

Defeat the Synarchists—Fight for a National Bank

III. The Pro-Hitler, Fascist Origins of the Liberal Party

THE 1930's SYNARCHIST ASSAULT ON AUSTRALIA

"And therefore, the essential conflict is between the national interest and the financiers. Hitler was not a creation of a bunch of dummies in brown uniforms. Hitler was the creation of bankers..."

"The bankers of this type, the private bankers, created Hitler, because there was a financial crisis, and under conditions of financial crisis, if the government is accountable to the people, it is the bankers that will pay, not the people. And therefore, the bankers say, "It's the people, it's the government, that has to go."

—Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., December 16, 2003

Anglo-Dutch parliamentary systems are a puppet show, in which the strings are held by central banks, which in turn are controlled by a cabal of private financiers. In times of crisis, these private financiers destabilise the parliamentary systems, and replace them either with parliaments that will bow to their interests, or even, as happened in much of Europe during the 1930s, with outright fascist regimes.

It is not acknowledged in standard history texts, but fascist military coups were prepared for Australia, too, in the early 1930s—at both the state and federal levels. The would-be perpetrators were Synarchists in the mould of Mussolini and Hitler, and their backers, as in Europe, were to be found in the upper echelons of the financial oligarchy. Their efforts peaked in 1930-1932, during the intense confrontation between the "old Labor" forces of Jack Lang, Frank Anstey and John Curtin, on the one side, and the "Money Power"—centred in London, but with powerful, aggressive allies inside Australia—on the other. The spectre of a fascist coup was instrumental in the toppling of the Labor government of James Scullin and the ouster of Lang as New South Wales PM in 1932, dealing a grave setback to Australia's potential national development during the depression, and throwing much of the population deeper into misery.

Was "Australian fascism" just a flash in the pan? Why return to the history of such an unfortunate period, when a pro-Nazi movement flourished in Sydney, Melbourne and the bush, with backing in high places?

The history of the Synarchist assault on Australia in the 1930s cannot be ignored as a curiosity or relegated to a footnote, because the world, Australia included, is once again plunging into an economic depression—a systemic one, of the type in which the deployment of fascist mobs and police-state repression is the stock in trade of a desperate financial oligarchy. Moreover, not only is the 1930s assault on Australian society and our national identity in danger of being repeated, but the direct heirs of the 1930s perpetrators are alive and active to carry it out. It is impossible to grasp Australian politics in the first decade of the 21st Century, without knowing the never-repudiated roots of the Australian Liberal Party in the pro-fascist Synarchist movement of seven decades ago.

Faced with the threat of the pro-sovereignty, pro-national banking tendencies in both the Federal Labor Government of Scullin and Lang's New South Wales Labor Government, the British Crown and the City of London, with their allies among the "Anglo-Australian" comprador elites of Austral-



March 19, 1932. Fascist New Guardsman Col. Francis de Groot preempts NSW Premier Jack Lang to cut the ribbon at the new Sydney Harbour Bridge.

ia, developed a two-pronged attack. They would keep the parliamentary façade if possible, by driving Scullin and Lang from power through "political" means. But in case those maneuvers failed, they simultaneously created mass fascist armies of storm troopers, capable of seizing power.

The stormtrooper organisations were the Melbourne-based League of National Security, and the Old Guard and the New Guard, based in Sydney. Combined, these three groups comprised over 100,000 well-armed and highly organized militants. The best known of the three, though actually the least important, was the New Guard, led by Mussolini- and Hitler-worshipper Eric Campbell. The New Guard achieved notoriety on March 19, 1932, when New Guardsman Col. Francis DeGroot jumped ahead of Premier Jack Lang to pre-empt him, with a sword, at the ribbon-cutting for the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

These armed fascist brigades were modeled explicitly on the blackshirts and brownshirts of Mussolini and Hitler. Like them, the paramilitaries invariably had their front organisations: mass "citizens leagues," which shared the same philosophies, and whose

members often did double duty, as both league activists, and members of the armed detachments. Both the armed brigades and their "citizen" fronts were created, staffed and run at the highest levels, by the leading financial organisations in Australia.

Some of the relevant government files of the period have been carefully culled, while others are mysteriously missing. But enough evidence has survived, to demonstrate that the fascist citizens leagues and their armed counterparts were supported by top banking and corporate institutions, among them:

- the Bank of New South Wales, Australia's largest and oldest bank;
- Colonial Sugar Refining Co. (CSR), the largest corporation in Australia;
- J.B. Were and Sons, Australia's largest brokerage, and handler of government loans;
- G. J. Coles and Myers, the two largest retail firms in the country;
- leading executives or directors of the BHP and Collins House manufacturing and minerals empires;



Fascist dictators Mussolini and Hitler (l.) were sponsored by the European and American oligarchy. Centre: The Duke of Windsor (formerly King Edward VIII) and his wife visit their old pal, Adolf. Right: King George V. Hearing of de Groot's action on the Sydney Harbour Bridge, the King proclaimed, "Well done, de Groot!"

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and many other banks, insurance companies, corporations, chambers of commerce and pastoral houses. This section of our report presents that evidence.

In New South Wales, the fascist armies were days or hours from marching on Sydney, an eventuality avoided only when King George V directed his Governor General, Sir Philip Game, to sack Premier Lang. An overt fascist takeover was forestalled, but at the sacrifice of Australia's best leaders and policies for that time of economic crisis.

