A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

ON TARGET

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The Price of Freedom is Eternal Vigilance

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Like the obnoxious door-to door salesman with his foot in the door, our government too keeps on pushing, into our homes, into our lives and into our travel. We are at risk of becoming the complete surveillance state!

I previously mentioned that there was to be a facial recognition trial conducted in Western Australia. It concluded its five-month Overt Live Facial Recognition trial on October 31st. It Ran from June 22, 2026. The trial used cameras mounted on, or near, marked police vans across 43 metropolitan and regional locations and the results are now out!

The Spectator Australia, of the 4th of November has said that they scanned a total of 1.38 million faces! With the Perth region's population being about 2.4 million people that is more than half, in just five short months and with trial cameras. Imagine just how many scans could be done with the infrastructure already in place in shopping centres, on streets and everywhere else that they seem to be popping up. Upgrades to existing cameras are already underway in many places, will they too be facial recognition capable?

Following a February 2026 Administrative Review Tribunal (ART) ruling in its favour, Bunnings is now able to roll these out in store! But it is unclear whether they have 'decided' to implement it yet.

A *Choice Magazine* article back in July 2022, mentions Kmart, Bunnings and the Good Guys as three who were using this technology then! (thus the reason for the ART ruling).

https://www.choice.com.au/data-protection-and-privacy/data-collection-and-use/how-your-data-is-used/articles/kmart-bunnings-and-the-good-guys-using-facial-recognition-technology-in-store

Others were expected to follow at that time; but, Woolworths, Coles and Aldi said they had no plans to. I note now that Coles and Woolworths conducted trials of this technology not long after the Bunnings decision made it possible. ***https://www.afr.com/companies/retail/coles-woolworths-trial-facial-recognition-tech-amid-retail-crime-wave-20260813-p60nyi***

How long before this technology is common place, depends on our Government alone! Legislation to allow it, joined with the governments own trials, has proved it is firmly on the agenda! With this ability, not just crooks are captured, the entire population is monitored! The argument that it makes no difference to you if you are not doing something wrong, is a poor one!

We have seen hacking in all government areas as well as in industry, there is nothing that can convince me that this use will not find increasing ways to be abused. Money changes hands and information is stolen, sold or abused. Under the pretence of some dire need, legislation is brought forward and suddenly government policy changes. We see this time after time. That foot in the door, wedges it wider and wider!

To go back to the trial, it resulted in 122 arrests. Looking at that number you might conclude that it took 122 wanted felons off the street, yet only 48 of them had outstanding arrest warrants. 25 were wanted for questioning, 9 for 'Protected Entertainment Precinct Order breaches' and 3 for being registered sex offenders. 37 of those 122 were initiated by the officers accompanying the vans, not via the facial recognition software *per se*.

These figures, not looking dramatic enough, then had to include a 'contact with 141 sex offenders' mentioned to bolster it's perceived need! It does not say these people were doing anything other than normal activities, just that they knew where they were! There were also incorrect alerts, 9 of them!

Once again I love statistics like these. Nowhere does the government get a chance to look good than when presenting figures!

A five month trial, a roll out of vans and officers to go with them and only 122 (48) arrests? What for?

Figures from: ***https://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/hansard/daily/uh/2026-11-12/24?***

Our police force (or some authorised officers were no doubt used to monitor these things) spent five months to make 122 arrests. In that time, the same police on the beat would probably have been a far greater deterrent to crime, and innocent people would not have had their privacy invaded – all 1.38 million of them (minus 122).

The 9 false alerts? What of them? What inconvenience were those people submitted to?

This use of AI to 'police' the population is justifiably questionable. In an era of rapid AI centre roll outs, despite infrastructure limitations (power and water), the possibility of greater surveillance and greater interconnectedness is higher than ever before. Technology now exists to link all devices attached to the web. The 'smart' addition to many home appliances not excepted!

