

MAY 1977

P.O. BOX 33,
KALGOORLIE, 6430.
WEST AUSTRALIA.

SUMMARY OF MEMO NO. 1 - 'THE EDUCATIONAL METHOD'

THE ATTACHMENTS WILL BE OF INTEREST ONLY TO THOSE WHO ARE CURIOUS ABOUT WHAT HAS GONE WRONG WITH AUSTRALIA.

AS IN OTHER COUNTRIES, A PREDICTABLE TRAIN OF EVENTS FOLLOWS WHEN INDIVIDUALS LEAVE ALL DECISIONS TO 'BIG BROTHER'.

THERE IS A SOLUTION, INVOLVING THE PARTNERSHIP OF FREEDOM AND SELF-RESPONSIBILITY. (THESE ARE INTERCHANGEABLE TERMS. SELF RESPONSIBILITY IS IMPOSSIBLE UNLESS ONE BE FREE, AND ONE CANNOT BE FREE IF NOT SELF-RESPONSIBLE.

TWO LEADING EXPONENTS OF THE EDUCATIONAL METHOD ARE:

(A) LEONARD E. READ WHO SUGGESTS AN ALTERNATIVE TO RAMMING IDEAS DOWN THE THROATS OF OTHERS.

INSTEAD, IF WE HAVE A GOOD IDEA, JUST WORK ON IT. IF IT'S ANY GOOD, OTHERS WILL THEN BORROW IT FROM US.

(B) ~~ANTONY FISHER~~ SUGGESTS THAT OUR 'LEADERS' HAVE UNFORTUNATELY BECOME BOGGED-DOWN IN DEBATING USELESS TRIVIA.

IT IS THEREFORE UP TO INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS OR ORGANISATIONS TO INSTIGATE RESEARCH ON CONSTRUCTIVE SOLUTIONS TO TODAY'S PROBLEMS.

NOBODY HAS A LICENSE TO TRY AND INFLUENCE YOU, BUT IF YOU DECIDE TO OPEN THE PAGES OF A FEW BOOKS, YOU CAN HELP YOURSELF TO UNDERSTAND WHY OUR 'LEADERS' ARE POINTING US IN THIS ENTIRELY PREDICTABLE, BUT CATASTROPHIC DIRECTION.

AS LEONARD READ SAYS. 'NOTHING FAILS LIKE SOMETHING-FOR-NOTHING'.

R.B. MANNERS

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1-3-*

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#1*

EMO NO. 1. FROM R.B. MANNERS

PROGRESS PARTY BRANCHES & MEMBERS

HAVE BEEN ASKED TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR 'EDUCATION AND TRAINING', AT BOTH STATE AND KALGOORLIE BRANCH LEVEL.

WHILST MAINLY BEING A TASK OF INDICATING THE AVAILABILITY OF LITERATURE, REFERENCES AND THE ASSEMBLAGE OF SOME OF THE WORLD'S BEST BRAINS THAT ARE AVAILABLE TO SUBSTANTIATE THE LIBERTARIAN VIEW POINT, THE REAL SECRET LIES IN OBTAINING QUICK ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION.

MOST OF US ARE UNDER CONSTANT PRESSURE AND WE WILL RESPOND TO A CHALLENGE ONLY IF WE CAN QUICKLY ASSEMBLE THE REQUIRED FACTS.

IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT THERE ARE FOUR WAYS OF PROTECTING OUR FREEDOM:

EDUCATION
ECONOMIC SELF-PRESERVATION
NON-VIOLENT, PEACEFUL FORMS OF CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE
POLITICAL ACTION, TO REDUCE THE POWER OF THE STATE.

TO BE EFFECTIVE IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO ACTIVELY PURSUE MORE THAN JUST ONE OF THE ABOVE METHODS BUT THIS MEMO WILL CONCENTRATE ON:

EDUCATION, AS IT IS A PRE-CONDITION FOR ANY MEANINGFUL INCREASE IN FREEDOM,

THE STARTING POINT IS TO READ THE PROGRESS PARTY POLICY DOCUMENT.

THIS OUTLINES THE PROBLEMS FACING AUSTRALIA AND SUGGESTS CONSTRUCTIVE ALTERNATIVES.

THE EDUCATION REQUIRED TO BACK THESE CONSTRUCTIVE ALTERNATIVES, IS SIMPLY TO LEARN THE CONSISTENT APPLICATION OF THE PROGRESS PARTY'S FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE I.E.

NO INDIVIDUAL, GROUP OR GOVERNMENT HAS THE RIGHT TO INITIATE THE USE OF FORCE, FRAUD OR COERCION AGAINST ANY OTHER INDIVIDUAL, GROUP OR GOVERNMENT' (ALTHOUGH NO INDIVIDUAL OR GOVERNMENT MAY 'INITIATE' OR START THE USE OF FORCE THEY MAY OF COURSE USE FORCE AS RETALIATION OR DEFENCE AGAINST SOMEONE ELSE WHO INITIATES IT, OR THREATENS TO - FOR EXAMPLE A CRIMINAL OR AN INVADER) - SEE SECTION 1:7, POLICY DOCUMENT.