The issue in Depression-ravaged Australia was, whose rights take precedence: those of the people, or those of the financiers? This was the question explicitly posed by Jack Lang, by Federal Labor MP Frank Anstey, and by Anstey's protégé, John Curtin. Would the City of London be paid its pound of flesh in debt service, at the cost of the suffering and even the lives of Australians? The crisis of 1930-1932 came to a head over the question of currency issues for the purpose of job creation, as advocated by these Labor leaders and formally proposed by PM Scullin and his Treasury Secretary, Ted Theodore, as against the financiers' insistence on fiscal austerity for "fighting inflation" and, above all, paying debts to the City of London.

The most notorious spokesman for the Crown and the City of London, within the Anglo-Australian comprador elite, was the rabid Anglophile Robert Menzies. Owned lock, stock and barrel by the financiers, Menzies insisted that the interest-gouging prerogatives of the financiers—which he termed "justice" and "fair play"—must come first, even if it meant that people starved. At the height of the crisis, he pronounced, "If Australia were going to get through her troubles by abating or abandoning traditional British standards of honesty, of justice, of fair play, of resolute endeavour, it would be far better for Australia that every citizen within her boundaries should die of starvation during the next six months. To look for the easiest way out was about as traitorous a thing as any Australian could engage in at the present time."

As contemporaries recorded, Menzies was an ardent pro-fascist, full of admiration for Hitler and Mussolini. Less well known, is the fact that he was also the front man for a Synarchist coup plot against British Prime Minister Winston Churchill. The plotters, one of whom was the notorious pro-Nazi press baron Lord Beaverbrook, planned to weaken Churchill, or even to oust him and replace him with the appeaser Menzies. In furtherance of this plot, Menzies

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spent an astonishing four months outside of Australia during 1941, even while he was Prime Minister! Imperialist though he himself was, Churchill had decided to fight Hitler, rather than have Britain subsumed within a *German* fascist world empire, while Menzies and his backers wanted to “make a deal”—one which would have led inexorably to Nazi world rule.

Today we face a similar challenge, from some of the same institutions and types of people. The Anglo-Australian financiers, who in the 1930s had sponsored the mass fascist citizens leagues and their armed detachments to crush Labor, went on to set up, 1) the United Australia Party (led by their puppet, “Honest Joe” Lyons), and then 2) the Institutes of Public Affairs (IPA), in 1942-43. It was the

IPA, with Menzies at the fore, that in 1944 created the Liberal Party.

In the mid-1970s, these same financiers, sometimes the very same companies and the sons or grandsons of those who had sponsored the fascist movements of the 1930s, backed the establishment in Australia of a new form of fascism in the form of fronts for the Mont Pelerin Society, favourite economic think tank of the Crown and the City of London, and a major promoter of fascist economics. These think tanks consolidated their control over the Liberal Party and took over the Labor Party, in order to continue the fascist project of the 1930s, under the modern slogans of “free market” and “globalisation”. The most influential Mont Pelerin front groups are:

- the Melbourne IPA;

- the Sydney IPA, renamed the Sydney Institute;
- the Centre for Independent Studies (CIS);
- the Tasman Institute/Tasman Economics/ACIL Tasman complex; and,
- the H.R. Nicholls Society.

They brought us privatisation, deregulation, competition policy, deadly slashes in health care, and the rest of the looting package known as economic rationalism and globalisation.

The continuity from the Synarchists’ fascist projects of the 1930s through to the policies of Hawke/Keating, Latham and Howard today, emerges starkly from an examination of the economic program of the 1930s movements, as trumpeted by the Young Turk of the bunch, New Guard leader and

self-proclaimed fascist Eric Campbell. Campbell’s goals were summarised by historian Keith Amos, in his book, *The New Guard Movement 1931-1935*: “Taxation needed to be reduced to the barest minimum; the public service had to be reduced ‘down to nothing’ by the ‘superannuation of the elder, dismissal of the younger and the elimination of the inefficient’; State-owned services such as railways and post offices needed to be run as business concerns; doles served only to ‘sap the moral fibre of the recipients’.”

Sound familiar? Indeed, just substitute “war against terrorism” for the “fight against Communism,” in the following quotation from Campbell, to see that what we have today is a revival of the 1930s *modus operandi*: “Communist activities, more fatal to the future of Australia than the most deadly pestilence ... must be stamped out ruthlessly and without mercy.” Now, as then, a fraudulently claimed threat is being used to justify fascist measures, as reflected in the slew of recently passed state and federal “anti-terror” laws—including one that authorises the Attorney General to ban any organisation he wants to. These are modeled directly upon those of Adolf Hitler, and they started well before 9/11.

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Jack Lang and Frank Anstey on the Synarchy’s control over Australia

In the 1920s and 1930s, British banks utterly dominated Australian banks and industry. Like Third World countries today, Australia owed a staggering 65 per cent of its total tax revenue to British bondholders. Jack Lang knew the Synarchy’s City of London and its operatives in Australia very well, for as Treasurer and then Premier of NSW in 1930-32, he had been locked in mortal combat with the forces he describes here:

“The City of London provided all the capital required for the development of the colonies. The City controlled the ships, the wool and wheat exchanges, the insurance houses and all the other machinery of trade and commerce....

“The Old Lady of Threadneedle Street, as they called the Bank of England, presided over the financial dynasty of the Empire. It was supported by the Big Five, the major private banks. If a government in the Dominions or the colonies wanted to raise money, it had to go through approved channels. The financial world was divided into zones of influence. The Houses of Nivison, Rothschild, Barings and Morgan, Grenfell, all had their respective rights. If a government in the colonies wanted to raise money, it could only approach one firm. It had to meet a rigidly controlled scale of underwriting fees. It had to accept the conditions and the interest rates dictated by its London representatives. Every Government had its London agents, who were actually agents for the British investors. There was no room for argument. It was a case of taking it or leaving it. It was useless to try another source. The City had its own underground communication system....

