

Speech given at the Perth launch of
Thank God For Carbon

25 March 2009

Ray Evans

Mr Chairman,

I wish not only to thank Dr Dennis Jensen for launching ***Thank God For Carbon*** today in Perth, but more important, to pay a heartfelt tribute to him for keeping the flag of scientific integrity and commitment to reason flying high within the Federal Parliamentary Liberal Party. Since federation Western Australia has sent some outstanding representatives to Canberra. It would be presumptuous of me, a Victorian, to try to list them all. But I will mention Sir Hal Colebatch who died in 1953, Peter Walsh and John Hyde, who I'm glad to say are both very much alive but unfortunately cannot be here with us tonight.

Dennis Jensen upholds that tradition of Western Australians who have been "valiant for truth" and all Australians are indebted to him because of that.

I'm very grateful to Ron Manners and the Mannkal Foundation for hosting this event. I'm sure it won't be the last time that Ron hosts these functions in the cause of freedom.

I use that word advisedly because as President Vaclav Klaus has pointed out, with first-hand experience of living under totalitarian rule to draw on; this battle is not about the environment, it is about freedom. At the end of his book *Blue Planet in Green Shackles* he has a list of 8 points summarising what we should do. His second point is this:

Let us not put climate change before the fundamental questions of freedom, democracy, and human well-being.

The great puzzle in this Global Warming Scam is how is it that our scientific "gate keeping institutions", to use David Archibald's term, the universities, the CSIRO, the Bureau of Meteorology, have scrambled onto this fraud without any regard for their duty as "gatekeepers" of a scientific tradition which stretches back to the beginning of the Christian era.

Esau, we are told, sold his birthright or inheritance for a "mess of pottage" which means a bowl of lentil soup.

Esau was one person, who was caught at a moment of extreme hunger. But here we are speaking

about many hundreds of trained scientists, occupying positions of authority in virtually every Australian university, organisations such as the CSIRO, the Bureau of Meteorology, the Institution of Engineers, Australia, and the AusIMM, the Royal Society of London, and on and on.

These people have sold their inheritance for much more than a bowl of lentil soup. But the point is that that inheritance is not their property to sell. They are trustees who have betrayed their trust and at some point, soon we hope, they will have to answer for their betrayal.

So we who are defending the scientific tradition are battling against principalities and powers who occupy the commanding heights of politics and business.

I have been asking myself, for many years, is there a similar event in the history of Western intellectual life where the intellectual class, en bloc, was captured by a fantasy of similar proportions to that of the Global Warming Scam. The witchcraft episode of the C16 and C17 centuries has often been cited as a good example. In those days we had a Witch-finder General who had official responsibility for hunting-out and prosecuting witches, with fatal results for the unfortunate victims.

Tody we have in Senator Penny Wong, the Minister for Climate Change. George Orwell would be laughing in his grave. If the Minister stripped off and performed a monthly rain dance on the lawns outside Parliament House she would provide some gaiety to the political scene. But instead, she has introduced a Bill named the Carbon Pollution Reduction Bill, which if passed will have very serious consequences for all Australians. The Bill will have exactly the same impact on our rainfall and temperature as the rain dances she doubtless would perform if she had the same faith in her magical powers as she does in the capacity of Australia's anthropogenic emissions of CO₂ to change our climate.

I know that in the West there is total indifference to the sufferings which may befall Australians who live in the East; but the economic consequences of Melbourne and Sydney starved of electricity supplies may spill over to the West. In explaining that diversion I should mention that the Latrobe Valley brown coal power stations, which provide 80 percent of Victoria's power needs, and which also supply back-up power to NSW, are privately owned, and further more, they are very highly geared.

Those loans, about \$6 billions or more, have to be rolled over beginning next year. If the ETS Bill fails to pass the Senate those loans will be very difficult to roll over in current conditions. If the ETS Bill becomes law those loans will be impossible to refinance; the power station owners will have to declare bankruptcy; and both Victorian and Commonwealth Governments will be faced with a major political and economic crisis. The discomfort of life without electricity will be extreme. But it will almost be worth while watching Senator Bob Brown explain that we will all

be better off without electricity.

Let me return to my main theme.

I have been looking for a similar event in Western intellectual history to the global warming scam and recently I have found that we have been living with just such a scam for 70 years. It has been concealed below the surface of affairs since the 60s but it has re-emerged with undiminished power since the Global Financial Crisis began its course of spreading contagion through the entire world.

I refer to the Keynesian fantasies first given to the world in 1936. My interest in this was sparked by a few chatty lines written by Peter Hartcher in the SMH. I don't think Peter Hartcher appreciated the significance of the story he told.

Writing in the SMH on Feb 28th last he described a an event in Canberra which took place sometime last October; an event, as far as I know, reported by no one else. This event tells us pretty much all we need to know about the Prime Minister's understanding of how nations survive and prosper. It also tells us a great deal about the intellectual formation of the Secretary of the Treasury, Ken Henry.

Hartcher wrote:

When they had finished putting together the \$10.4 billion "cash splash" handouts last October, Kevin Rudd thanked the secretary of the Treasury, Ken Henry, for his efforts with a gift.

The Prime Minister handed his senior official an inscribed copy of one of the most famous and influential books of the last century: ***The General Theory Of Employment, Interest And Money.***

The British economist John Maynard Keynes published it during the Great Depression in the 1930s. And as Rudd gave it to Henry in front of a small gathering of officials he remarked: "We're all Keynesians now."