If you used to believe "Big Brother" was just a fiction, think again! How long until the request for connection with the stores above or local Council or inner-city cameras is made? **The creeping roll-out of 'smart' appliances and the internet connection for all these items is already at the point of reality, only the will to use it stands between actual and theoretical.** The governments of the western world are proving to us daily that they want more control, how long until the legislation reflects this?

Would you accept someone following you around all day? Would you accept having your activities within your own house being monitored? These are the questions you must ask yourself, for that is the direction these fledgling laws are taking us!

The supermarket fridge debacle in Europe just recently is the second such event.

https://www.abc.net.au/news/2026-11-03/european-grocers-report-fridge-cyber-incidents/107338760

Seven different European countries were hit. Storage freezers and fridges were turned up to 50 degrees Celsius. This is no mere power outage, at that temperature food goes off. There is no selling it for same day use (with a thawed for your convenience sticker). With normal thawing, the temperature slowly rises from 4 degrees to slightly more by morning when the fridges are checked! This hack caused an active spoiling! All must be discarded! Proof positive that the risk of remote hacking (or corporate sabotage?) is a real and increasing one.

Now imagine this connectivity in your own home! Every time there is a link to a wider system of surveillance, the entry points for hackers increases exponentially! Just how much risk are you prepared to take? Again, once the foot is in the door, both government and business will use that advantage at every opportunity, citing criminal prevention measures or convenience. The part that is never said out loud, is the control over <u>all</u> of the population that it delivers!

Frightened populations are easier to manage!

As the Victorian elections loom, this saying should be considered! The rise of One Nation and the threat it poses to the entrenched system, is real. The response in many cases is to engender fear of change, fear that

doing something different will have consequences! Removal of Net Zero, or the lowering of migration and the 'public backlash' that might follow (read lefty riots), is inferred. Social cohesion seems to be a problem, only when entrenched policy is addressed. Listen carefully to what is said and to the points that are not discussed, these have as big an impact as any.

Jess Wilson (Liberal leader), despite being asked by Warren Pickering (One Nation) about any commitment to the removal of 'Net Zero', could not bring herself to say the words. Is that support by omission? That and her backing of abortion on demand (taxpayer funded up to 16 weeks) does not set her apart from Labor in any credible way.

Issues I have seen being addressed, do not go into core policy areas that both major parties share. The attacks on One Nation invariably follow a common theme, fear of difference at the forefront, the underlying principles that back the reasons for it are rarely covered in depth. The one thing I feel is mostly lacking, is the use of intelligent debate to counter these differences.

Personalities are always fair game, with many 'alternative' candidates being raked over the coals for past misdemeanours or supposed bias. I find this a cheeky thing for some members to be pointing out, considering the past actions of existing members, both state and federal.

I could mention Japanese "melons", or "mobile phone irradiated penis's" on the federal side, or list remarks by the various state entities who have been in power for some time, that leave much to be desired. Then there is the changing Labor or Liberal leadership, and claims of support for them by their second in charge, until there was no support that is! Those in glass houses should realize that their indiscretions are not so far behind them that the public has forgotten! The pace of politics recently and the upsets within, are still very fresh in people's minds. I don't know if it is just me, but the accusations being leveled are ringing more hollow than ever before.

Fear of change is not a bad thing, it means you are thinking. Fear of remaining on the same course, given the direction we are headed, should be of greater concern.

Keeping cash!

With yet another major infrastructure failure, the seventh in something like six days, you could be forgiven for thinking that something is going on! The interconnected world is beginning to look less secure and less predictable. When Bill Gates is warning us to expect chaos before we accept further legislation/controls, is this what we are seeing?

In light of this, what will you do when it happens again? Maybe being stranded at an airport due to airspace complications (because of a router in

Arkansas – the most recent episode), will leave you sleeping in a poor hotel somewhere on the airlines dollar, or worse, delayed for a day or two. That might not be so much to bawl about, given it is a 'first world problem', but now imagine the Bank gets shut down and your card/phone won't tap! The supermarket check-outs stop working, just like their fridges. Without some means of transacting, you are penniless! For a day or two you might cope, but the longer term?