“In addition there were the big mortgage companies, who had invested in colonial estates, handled colonial primary produce and advanced money to colonial settlers. They were closely allied to the banks. They specialised in mortgages. As they invariably reserved the right to handle all the produce as well, they perfected a form of tied business that left no loopholes for the client. Usually the banks and the mortgage companies had interlocking directorates, who specialised in colonial business.

“So, in Australia, the graziers, the farmers, as well as most of the import houses, the principal



Labor MP Frank Anstey (l.) and NSW Premier Jack Lang (c.) waged a courageous battle against the Synarchy, embodied by the Bank of England’s number two man, Sir Otto Niemeyer (r.)

mining companies as well as banks, insurance companies and shipping, all led directly back to the City of London.... All our railways, our power plants, our school buildings and even our police courts and gaols had been built with money supplied by the City of London. We were a debtor nation. The bondholders never permitted us to forget it.”

The City had its comprador elite in Australia, like—but relatively much stronger than—the Tories in the young United States who supported Britain during the Revolutionary War. Frank Anstey, who as a member of the Scullin Labor Government in 1930-31 was another key protagonist in the story you are about to hear, described this elite in similar terms to Lang’s. He stressed the allegiance of the dominant “English group” of banks, pastoral, export-import and insurance companies, and their associated families, to their Synarchist “Money Power” masters in London:

“The grip of British capitalism upon Australia consists, not only of mortgages upon Australian Governments, not only on the overseas ownership of Australian resources, but upon the control of nearly one-third of the total depository power of the Australian people per medium of the British banks and British insurances trading within Australia. The English banks ... control the English Life, Fire and Marine Insurances trading in Australia. They control English owned territories in all States. They control a large portion of our coal, meat, and wool resources. They are the dominant factor in the export and import business of this continent.

“Around the English banks are gathered the old Imperial Land Grant companies and others of kindred type. ... These Imperial Land Grant and associated land and mineral companies cover millions of acres, represent scores of millions in value, and from their coal, meat, and wool resources pour out millions of revenue per year for their overseas owners. Linked up with these are the estates of the ‘free old English gentry’ who squatted upon Australian soil during the early part of last century.”

Anstey described the “Anglo-Australian”, pro-British Empire mindset of Menzies and the financiers who owned him:

“The descendants of those families are a peculiar caste. Their spiritual home is England, their outlook, their education, their adopted mannerisms, their social and business relations are all English. Like the Anglo-Indian, Australia is to them another India, an accidental birthplace, a place of occasional temporary residence from whence their money flows.

“Thus all the financial and industrial relations of these men are with English banks and English companies. Thus they are constantly changing from Australia to England and vice versa, and those on the English end of company directorates one year are found on the Australian end next year, and later on back again. These men seldom enter into the public life of Australia, but the corporations with which they are connected are the heaviest subsidisers of local reactionary propaganda.

“The wool, the meat, the coal resources of Australia controlled

by the English group are financed by the English banks, handled by English companies, shipped through and by English companies, insured by English companies, and the directorates of the banks and of these companies are interwoven, interlocked, interchanged. Moreover, as more and more of Australian-founded houses fall into the maws of the English group, so the export and import business of Australia approaches more and more to an absolute monopoly headquartered in London. The old trade names are retained to hide the absorption, but whatever remains unabsorbed is subordinate and subsidiary to the paramount power in Australia’s overseas trade. ... Australia is a mere appendage of financial London, without distinct economic existence....” (Emphasis added.)

In his own terms, Anstey was talking about precisely what was known in other countries at the time, and still today, as the Synarchy:

“London is, so far, the web

centre of international finance. In London are assembled the actual chiefs or the representatives of the great financial houses of the world. The Money Power is something more than Capitalism. ... These men constitute the Financial Oligarchy. No nation can be really free where this financial oligarchy is permitted to hold dominion, and no ‘democracy’ can be aught but a name that does not shake it from its throne.”



Retail magnate Sir Samuel Hordern, above, of the Anglo-Australian elite described by Anstey and Lang. Chairman of the Australian Mutual Provident Society, President of the Royal Agricultural Society, and member of the fascist Old Guard, Sir Samuel had a 40-room mansion in Sydney’s Darling Point, plus the “summer cottage”, Retford Park, shown here.

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The Depression Hits

By early 1929, prices paid in England for Australia's agricultural and mineral exports began to plummet, and the nation had great difficulty meeting its huge interest payments. In October, Australians voted the Labor Party into government under Prime Minister James Scullin, a former member of King O'Malley's Torpedo Brigade. The City of London responded by cutting off credit to Australia, and the now private banker-controlled Commonwealth Bank began to call in advances and overdrafts.

From the day it took office, October 22, 1929, the Scullin Government was between a rock and a hard place. The Senate was controlled by the financier-dominated Nationalist Party, while City of London toady Sir Robert Gibson was Chairman of the Commonwealth Bank. No significant legislation to deal with the Depression was likely to be passed, nor would Gibson cooperate with Labor.

Frank Anstey, Member of Parliament for the Melbourne electorate of Bourke and a minister in Scullin's government, posed the only way out. Since Labor had just overwhelmingly defeated the previous Nationalist Government of the arch-anglophile Stanley Melbourne "Spats" Bruce, Anstey urged that Labor should force a double dissolution, before its "tide ran out." Almost certain to win, Labor would gain control of the Senate, as well as the lower house, and would be able to pass the required national banking and related measures to deal with the Depression. Due to cowardice and various petty concerns, including pressures on the Cabinet by the trade unions, Scullin did not muster the will to act as Anstey outlined. From that moment on, the Government's tide was running out, as Anstey had warned.