Hartcher does not tell us who wrote the inscription. If it was Keynes, then it was a valuable gift, rather like having a first edition of Das Kapital with Karl Marx's signature on the flyleaf. If it was the Prime Minister, then that explains much of the rhetoric and policy concerning the GFC which has come from the Prime Minister in recent months.

I had thought that the stagflations of the 60s and 70s had put the Keynesian fantasies to rest. But this story sent me back to the Keynesian Bible, and to the critiques of it, written many years ago.

This is not the occasion to describe the full lunacy of Keynes as set out in *The General Theory* ,

but suffice to say that *The General Theory* is to economics what Al Gore's *Earth in the Balance: Ecology and the Human Spirit* (1992) is to science.

Further, we have to remember that Keynesianism reigned supreme in the world of economics for many decades. Ted Sieper tells me

“In Australia there was only one academic economist who stood against the Keynesian hegemony. Just one. His name was John King Gifford, a Professor of Economics at University of Queensland, who valiantly insisted against the Keynesians (who saw the Arbitration Court as the determinant of the Australian rate of inflation) that the money supply was the key.. Gifford was, of course, regarded as a crank”.

Ted Sieper also noted

“To me a measure of the intellectual damage wrought by post-war Keynesianism can be found in a before/after comparison of the writings of Australia's best economists. A good example would be Copland's Marshall Lectures written during the Depression and his post-war efforts (after serving a stint as Commonwealth Prices Commissioner during the war).”

Steve Kates has published a definitive account of the Keynesian fantasies in the current issue of *Quadrant* and I strongly recommend it to anyone who needs to bring him or herself up to speed on this matter.

Back to Global Warming. Andrew Bolt, writing in the *Herald Sun* last Friday (20 March 2009) tells the story of three global warming believers facing death on the Arctic Ice pack.

THREE shivering global warming activists, stuck on an ice floe in the Arctic, are helping to tear up the psychology textbooks.

In 1956, US psychologist Leon Festinger became instantly famous for giving us "cognitive dissonance" -- the theory that humans couldn't tolerate two conflicting perceptions. One would have to go.

Ha! It's taken half a century, but warming believers are now making a monkey of old Festinger.

As proof, here are three recent news items about the latest pilgrimage to the North Pole of three scientists, all hot gossellers of our new faith and all convinced the ice cap is barely there.

February 13, 2009, from Britain's Herald Express: *The team of three will be measuring the thickness of the ice . . . The data they gather will give scientists a better idea of just how long the ice cap could survive.*

February 19, 2009, from the online diary of team leader Pen Hadow: *With unusually heavy snowfall in Britain just before we left for Canada, leave-taking from our families was not quite what we had planned.*

March 18, 2009, from AFP: *Project director and ice team leader Pen Hadow and his colleagues, Martin Hartley and Ann Daniels, are now down to half rations and fighting to survive in brutal sub-zero weather conditions.*

Never mind. Hadow's team may be deep frozen, half-starved and cut off from rescue by howling gales, while their loved ones shiver in Britain, but think they'll stop believing the world is actually a sauna, and heating to hell?

Hell would freeze over first. This is a faith where believers can feel cold and think hot -- displaying all the symptoms of Festinger's cognitive dissonance, but without feeling any need to reconcile two conflicting perceptions. Theory kaput.

Post Script: Proving Andrew's point.

On Thursday, 19 Mar 2009 their resupply plane was finally able to land and Pen Hadow posted the following message

Having spent a frustrating 5 days holed up in the tent, awaiting the arrival of the resupply plane, we were mighty relieved to hear the engines of the Twin Otter approach yesterday.

As with all these things, it was very much a collaborative effort. Thank you to Fred at the KBA office in Resolute, the KBA pilots, our Operations team and those at MDA who supplied us with the Radarsat 2 imagery that enabled us to find a suitable landing strip. To give you some idea of the importance of this imagery, the area of flat ice that we had been directed to (5 days earlier), was the first suitable landing strip the KBA pilots had seen during their 2.5 hour flight over the Arctic Ocean from Resolute.

We are obviously very keen to start heading North again. Although 5 days in the tent has ensured that we are well rested it has meant that we have lost some of our momentum and routine

Andrew Bolt is describing the triumph of faith over experience. And it will take many years of

cold weather to upset the hegemonial position which the *carbonistas* hold within our key institutions. But there will come a reckoning at some point. From one point of view, the worse is better school, the passage of Penny Wong's ETS Bill will bring about a reckoning much more quickly than any clear and obvious cooling of the kind described by David Archibald in Solar Cycle 24.

Our task is to keep flying the flag. We are defending one of the most important pillars of Western Civilisation, the tradition of scientific integrity. One of the most important of the Ten Commandments is the Ninth Commandment

Thou shall not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

“Neighbour” in this context means a scientist who holds an opposing view about Global Warming. The Greens, with Al Gore as their great high priest, are deep into false witness as a legitimate part of their mission to save the planet from the depredations of mankind. So any lie will serve this purpose and when one lie is shown up as yet another falsehood, they move onto another one.

The Greens are the self-styled friends of the earth and but more than that they are enemies of the people, and at some point this fact will become too obvious to hide. When that happens our job is done.