Cash will continue on in most places. Your local butcher, greengrocer and small personal stores, that still have a till and someone who can do basic mathematics, will still operate. These stores should be the backbone of all our communities, and apart from when the big systems are down, they deserve to be kept alive by our patronage. There will come a time when we will need them to do what they do best – serve us. The use of cash, continued and growing, is one way we can be assured of some form of uninterrupted supply.

We take our future in our own hands every time we transact. Keeping cash alive not only helps when these outages occur, but it will also thwart those who desire us to have everything digital, including the coming digital bank currency. If you are at all concerned about any aspect of what the future might bring, keeping cash active is one of the easiest things to do, it is also the simplest form of fighting back. We need to show who is in charge of our expenditure at it's most basic level.

What is the price of a battery?

While Chris Bowen and his entourage sip their way through $32,000 worth of 'free' coffee, citing 'great public diplomacy', I wonder where our diplomacy stands with the cost of a single battery?

'Renewables', we know will not work without sunlight or wind. For the lull between these times, a battery back up is needed. I am sure they work just fine? In fact the home based ones being rolled out (at great cost) are actually affecting the energy prices that the snowy project (the battery I speak of), originally used to justify itself.

Yes Snowy 2.0, as it has come to be called, is basically a giant battery. As a monument to engineering it could be described as ambitious, it could be described as far sighted, but the question of paying for it and whether it will be cost effective is not one many like to ask. Given our faulty financial system, at this point is is just a major drain on our economy!

From an initial $4 billion contract (that was quickly realized was never feasible), to a blank cheque with $75 billion in it's sights it has certainly earned it's place in discussion. How such a project ever starts without proper

pre-assessment is a topic for an inquiry to probe. If I were to build an industrial storage facility in my local area, it must meet all council requirements, including feasibility, drainage, fire, wind and many other factors. I must do my homework and in many cases provide more than one quote on works. How then is it, that a government project seems immune? If any of the factors responsible for this blowout, were researched and provided as quotes, where does accountability fit in to all this. Are we to continue throwing money at it until it is finished? Those at the helm include both sides of politics, are they competing with Victoria's big build? The very existence of these questions are a good reason to look for a better alternative government.

I am not against big projects, nor do I think we should not look to the future. The concept is a good one, but perhaps the delivery is suspect? This example of cost blowout highlights to me the dangers of continued use of our faulty financial system. If we were to look at the real world as it stands, the cost of completing any project, in real terms, relies on three basic questions: are we capable of doing it?, do we have the materials?,, and can we feed and house the workers (and provide the infrastructure they need) to do it? From that point, starting any project we find desirable is simply a case of assessing if we can provide those real world needs. The money used to represent those needs is entirely **abstract**, it plays no part in the actual engineering or labour. We could use coins in place of aggregate in the concrete or notes to wallpaper the offices – but that would be a bit silly!

Money (or the notations of accounting) - simply enables the work to proceed.

If a cost 'blowout' occurs, then the process simply takes longer to complete! As long as we can keep feeding the workers and providing the raw materials, the build can still go on.

Where I differ from those who wave their hands and worry about future repayment, is my knowledge that any debt arising from it is largely fictional. Money as an enabling tool, which allows all the necessary items to be brought together, is only a means of getting it done. Once it is built and functional, the job is done. As long as all who participated are paid and the material requirements are also paid for; that is the end! The fictional representation of the means used to swap these items, is finished with!

Please think about this! Large project or small, it makes no difference! If something is physically possible, no matter how long it takes (even the pyramids) then it should be financially possible!