Nonetheless, some important things were attempted. On April 2, 1930, Scullin's treasurer, Ted Theodore, introduced the *Central Reserve Bank Bill* to establish a new reserve bank, which would control the paper note issue and the gold reserve, and mandate all other banks to keep 10 per cent of their current accounts and 3 per cent of their reserves with the new bank. This would have given the Government crucial tools. An accompanying piece of legislation was the *Commonwealth Bank Act Amending Bill*, which would have replaced the six-person big business-dominated board with a single governor. At first, it looked as if both the Commonwealth Bank Board and the Senate might even agree to these measures. But, after arm-twisting by the private trading



E.G. "Ted" Theodore. As Treasurer, he incurred the financiers' hatred by trying to direct credit for job creation and the Common Good.

banks, especially the British-owned ones based in Melbourne, both bills were killed in the Anglophile-dominated Senate.

Commonwealth Bank chairman Gibson adamantly refused to issue £18 million in notes for financing public works, which the Government sought in order to provide work for men whose families were starving. Gibson stormed, "Mr. Prime Minister and Members of the Cabinet, you ask me to inflate the currency. My answer is that I bloody well won't." His excuse of not "inflating the currency" was a lie: Australia's currency supply had dropped from £57 million in 1924 to £42 million in 1929.

With the typical behaviour of an "independent central banker", Gibson dominated the government. Veteran journalist Warren Denning, whose beat was the Parliament, painted this picture: "The relationships between the Ministry and the late Sir Robert Gibson, then Chairman of the Commonwealth Bank Board and the most powerful figure in Australian 'depression finance', illustrate vividly the real status of the Government itself. This cautious old Scotsman was more definitely Prime Minister of Australia, than Mr. Scullin was at any time... He maintained throughout the independence of the Commonwealth Bank Board, refusing to submit to anything that savoured of political domination... Sir Robert Gibson stood as the representative of the financial interests of Australia, to whom all Ministers and all governments should come and genuflect."

Backing up Sir Robert was the bank's legal advisor, Robert Menzies.

Scullin was a weak figure, who bowed to Gibson. Denning observed that, in contrast, "Mr. Theodore was shaping himself for a

struggle with Sir Robert Gibson", which would have "settled once and for all whether that Board, or the elected representatives of the people, were to determine the course of national financial policy; whether Parliament or the Bank Board was supreme." Behind the back of his Cabinet, however, Scullin not only reappointed the hated Gibson as chairman of the Commonwealth Bank Board (his term was up in July 1930), but he also agreed to a Bank of England proposal-cum-demand (organised through Gibson) to dispatch its representative to Australia to "straighten out" Australia's finances. This resulted in the infamous Niemeyer visit of July 19, 1930: the Bank of England's number two man, Sir Otto Niemeyer, would visit, as ex-Premier Stanley Melbourne Bruce put it in a letter from London, "to convey the message



Sir Robert Gibson, chairman of the Commonwealth Bank, dictated Australia's finances as a stooge of the Bank of England.

that British help was conditional on policy changes, without appearing to dictate to Australia." Niemeyer was the person who had put Britain (and, therefore, much of the world) back on the disastrously restrictive gold standard in 1925.

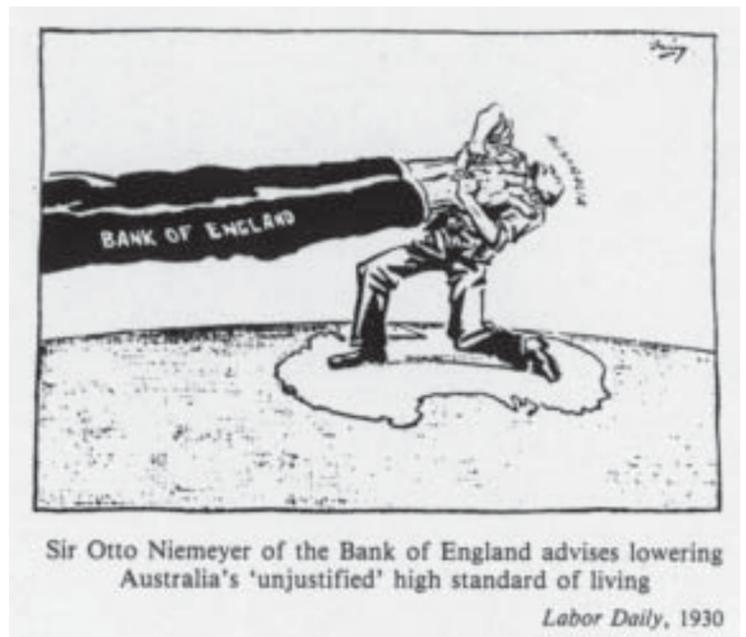
On July 2, Scullin, in poor health due to the strain of office, announced he would soon leave for London to attend the Imperial Conference of Dominion Prime Ministers, and that Theodore would be Acting Prime Minister during his several-months absence. Though Theodore was "ascendant in the party" and tipped to have a "certain future" as Scullin's successor (Denning's observations), on July 4 the so-called Mungana Affair scandal was launched against him. A Royal Commission in Queensland—appointed by a conservative state government with the clear intention of taking

Theodore out of Federal politics—implicated Theodore in a financial scandal, the Mungana Affair, dating from some years earlier, when he had been Queensland Premier. Scullin requested Theodore's resignation the very next day.

