

# Behind the Australian League of Rights: malthusianism and gnosticism

by Allen Douglas

Over the past year, the Australian League of Rights, led by its 75-year-old founder Eric Butler, has lashed out against U.S. statesman and political prisoner Lyndon LaRouche. During an early 1992 tour of Australia, Butler personally badmouthed LaRouche.

The League of Rights, which has an anti-communist, anti-usury, and professedly Christian platform, has been the most powerful “extra-party” force in Australian politics since its founding in 1944. Its strength in rural areas has been such that many “mainstream” politicians, while publicly denouncing the League as radical, have quietly begged for its help.

Now, taking up cudgels against LaRouche, the League is beginning to expose its real purpose.

In April and May 1991, John Koehler, cofounder of the Citizens Electoral Councils, toured Western Australia to acquaint farmers with the international Food for Peace movement, founded by LaRouche, and its fight against the establishment’s genocidal shutdown of food production. Butler followed Koehler into the region. In his speeches, Butler attacked the Platonic current of true Christianity underlying Food for Peace—that man is the living image of the Creator because of his sovereign creative powers of mind. “Socrates was the first communist,” Butler railed to astonished audiences, adding that the anti-creative logician, Aristotle, “stands for the truth.”

Written attacks followed in the League’s monthly *Intelligence Survey*, which lied that “LaRouche . . . [was] found guilty of credit card fraud,” and was “circulating disinformation.” Butler cited the CIA-financed book by leftist, pro-drug operative Dennis King as his source.

Coming amidst the Anglo-American establishment’s deployment of police agencies and left- and right-wing operatives to stop LaRouche’s growing influence in Australia (see *EIR*, Feb. 21, 1992, “Australia: ADL Dirty Tricks Against LaRouche”), these attacks raise some questions about the League of Rights—its motives, and the basis for its actions. They have provoked even many League members to ask what is going on.

The answer to that question leads into some of the League’s dirty little secrets, and its role from the very beginning as an apologist for the malthusian British Empire. This is embedded in the League’s *raison d’être*, its “anti-establishment” economic theories.

The League was founded upon the “Social Credit” ideas of British engineer Maj. C.H. Douglas (1879-1952). Although Social Credit correctly attacked private bankers’ stranglehold on credit creation, through central banking systems such as the U.S. Federal Reserve, the movement harbored malthusian tenets of its own. These are expounded, for instance, by longtime Butler lieutenant Charles Pinwill, writing in the League’s *New Times*, against “For a Sovereign Australia,” an economic recovery program developed by *EIR* and the CEC.

“Ever-increasing construction of greater and greater industrial plant is ultimately impossible to attain,” wrote Pinwill, ignoring the progress of the human race since the Renaissance. The reason for this, he said, is laid down by Social Credit’s “A + B Theorem,” a rehash of the “buyback” bugaboo claimed by various socialists: Since at any given time more production will have been created, than credit put into circulation to create that production, there is not enough money to “buy back” the additional production—a problem exacerbated by the interest charges which must be paid on all new credit issued by a Federal Reserve-type system.

Butler et al. propose to solve this problem by issuing a sum of debt-free money annually, to be “sent through the Post” to each consumer, as a “national dividend.” Leaving aside such obvious problems as how consumers spending their “dividends” could solve, say, the \$3 trillion infrastructure deficit of the United States, and the related fact that Social Credit entirely ignores the physical economy in favor of money fetishism, the alleged “A + B” problem is nonsense. An economy whose physical production is expanding—that is, any economy which actually functions—constantly issues new credit for the next cycle of production, which in turn is used to purchase the expanded production of the previous cycle. Under Hamiltonian, usury-free national banking, technological advances ensure stable or falling prices.

The key is that new issuances of credit be targeted to expand the physical economy, an effect virtually outlawed by Social Credit’s “decentralized” approach. Furthermore, a “steady-state” economy such as Social Credit proposes is necessarily malthusian, as prices rise for increasingly scarce raw materials (cf. Lyndon LaRouche’s textbook *So, You Wish to Learn All About Economics?*). This is precisely what today’s greenies, and their oligarchical masters, propose.

That is no coincidence. It all goes back to the New Age kookery of Social Credit founder C.H. Douglas.

### 'Social Credit,' Fascism, and New Age

Douglas's ideas first appeared in the British magazine *New Age* in the early 1920s. His closest collaborators at the time were two former leaders of the Fabian society, A.J. Penty, the founder of British guild socialism, and A.R. Orage, a theosophist and publisher of *New Age*, who, according to one account, coined the term "Social Credit." Penty's guild socialism codified the pro-feudal theories of Oxford art critic John Ruskin, the man who inspired Cecil Rhodes—whom Butler defends—to found the British Round Table, in turn the "mother" of such establishment institutions such as the Royal Institute of International Affairs and the New York Council on Foreign Relations.

