



Australian Adam Smith Club (Melbourne)

President: Timothy Warner, Editor: Mannie Gross, P.O. Box 950, Hawthorn, 3122

Give me the liberty to know, to utter, and to argue freely according to conscience, above all liberties.
John Milton (Areopagitica, 1644)

Dr Gary Johns

on

No Contraception No Dole: Tackling intergenerational welfare

**The Adam Smith Club will host a meeting on Tuesday the 12th of April, 2016
at Bohème Restaurant Bar, 368 Bridge Road, Richmond.**

The Hon Dr Gary Johns served in the House of Representatives from 1987-1996, was Special Minister of State and Assistant Minister for Industrial Relations from 1993-1996 and was an Associate Commissioner of the Commonwealth Productivity Commission 2002-2004. He was for 10 years Senior Fellow at the Institute of Public Affairs and a senior consultant with ACIL Tasman economic consultants from 2006-2009. In 2009 he was appointed Associate Professor of Public Policy at the Australian Catholic University's Public Policy Institute. In 2012 he was appointed visiting fellow at QUT Business School.

Gary Johns will argue the case for his book "No Contraception No Dole: Tackling intergenerational welfare". It has created considerable controversy amongst the chattering classes and will be an opportunity for those who attend to discuss the pros and cons with the author.

Attendance is open to both members and non-members. Those desiring to attend should complete the attached slip and return it to the Club no later than the 8th of April, 2015. Tickets will not be sent. Those attending should arrive at 6:30pm for dinner at 7:00pm. The cost is \$45.00 per head for members and \$50.00 per head for non-members (see next page for explanation of arrangements and for electronic booking details).

**Enquiries to Hon. Secretary, mob. 0403 933 786
or email: asmith@adamsmithclub.org**



detach and return

The Secretary,
Australian Adam Smith Club (Melbourne),
PO Box 950, Hawthorn, Victoria 3122.

Please reserve place(s) at \$45.00 dollars per member andplace(s) at \$50.00 per non-member for the April 12th meeting of the Australian Adam Smith Club. I enclose the amount of \$..... in payment for the same.

NAME (please print):

ADDRESS:

SIGNATURE: TEL:

LAISSEZ FAIRE ON THE WEB

This newsletter has an address on the web: <http://www.adamsmithclub.org/laissez.htm>. The Club's web site can be found at <http://www.adamsmithclub.org/>.

ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS

By popular demand, the AASC now offers electronic booking and payment to dinner meetings. Bookings can be made by emailing the number of members and non-members attending to twarner@adamsmithclub.org; a reply email from the club will then be sent with a link to PayPal where the payment can be made by Mastercard, Visa, AMEX, Diners or PayPal Account. Bookings made after Friday 8th of April will not be accepted online. FEES - a \$2 card fee will apply for the transaction.

NOVEMBER DINNER REPORT

The Club's November meeting was addressed by David Archibald on the subject of his new book "Australia's defence 2016 and Beyond" (Connor Court). The speech and presentation were very detailed in describing the arms build-up, and the 'forward' posture of the Peoples Republic of China. A comparison of various possible purchases for the Australian armed forces called for a revision of our intended plane and submarine purchases for more cost effective items.

The question time was lively; both in asking for further information regarding the PRC and the US and Australia's present responses to the 'new' islands in the South China Sea. The restaurant provided a tasty selection, and the renovations and improvements continue with inbuilt data projector and the upgraded upstairs bar. Feedback from members is, as always, much appreciated. *TW*

MEDIA MADNESS

The media have been running hot with declarations of the end of "the pause" in global temperatures. All the experts have climbed out of the woodwork to declare that because February was the hottest on record the world is coming to an end and we all better stop emitting carbon dioxide. Never mind that those same experts were previously denying the pause existed or were trying to explain it away as some natural effect. The increased global temperatures are due to a large El Niño event. The previous large El Niño was in 1997-8. One thing is certain; El Niños are not caused by increasing carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere. So how will reducing the rate of carbon dioxide increase save the planet?