With Theodore out of the way, Niemeyer arrived to tell Australians that their standard of living was far too high, their Arbitration and Conciliation Board must be abolished, and their tariffs had to be cut. The issues were political, as well as economic: The British intended to keep Australia as a supplier of cheap raw materials, having little or no manufacturing—just as they had attempted to do with the American colonies in the 18th Century. They would not tolerate Australian industrialisation. "Australia must", intoned Niemeyer, "reassure the world as to the direction in which she is go-

ing." The Federal Labor Cabinet, over how to deal with the deepening Depression. On October 25, however, came a political shock as Jack Lang swept to power in New South Wales on the platform of rejecting "Niemeyerism." On November 6, the Federal cabinet postponed an upcoming £27 million bond redemption. Then, when Scullin returned to Australia in January 1931, he made the surprise move of reinstating Theodore as Treasurer. In March of 1931, Lang declared a moratorium on debt payments to British bondholders, in order to prioritise feeding his starving constituents in New South Wales.

The Synarchists went wild at these developments. The British-dominated financiers, with their allies in big business and Australia's old pastoral families, launched two interlinked projects designed



Sir Otto Niemeyer of the Bank of England advises lowering Australia's 'unjustified' high standard of living
Labor Daily, 1930

to drive the Scullin and Lang governments from office. The more visible one was to build up the recently created citizens leagues as mass-protest organizations in defense of "sound finance" (i.e., the Niemeyer Plan). The citizens leagues howled against "inflation" (Theodore's plan for a fiduciary note issue to finance public works job creation) and "repudiation" (Lang's moratorium)—hitting both as the handiwork of "the Reds".

As a backup contingency, there simultaneously emerged plans for a fascist military coup, in either Canberra, New South Wales, or both. As we now look in detail, first at the citizens leagues and then at the fascist paramilitary organisations of the early 1930s, and their backers, the identity of these two projects as two arms of the same political offensive will come into focus.

While Scullin was away in England, the second half of 1930 was consumed by in-fighting within

ing." On August 21, 1930, the Commonwealth government and the state premiers signed the Melbourne Agreement, acquiescing to Niemeyer's demands. The following year, after some token interest rate cuts that were supposed to represent "equal sacrifice" on the part of the financiers, the pact was called the Premiers' Plan. It cut public service salaries, pensions and other "adjustable government expenditure" by 20 per cent (but reduced already inadequate old age pensions by "only" 12.5 per cent), made 22.5 per cent reductions in the interest rates paid on government bonds held inside the country and in bank interest rates, reduced private mortgage payments and raised taxes.

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The "Red Menace" and the Fascist Citizens Leagues

The purpose of the citizens leagues was to promote debt-collection for the financiers, to politically defeat Labor, and to build popular acceptance for dictatorship—the classic mission of the Beast-man—in case the oligarchy decided in favour of that option. Their political cover was a mobilisation against a "Communist threat."

The Synarchist elite's mass media whipped up hysteria that the Scullin and Lang governments were really "run by the Reds"—the alleged ultimate authors of plans for "inflationary and repudiatory finance". Such charges were used to agitate among the tens of thousands of serving military men and World War I veterans, as well as the general population, recruit-

ing them into the citizens leagues. Think of the propaganda poured out by the U.S., British and Australian governments and mass media over "terrorism" today, multiply that by five, and you'll have a rough idea of the hysteria the Money Power unleashed against Labor in Depression-wracked Australia. Public figures such as Nationalist Party ex-Prime Minister Stanley Melbourne Bruce and former Australian Imperial Forces (AIF) chief of staff and Victoria Police Commissioner General Thomas Blamey trumpeted bogus claims of a Labor-linked communist insurgency.¹

In Australia, the alleged "Bolshevik menace" was a pathetic joke. The Australian Communist Party, founded in 1920, boasted 750 members in 1922, 280 in 1925, a

mighty 249 in 1928 on the eve of the Depression, and perhaps a little over 1000 by 1931. Moreover, the ALP had decided already in 1923 to expel any communists from its ranks. Communist Party official E.M. Higgins confessed to friends in 1924 that his group was "a party of derelicts ... a weak little crowd," with no real influence on Labor. The alleged "Bolshevik" Jack Lang was not only a bitter enemy of the CPA, but would not even allow the Federal ALP's own socialisation objective to be placed in the New South Wales Labor Party's platform! Any of Australia's elite who cared to inquire of their intelligence services, could find out that no "Red menace" existed at that time.²

Reality notwithstanding, the

Red scare promoted by and within the citizens leagues and the fascist paramilitary organisations shocked Australian law enforcement professionals with its depth and fanaticism. Inspector Roland Browne, head of the Melbourne branch of the Commonwealth Investigation Bureau (the national secret service), reported at one point to his superior in Canberra, Major C.E. Jones, on the so-called White Army (the League for National Security, based in Melbourne and directed by top financiers): "One cannot help feeling that the panic protective measures were grotesquely unnecessary, while the apparent childish belief in the existence of a moving and devouring Red Army on the part of men regarded as sane and solid

seems beyond belief."

The first of the fascist citizens leagues, the Who's for Australia League, was formed in late 1929, right after the election of the Scullin government. It was headed by A.E. Bennett, occultist, theosophist, and brother of the famous Maj. Gen. H. Gordon Bennett, who later fled his command in Singapore at the outset of World War II. A.E. Bennett was a major figure at Sydney's theosophist-founded radio station, 2GB, named with the initials of 16th-Century gnostic philosopher Giordano Bruno. The Theosophists sponsored Bennett and his new league. This initial

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league revered the Crown and the British Empire, as did all the later ones.