In the words of one historian, "the Douglas theory embodied a great deal of guild theory"—the anti-industrial, "small is beautiful" policy so beloved by the establishment. By the 1930s, Douglas had lent his clan's tartan to "The Green Shirt Movement for Social Credit," a paramilitary youth group along the lines of Oswald Moseley's "Black Shirts" in Britain. Penty went on to join the British Fascists outright, while Douglas picked up the notorious anti-Semitic forgery of the Czarist secret police, "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion," as a main tenet. Not surprisingly, Douglas's chief Australian disciple, Eric Butler, was known in the late 1930s as a "Chamberlainite," after Britain's pro-Hitler prime minister Neville Chamberlain.

The right wing of the guild socialist movement became "Douglasites" or even overt fascists, while the left wing became the Communist Party of Great Britain.

### Pox Britannica

Butler's major complaint against LaRouche is that he has "consistently maintained a venomous campaign against the British monarchy." Defense of that monarchy, and a shameless defense of the British Empire, are axiomatic for the League of Rights. Its platform pledges "to expose and oppose all anti-British propaganda, and actions."

Such a defense of the British monarchy is coherent with Social Credit's malthusian agenda; the British Royal Family is one of the world's chief advocates of the pagan, genocidalist cult of radical environmentalism:

- Prince Philip has been the international president of the world's premier environmentalist organization, the World Wildlife Fund (now the World Wide Fund for Nature), since its founding in 1961.

- An Aug. 26, 1988 German Press Agency press release from London reporting on Philip's demands for population reduction, reprised an earlier remark of the Royal Consort: "Prince Philip had raised eyebrows, when he maintained, that he would, in the case of being reincarnated, want to come back 'as a deadly virus, in order to reduce the popula-

tion explosion.' "

- At a press conference in Washington, D.C. on May 18, 1990, Philip castigated the "revealed religions" for censoring "the pagan worship of natural phenomena. It is now apparent," he asserted, "that the ecological pragmatism of the so-called pagan religions, such as that of the American Indians, the Polynesians, and the Australian Aborigines, was a great deal more realistic in terms of conservation ethics than the more intellectual monotheistic philosophies of the revealed religions."

- In a June 3, 1990 interview with the London *Observer*, Philip complained that the Bible, with its emphasis on man's dominion over nature, contained "nothing about respect for nature, or respect for the natural environment as a manifestation of the divine." He insisted that, "as the human population increases, so it reduces the space available on the globe for the wild creatures." Philip wants the environmentalist notion of "stewardship" to replace "dominion."

- In February 1990, the British National Farmers Union attacked Prince Charles's crusade for "organic farming"—a belief which Butler shares—as something that would slash Britain's food supply. In a BBC broadcast in May 1990, Charles renounced science and technology in favor of mankind's role "as stewards of the Earth,"

- The Royal Family patronizes Britain's Gaia Foundation, named after the ancient earth mother goddess, denounced in the Bible as "the whore of Babylon."

- With the Queen's approval, Right Reverend George Carey was chosen in 1990 as the new head of the Church of England. Italy's *Corriere della Sera* quoted Carey on July 25, about his "ecological morality": "The question is, is God green? The answer is, emphatically yes, God is more green than me and you."

Butler's dedication to the British Empire and its royals goes beyond their mutual commitment to the bogus dogmas of Parson Malthus. According to long-time associates, Butler is a member of a pseudo-Christian cult known as the British Israelites, who maintain that the Anglo-Saxons are God's chosen people, the "Ten Lost Tribes of Israel." The British Empire and Commonwealth, the cult teaches, fulfill Biblical prophecy of an eternal empire ruled by a royal house. The British Israelites have cooked up a 3,000-year genealogy for the Windsors.

This devotion to a gnostic cult headed by the Royal Family, patrons of British Israel since Queen Victoria's granddaughter, the Countess of Athlone, took charge of the movement in 1919, would explain another enigma that has long puzzled Australia's patriots—Eric Butler's notorious softness on freemasonry. Gnosticism, the chief opponent of Christianity in the early centuries, taught that salvation lies not in the belief in Jesus Christ, but in some secret knowledge—*gnosis*—known only to a few. Freemasonry is not only itself a gnostic cult, but it, too, is headed by the Royal Family, whose Duke of Kent is the Grandmaster of London's Grand Lodge.