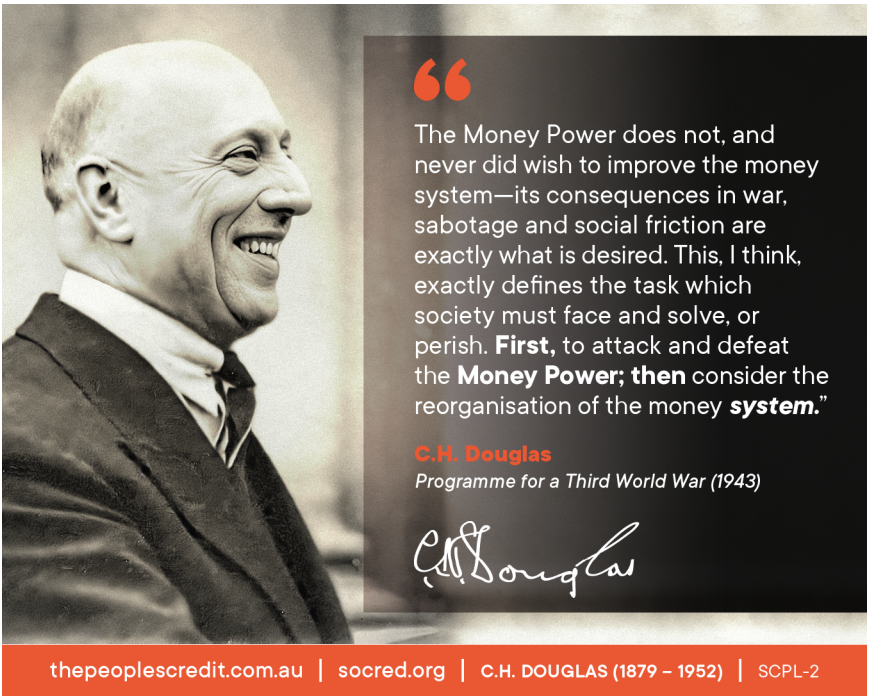
To quote from C. H. Douglas, from, *The Use of Money*:
https://alor.org/Storage/Library/Douglas%20CH%20-%20The%20Use%20of%20Money.htm

The financial system is nothing but a ticket system. The ticket system must be made to reflect the actual truth of the productive system and not attempt to control it. Finance must be made to follow industry and business and not control them, and the actual means by which real wealth is produced must be recognised as being largely descended to us from the labours and the genius and the work of very large numbers of inventors, and so forth, who are now dead, and these inventions are the legacy of civilisation and therefore the product of their legacy is something to which we all have a right, and because that is the chief form of production, it is the factor in production which we all of us have a right to share.

Only in that way can this absurd anomaly - this unbelievable anomaly between poverty and tremendous, either actual or potential, plenty - be solved, and if that anomaly, that paradox between poverty and distress on the one hand and potential plenty on the other, is not quickly solved, then the civilisation to which we have devoted such wonderful care, and brought on to the very edge of a golden age, will go down with those of Greece and Rome.

C. H. Douglas. ***

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The Money Power does not, and never did wish to improve the money system—its consequences in war, sabotage and social friction are exactly what is desired. This, I think, exactly defines the task which society must face and solve, or perish. **First,** to attack and defeat the **Money Power; then** consider the reorganisation of the money ***system.***”
C.H. Douglas
Programme for a Third World War (1943)
thepeoplescredit.com.au | socred.org | C.H. DOUGLAS (1879 – 1952) | SCPL-2


“
We are aware of two descriptions of law, one of which we commonly term ‘natural law,’ such as the relation which covers the fall of bodies through space, and a second which we associate with human governments. This second description of law is, from its essence, a genuine infringement upon fundamental liberty, in that it superimposes a chain of consequences upon our acts which do not arise from any natural law that cover those actions. It is quite possible that laws of this nature form a convenient mechanism for accelerating the progress of society, but it is none the less from them that we derive many of our difficulties.”
C.H. Douglas
The Alberta Experiment (1937)
thepeoplescredit.com.au | socred.org | C.H. DOUGLAS (1879 – 1952) | SCPL-10