Bennett also revered fascism. He proposed a corporatist economic structure on the Mussolini model, in which unions would be outlawed and the state and major corporations would run everything. He called for the emergence of a “strong man”, who would be “irresistible and invincible”, to oversee society. Mussolini was notoriously assassinating his political opponents at the time, but Bennett bellowed that “Mussolini should be judged by the facts and not by the squeaks of the people that have got in his way.”

Theosophy and its sister cult, freemasonry, played crucial roles in organising both the citizens leagues, and their associated fascist militias. Many of their leaders were freemasons, and they held many meetings in Masonic halls. Archival filings, as well as interviews done with militia members decades later, document the freemasonic base of this movement. The serving or ex-military men, from whose ranks the fascist militias recruited so heavily, often frequented freemasonic lodges. The flagship citizens league, the All For Australia League, was founded in Sydney in February 1931 by leaders of the Rotary organisation, which was little more than a freemasonic front and recruiting ground. Australia’s financial and corporate leadership, at least up until World War II, was overwhelmingly Protestant, as were the Masonic lodges (only the very rare Catholic was also a freemason).



Leader of the Round Tables Lord Alfred Milner (l.), the Duke of Kent and Lady Astor (c.), and Robert Menzies in full masonic regalia (r.) The Synarchists used the Round Tables and freemasonry to organise fascist movements in Australia.



More important, freemasonry was run at the top by the British Crown and the highest levels of the British aristocracy. The King’s governor generals in Australia automatically became leaders of the lodges in their states. The cult’s ideology—of secret knowledge known only to an inner elite—fit perfectly with the secrecy required to organise and deploy a mass armed force. The initiation rites for the Melbourne-based League of National Security were unmistakably drawn from masonic rituals.³

Another British-run imperial cult at the centre of the international Synarchy, and also important in the drive for fascism both in Australia and in Britain, was the Round Tables. Established by Lord Alfred Milner before World War I, based on the great wealth and power of the Cecil family and the mining fortune of Cecil Rhodes, the Round Tables turned the British Empire into the “Brit-

ish Commonwealth”, in order to preserve it by indoctrinating elites in the former colonies. Many of the Australian elite who were active in the citizens leagues and fascist militias were members of the Round Table, as were all four of the economists who drew up the infamous Premiers’ Plan of 1931, which embodied Niemeyer’s demands to cut, cut, cut: L.G. Melville, D.B. Copland, L.F. Giblin, and E.O. G. Shann.

The Round Table gave rise to the Royal Institute of International Affairs in London, also known as Chatham House, and to its affiliates in many countries, including the New York Council on Foreign Relations and the Australian Institute for International Affairs (AIIA). It was associated in Britain in the 1930s with the pro-fascist Cliveden Set of Lord and Lady Astor, where the Round Table frequently met. The Synarchy’s central financial institution in Britain was the Lazard

Freres merchant banking house, run for decades by Lord Robert Henry Brand (with Lazard, 1909-1959). Lady Astor’s brother-in-law, he was also a member of the Cliveden Set.

Insight into the mentality of many, if not all of the Australian Round Tablers, is provided by a speech Round Table member and AIIA founder Edward C. Dyason gave in 1930, which lauded the “outstanding achievement” of fascist Italy and predicted that “the industrialised nations seem more likely to turn to some form of Fascism rather than to Communism.”⁴

With abundant help from the freemasons, the theosophists, the Returned Servicemen’s League, and the Australian members of the Round Table, citizens leagues proliferated rapidly at the end of 1930 and in early 1931. The most impor-

tant of them were in Adelaide, Sydney and Melbourne. As urban-based organisations, their representatives were looked upon with suspicion in the rural areas. Therefore the bush-centred Primary Producers Advisory Council (PPAC) was founded on December 4, 1930, as effectively a second citizens league for NSW. Because the PPAC undertook the bulk of the organising work to create the fascist Old Guard militia, based in Sydney, we shall report on it together with the Old Guard. The first of the leagues was founded in Adelaide, but the most important ones were in Sydney and Melbourne. They clearly demonstrated the fascist ideology and organisation of these leagues.

Sydney’s All for Australia League

Spurred by Jack Lang’s election as Premier of New South Wales in October 1930 and the re-appointment of Theodore as federal Treasurer three months later, a group of Rotarians met in Sydney in January 1931 under the leadership of Round Table member Alex J. Gibson, an engineer and former intelligence officer. Their agenda was to discuss “what they saw as the drift in Federal politics and the increasing class conflict in Sydney”, as historian Trevor Matthews put it, i.e., to plot against the Scullin and Lang governments. This meeting led to a second one, on January 28, called by the president of the Sydney Chamber of Commerce and attended by a wide array of business and civil organisations. Out of this meeting an executive committee was formed for a new organisation, the All for Australia League (AFAL).

Gibson became president of the AFAL. Top business leaders fleshed out the executive committee, among them:

- Maj. Gen. Gordon Bennett, commander of the 2nd Division of the AIF and President of the Sydney Chamber of Manufactures;
- C.H. Hoskins, managing director of the BHP subsidiary Australian Iron and Steel Ltd.
- Sir Sydney Snow, vice president of the NSW Retail Traders’ Association, also a leading figure in the Mel-

bourne-based Collins House business group;

- A.E. Heath, president of the Sydney and Suburban Timber Merchants’ Association;
- C.M. McDonald, president of the NSW Employers’ Federation and chairman of the Northern Collieries Proprietors’ Association;
- O.D.A. Oberg, timber merchant and president of the pro-fascist Sane Democracy League;
- Gordon Bennett’s brother, Who’s for Australia League founder and theosophist kook A.E. Bennett, whose organisation soon joined under the AFAL umbrella.