TWO OF THE WORLD'S FOREMOST EXPONENTS OF THE EDUCATIONAL METHOD ARE:

1) LEONARD READ, PRESIDENT OF THE FOUNDATION FOR ECONOMIC EDUCATION INC., WHOSE INSIGHT MAY BE GAUGED FROM THESE THREE QUOTATIONS:

'My argument sheds no light, but only hardens each to this position. Do not argue, just present a better case'.

'I am the only person, among all who live, that I have been commissioned to reform and improve; and this is the biggest project on earth.'

'The case for freedom is not a selling but a learning problem. Some of the so-called friends of freedom, with their antagonisms and inept performances, provoke many unfavourable responses.'

LEONARD READ, AS FOUNDER OF THE FOUNDATION FOR ECONOMIC EDUCATION INC., DESCRIBES HIS METHOD AS FOLLOWS:-

Replacing interventionist notions with the freedom philosophy — the only possible antidote to an expanding socialism — involves more than a mere belief in freedom ideas. Involved, also, are the means used to bring about the replacement. Unless proper educational methods are followed, all efforts on behalf of freedom are doomed to failure.

EE's uniqueness rests on the method advocated: self-improvement. By reason of our 28 years of persistent emphasis on the improvement of self — as distinguished from attempts to reform others — there are today, in numerous walks of life, persons who serve as 'wellsprings' of understanding and inspiration.

P
#2

These persons are not so much trying to 'reach the minds' of others; they are trying first of all to achieve a quality in their own minds that others will reach for. They know that the educational process is one of 'taking from', that they must, therefore, have something in store to be taken. Our whole aim is to get as many individuals as possible to join us in this search for right principles and the competence to write and speak about them — to share. Only as this improvement-of-self-comes increases in quality and quantity can the free market and individual liberty be more nearly approximated and interventionism and its monetary offspring, inflation be arrested.

We do not tell anyone how to run a war; instead we try to explain how the free market makes for social harmony and peace. We neither approve or disapprove political parties; instead we present the rationale of limited government. We take no sides on legislation; instead we set forth the broad principles that should underlie all law. We have no 'anti-communist' projects; indeed, we demonstrate the similarities of democratic and totalitarian socialism and offer as the only antidote the practice of free market, willing exchange, private property, limited government principles.'

(B) ANTONY FISHER, FOUNDER OF THE INSTITUTE OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, LONDON.

DURING A RECENT PHONE CALL, MR. FISHER INDICATED HIS INTENTION TO VISIT AUSTRALIA DURING 1977.

HIS METHOD CONSISTS OF COMPLETING THOROUGHLY RESEARCH STUDIES AND MAKING THE RESULTANT INFORMATION FREELY AVAILABLE TO POLITICIANS; INTELLECTUALS, THE MEDIA AND OTHER AVENUES THROUGH WHICH THE PUBLIC ARE NORMALLY 'EDUCATED'.

HE EXPLAINS THE NEED FOR THESE STUDIES AS FOLLOWS:-

'One self-imposed trouble of politicians is that they are very busy and have little, if any, time for research. MPs have an impossible job when government becomes involved in every detail of our lives. Laws reach the statute book without proper discussion. This result is inevitable so long as parliament is trying to do work which no parliament can ever do.

The average politician does little or no research, and without a sound understanding of principles he is unlikely to be constructive. It is easy to be negative and easiest of all for a politician in opposition to be critical when the ruling party has been in government long enough to have proved itself no better than the last. This is why politicians spend much time attacking each other and the public gets bored with the process'.

'Research publications issued by a political ^{parties} are bound to be biased, and therefore attract little attention from the press and the intellectual world. The many political compromises in producing a 'package deal' will probably mean that the ^{business} cannot resist increasing taxation and government action, thereby helping to build up the syndrome which is so harmful. Because government decision-making is not based on principles, an inevitable result is that countless 'deals' are made to meet the demands of pressure groups. As each group seeks to achieve privileges at the expense of others, and as all the others are doing exactly the same, the ultimate result must be a highly uneconomic system based on restraint and compulsion. Lacking Fundamental principles as guides, the politician and his party organisation are like amateur explorers marching in step to an unknown destination without a map, navigational equipment or any real knowledge of the stars.

'The politician is apt to be an avid reader of the press. He wishes to gauge 'public opinion' as a way of winning or holding on to power, prestige and votes. Yet so long as he hopes to become a leader by being a follower, he must eventually fail. To be a leader requires an understanding of fundamental ideas and how to put them into practice.'

'The success of new ideas depends on at least one person not only understanding the case, but also writing it down for others to study. If the report is convincing and preferably has a good summary, and perhaps even a summary of a summary, it will be read, reviewed and increasingly taught to others. In due time, it will begin to produce consequences.'

'As politicians become less sure of themselves, and less able to offer any alternative policy which has not already been discredited, many would wrongly welcome a coalition. The fashionable fear of not wishing to 'abdicate responsibilities to the free market' will obstruct a move in the right direction.

P
#3