The whole issue around "the pause" is just a storm in a tea cup and a misunderstanding of the real problem

for global warming scaremongers. The real problem is the continuing growing disparity between the predictions and measurements of global temperature. It has become impossible to deny this disparity and this should normally lead to the rejection of the hypothesis that increasing levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide is leading to catastrophic global warming/climate change.

In another few years even the deniers of reality, despite all their attempts to manipulate the global temperature measurements through their homogenization "techniques", will have to concede they were wrong. But how much damage will have been done to people's living standards in the mean time? *MG*

VENUE ARRANGEMENTS

For the April 12th dinner at Bohème Restaurant Bar, there will be a two course dinner (main & dessert, followed by tea or coffee). The restaurant is fully licensed (no BYO). A separate (upstairs) room has been reserved for the dinner meeting. We hope these arrangements do not cause inconvenience and we welcome your feedback. Please note that because the Club must provide final numbers of attendees to the restaurant on the 11th of April, **we are unable to admit anyone to the dinner who has not notified the Club of their attendance by Sunday 10th of April.**

Laissez Faire

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AMERICA'S UNAPPETIZING CHOICE OF CANDIDATES

The America that we see on television is not the one that actually exists. Those people who are bewildered by the fact that a “boofhead” with a bad hairdo looks like a shoo-in for the nomination as Republican candidate can take little comfort from the fact that the two Democratic alternatives – Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders – are, if anything, worse but in a different way.

The term “loose cannon” seems to have been invented for Donald Trump. No-one knows what will come out his mouth next. Are his remarks scripted? No-one seems to know. Among his more ludicrous policies is to build a wall along the border with Mexico – which the Mexicans will pay for! Trump has a surprising base of support among Hispanics, said to be around 16 percent. This gives a clue to his appeal. He would not be a dictator like a Hitler or Pol Pot, but rather a “caudillo,” a leader or chief in the Latin American style – in other words, a strongman like the late Hugo Chavez, president of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Thus, he projects an image of strength that many Hispanic people can empathize with.

What of other Americans? The ones we don't see on television, except perhaps in “The Wire” about longshoremen on the Baltimore docks? At least one-third of Americans are middle or lower middle class who fear that they will drop through the cracks back into the working class. The American economic recovery has been one of the longest on record but it has been weak. People don't feel like they are getting richer. They resent the fact that immigrants seem to get all the jobs, even if Americans wouldn't take them. Trump feeds on this resentment. Like the Master's Apprentice, Trump has started something he can't stop. The hope for the Republicans is that Ted Cruz puts up a good enough showing that he can be nominated in a brokered convention without fanning the flames of hatred that Trump has lit. The Republicans do not have super delegates like the Democrats. Those party elders could be relied on to select a candidate who is not only electable, but will make a good president. The Electoral College system was intended to act as a brake on the election of people like Trump. The Founding Fathers expected that America would someday elect a caudillo with a demagogic appeal to the unlettered masses.

The flip side of the coin is Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders. Clinton is out of the same Tammany Hall mould as her husband. Few people really like her and few voters really trust her. As for the Benghazi bombing in 2012, for which Clinton as Secretary of State has been held responsible, the whole debate over the incident has become so laced with vitriol that allocating responsibility has become almost impossible. To be quite honest, the feminists will turn out for her but that won't win her the Presidential election. As for those who say “it's time for a woman” is this argument any more sensible than saying “It's time for an Afro-American,” which helped elect Barak Obama?

As for Bernie Sanders, he is a socialist as Australians understand the term; more government control over just about everything. His policies are far more socialistic than the Australian Labor Party's. In other words, he is not some sort of wet liberal; he is a real socialist with socialist policies. He is knuckleheaded enough to attempt to implement them.

American politics has come to a sorry pass when one-third of the population wants a caudillo to solve their problems and another third wants a man with socialist policies that have failed, without exception, everywhere they have been tried. Maybe we will have to grit our teeth and support Hillary Clinton. She did not, at the minimum, cause a war while she was Secretary of State. *JRB*

WHY ARE WE CELEBRATING THE DEATH OF LIBERTY?