Several prominent members of AFAL were also leading figures in either the Old Guard, or one of its predecessor militias. They included:

- Maj. Gen. Bennett;
- Philip Goldfinch, general manager of CSR;
- Norman Cowper of Allen, Allen & Hemsley solicitors, a Round Table official;
- E. Heath;
- Sir Henry Braddon.

Braddon, who served on the AFAL Sydney executive, proclaimed, “What we really need is a capable, ruthless dictator.” Sir Philip Goldfinch doubled as finance minister of the central committee of the Old Guard, and the Old Guard’s CEO. That small sam-



Gen. Gordon Bennett (l.) and CSR managing director Sir Philip Goldfinch were leaders of the financiers’ All for Australia League; Goldfinch was also CEO of the Old Guard.



pling of the AFAL and Old Guard “interlocking directorates” already shows that the citizens leagues and the militias were really one: *the AFAL was nothing but a front for the Old Guard.*

Reporting to his government on the AFAL’s inaugural meeting at Sydney Town Hall, February 16, 1931, U.S. Consul General Roger Trudwell described it as a meeting to form a “Self Defence League”. Moreover, a police document on AFAL identified several of its leaders as friends of Capt. Aubrey Abbott, chief organiser of the Old Guard-linked PPAC (and nephew of the leader of the pastoralists in the bitter 1890s squattocracy was against the organising of G.W. Spence and his Amalgamated Shearers’ Union). The New Guard’s Australian Mussolini, Eric Campbell, put a point on the relationship between the leagues and the

militias, noting in his memoirs that AFAL leader Sir Sydney Snow told him the New Guard was “the fighting wing and the A.F.A. [AFAL] the political wing, of the same brand of thought.” The program of the AFAL bore the unmistakable influence of Mussolini’s fascism.

At an AFAL organising meeting on Feb. 12, 1931, Round Tabler Alex Gibson set out the mission of the new organisation, ranting that “the unconstitutional and repudiatory action proposed by Mr. Lang would destroy national stability and weaken the bonds of Empire.”

How citizens league leaders envisioned preserving the “bonds of Empire”, was indicated very clearly, when three prominent activists from Melbourne (members of that city’s Citizens Committee, which would come into the AFAL coalition) approached Australia’s World War I hero, General Sir John

Monash, to demand that he take over Australia as a fascist-style dictator. The delegation, which said it was acting on behalf of “certain gentlemen”, was led by Robert Knox, Melbourne Citizens Committee chairman and financier of the Nationalist Party. He was accompanied by Kingsley Henderson, a prominent Melbourne architect and an intimate of Sir Staniforth Ricketson (the head of J.B. Were and Son, Australia’s leading stock brokerage), and by Maj. Leonard N. Roach of Bank House.

Maj. Gen. H. W. Grimwade, head of the prominent firm Drug Houses of Australia, had also urged Monash to become dictator. Monash told Grimwade that he did not intend to abandon the “present constitutional system”. As for the entreaties to suppress an expected revolution which they “evidently expect will be instigated by the communists and red-raggers,” Monash wrote, “I am inclined greatly to discount the existence of any serious danger of upheaval.” As his biographer Geoffrey Serle reports, when Monash was yet again approached on the subject, in a letter from a correspondent representing “a number of Sydney businessmen”, he blew up: “What do you and your friends want me to do? To lead a movement to upset the Constitution, oust the jurisdiction of parliament, and usurp the Governmental power? If so, I have no ambition to embark on High Treason, which any such action would amount to.”

The Melbourne Citizens Committee

The impressive power assembled in Sydney’s AFAL notwithstanding, the organisation’s Melbourne branch became its linchpin. The central figure in creating what became the Melbourne branch of the AFAL, was Staniforth Ricketson (later Sir Staniforth), chairman of directors of J. B. Were and Son, the largest stockbroker

in Australia between the wars, and the underwriter of those Australian Government loans, taken up within the country. (Most Australian loans were floated in London, being handled by the firm of Nivison, one of the Big Five financial firms of the Empire; Ricketson was on intimate terms with Nivison executives.) The Ricketsons were

multiply intermarried with the family of Jonathan Binn Were, who had founded the firm in 1839.

Throughout his decades-long career, Ricketson was a fanatical opponent of national banking. In the 1950s, he would be a chief architect of the “independent central bank” that later became the Reserve Bank.

In 1930, Ricketson reacted with fury to the Nov. 6 ALP caucus decision to postpone for one year the redemption of £27 million of Commonwealth bonds. His reaction was shared by Labor’s Acting Treasurer Joseph Lyons. Ricketson warned that if Australia defaulted on its loan payments to London, its national credit would be ruined forever in

the world’s financial capital. He recruited several Melbourne businessmen as advisers to Lyons, to help the government raise a loan to redeem the bonds. Ricketson and his friends became known as the Group of Six. The group included Sir John Higgins, head of the British and Australian Wool Realisation Association; C.A. Norris, secretary of the

Defeat the Synarchists—Fight for a National Bank

National Mutual Life Association (Sir Robert Gibson was an NMLA board member); Ambrose Pratt, a journalist; Kingsley Henderson, the Melbourne architect who had petitioned Gen. Monash to become dictator; and Ricketson's protégé, Robert Menzies, then a Nationalist MLA in the Victorian parliament and a leading barrister and KC.

