduction in income tax.

All our politicians seem to totally disregard the economic circumstances manifest in virtually all other nations. It is obvious that these nations – even those regarded as wealthy – are experiencing increasing levels of unemployment, national debt and anti-social – even criminal – behaviour of their citizens regardless of the “leftness” or “rightness” of their governments. The recent dramatic collapse of a nation that was generally accepted as a superpower – the USSR – proves that Marxism does not create general prosperity. Similarly, the extraordinarily widespread – and increasing –

poverty in the nation that is still accepted as the wealthiest and the most democratic – the USA – proves that capitalism ensures that the wealthy get wealthier while the middle class shrinks, most members joining the ranks of the poverty-stricken.

It is clear that Australia's present politicians – both in government and in opposition – are incapable of solving our nation's problems. Their performance has been woeful and there is no indication that it will improve. Citizens of Australia must start to think about these problems and the possible solutions to them. The alternative will be a future dreadful to contemplate and even worse to experience. The older among us may avoid this dismal future but what of the younger? Our apathy in the past has been at least partly responsible for our present circumstances. Our continued apathy will condemn our successors – our children – to circumstances even worse. Is that what we want?

Karl Williams, a friend of mine, has put into words a solution to the problems that are being experienced by virtually all nations. These words have been recorded on a C60 audio tape, a copy of which accompanies this letter. Please listen to it carefully and evaluate the ideas expressed. The future of the Australian nation is, to some extent at least, in your hands.