Australia does not have a tradition of filibusters. When things drag on the governing party and its allies apply the guillotine. The opposition can't hold out forever and the legislation passes. The Coalition and the Greens combined to squash the opposition from the micro parties. The micro parties and the ALP held out as long as they could, but in the end passed the legislation that all but abolished micro parties in the Senate. Sleep deprived and bleary eyed, the eight crossbenchers exited the Senate chamber. The three-week sitting will be all it takes to vote on the legislation to establish the Building and Construction Industry Commission and the Registered Organizations bill and pass Supply. The careers of the eight cross benchers in the red chamber are almost over. The industrial relations acts will be lost, but it doesn't matter, the government has other double dissolution triggers.

Why are we celebrating the fact that the eight average Australians who occupy the cross benches will lose their seats? The Coalition and the Greens have conspired to rub them out. We have been told, by implication that they didn't deserve to be in the Senate, that Glenn Druery, the "preference whisperer" by some form of black art had them elected.

It is fair to say that most, though not all, are worthy of their place. The Coalition and Greens have an interest in seeing the micro parties expelled from the Upper House. The Coalition finds them difficult to control and they represent a challenge to the Greens' role as arbiter of what will and will not pass in the Senate. The Australian Greens, now led by Senator Richard Di Natale, has become much more amenable to "doing deals" than when it was under Senator Christine Milne, who looks like she is casting a hex.

In fact, the quota for a Senate seat is less in a double dissolution (DD) election than in a half Senate election. At

least one cross bencher, Senator Nick Xenophon (Ind. SA) has been in the Senate since 2008. He has the reputation of being one of the smartest operators in the Parliament and will almost certainly be re-elected.

Senator Ricky Muir (Motoring Enthusiast Party, Vic.) gained notoriety by pelting a friend with kangaroo poo. He worked at a sawmill before entering Parliament. Despite this inauspicious beginning, he has acquitted himself well. Senator Glenn Lazarus (PUP, Qld.) is a former Rugby League player. His is colloquially known as the "brick with eyes." He is doing "everything" for Queensland. Senator Lazarus seems to think if he repeats this often enough, he will be re-elected. Senator Robert "Bob" Day AO (FFP, SA) is one cross bencher who will vote for the government's industrial relations legislation. He is a builder; no doubt that informs his views on the matter. Senator Day is not in Parliament for the money, he is said to be one of the wealthiest men in the Senate. Senator Jacqui Lambie (PUP, Tas.) is not alone in being a politician from Tasmania. Every second street corner in Tasmania seems to have a politician's office on it. She has done some useful things and provides good copy. Senator Zhengya "Dio" Wang (PUP, WA) is rarely sighted in public. Senator John Madigan (Ind, Vic.) was elected to represent the DLP but quit the DLP, remaining in the chamber as an independent. There's an old saying in politics, "it's a seat Billy the Blacksmith could win." Madigan was a blacksmith. Senator David Leyonhjelm (LDP, NSW) from a libertarian perspective has a lot to offer. He vowed to stay true to his principles, and he has.

Due to a lower quota for a DD election, not all the micro party representatives will lose their Senate seats. We may be surprised. But a colorful episode in Senate history is closing. It does not advance the cause of liberty if the major parties cannot be held to account. *JRB*

DATA WATCH

In March a new lobby group was formed - gathering a very disparate group that includes Liberty Victoria, the Australian Privacy Foundation and members of the IPA, including Chris Berg. Digital Rights Watch (DRW) digitalrightswatch.org.au aims to raise freedom, privacy and open structure for the digital and Internet realm.

Its first project will be to raise the Data Retention rules as an issue at the upcoming election. The two year data retention rule, implemented by agreement between the Liberal and Labor parties, is a savage attack on both our rights to privacy and freedom from government interference. That over sixty groups, including the RSPCA (!), have already been given access to personal data (who a person calls or receives a call from, which websites a person visits, etc) shows how poorly the original legislation was framed. Warrant-less access by police is bad, but warrant-less access by any busybody with a cause is scandalous.

The DRW will also promote the fair use doctrine for copyright and the repeal of the website blocking legislation. The website blocking regulation has already brought chaos to unsuspecting local companies who shared an ISP with a possible offender. The companies regulator simply issued a block 'as a precaution', not realising it would take down 2,000 websites housed on the same computer. Regulators simply don't comprehend what they regulate - that is a true Golden Rule. *TW*