Ricketson and the Gang of Six organised public meetings in support of the conversion loan, but they did not stop at that. In December, Ricketson wired his associate Lord Glendyne of Nivison & Co., requesting British capital to fund the formation of an "anti-Labor party". In a separate memorandum, he wrote: "A decisive, indeed an overwhelming victory must be won by the forces opposed to dishonest government in order to recreate confidence here and restore the confidence of the people of Great Britain in the financial honesty and political integrity of the people of Australia and thus enable us to obtain for Australia the finance ... which only London can give."

Ricketson's plea for support was genuine, but otherwise he was lying his head off. The Commonwealth Bank had every capability to fund Australia's needs, had it chosen to do so. Contrast Ricketson's idea that Australia must beg from London, with Jack Lang's account of how the Commonwealth Bank under Sir Denison Miller had approached urgent financial requirements a little more than ten years earlier:

"Denison Miller had gone to London after the war had finished and had thrown a great fright into the banking world by calmly telling a big bankers' dinner that the wealth of Australia represented six times the amount of money that had been borrowed, and that the Bank could meet every demand because it had the entire capital of the country behind it. The Bank had found £350 million for war purposes.

"A deputation of unemployed waited on him after he arrived back from London at the head office of the Commonwealth Bank in Martin Place, Sydney. He was asked whether his bank would be prepared to raise another £350 million for productive purposes. He replied that not only was his bank able to do it, but would be happy to do it.

"Such statements as these caused a near panic in the City of London. If the Dominions were going to become independent of the City of London, then the entire financial structure would collapse. The urgent problem was to find ways and means of re-establishing the financial supremacy that had been lost



A rogues' gallery of Synarchists: (l. to r.) Sir Staniforth Ricketson, head of J.B. Were & Son (Australia's largest brokerage); Ernest Turnbull, head of Ricketson's Melbourne branch of the AFAL; C.A. Norris, General Manager of the



National Mutual Life Assurance Co., sponsors of the AFAL; Lord Glendyne of the House of Nivison in London, Ricketson's controller.



during the war."

In 1930, however, Glendyne cabled back his instructions to the groveling Ricketson, saying there was "no hope of inducing anyone to subscribe fresh capital for Australia", until the Australian political situation stabilised and the government "formulated sound proposals for gradual rehabilitation."

No doubt stimulated by this exchange, Ricketson recruited a Citizens Committee to campaign for the desired "overwhelming victory" against Labor. It was composed of his Group of Six, plus G.J. Coles (governing director of Coles retailers) and E. Lee Neil (managing director of Myers retailers) as co-chairs, as well as Ricketson's next door neighbour, G.R. Nicholas of the Aspro empire. The chairman of the Citizens Committee was Robert Knox, a Collins House businessman and chairman of the secretive National Union (which controlled Nationalist Party finances)—the same who petitioned Gen. Monash to become dictator. In January 1931, Ricketson's Citizens Committee was addressed by South Australian Citizens League fascist leader E.D.A. Bagot, after which it became known as the Melbourne Citizens League.

The creation of this movement is described in *The House of Were, 1839-1954*, a book privately—virtually clandestinely—published by Were itself in 1954, for a select group of clients. Its frontispiece is inscribed, "It is desired that no reference to the publication should be made in the press". This inside history reports:

"The [Melbourne Citizens League] movement had its origin in the appointment of a Committee of leaders in the financial and commercial world to assist in the campaign for raising the Conversion Loan in December 1930. Having completed their work in connection with

the loan, the members of the Committee realised that they might render a very real service to Australia by uniting the sober-minded elements of the community in an organisation designed to restore Australia's political integrity and stability and create a healthy atmosphere remote from party politics.

"After many meetings at the offices of J.B. Were and Son in the New Zealand Bank Chambers, an organisation known as the "Australian Citizens League" was set up, and an inaugural meeting was summoned at the Melbourne Town Hall [on Thursday, Feb. 19, 1931]...

"In the then existing state of public opinion, the movement made a widespread appeal, and the Town Hall Meeting was crowded to the doors, 3000 persons being present while over 1000 were unable to gain admittance. The chair was taken by Sir John McFarland, and ... resolutions ... moved by E. Lee Neil [were carried] with great enthusiasm. ... A Council was elected, with Kingsley A. Henderson as honorary secretary and Staniforth Ricketson as honorary treasurer. Subsequently the name of the organisation was changed to the All for Australia League."

The key resolution moved by Neil demanded "the prevention of political interference with the banking and currency system". In other words, private financiers must continue to run Australia's finances.

The Sir John McFarland who took the chair at the founding meeting of this august committee, was otherwise prominent as the chairman of the NMLA company, which took out ads in the AFAL journal as a way of funding the League. The NMLA board of directors exemplifies how politics, high finance, central banking and the private fascist armies came together

around a single board table—though it was not the only one—in 1930s Australia.

Ernest Turnbull, recruited by Ricketson as President of the Melbourne wing of the AFAL, clearly enunciated his readiness to use force against "Communism" (meaning, Labor). In an election speech at the Melbourne Town Hall, Turnbull proclaimed: "The kind of [Labor] politics that sneers at everything British, that would sacrifice all our most cherished traditions on the altar of Bolshevism

... that finds excuses for the outlaw and the rebel ... does not merit the support of any Australian. The spearhead of the unpatriotic sentiments which are flaunted in public today is Communism, a noxious doctrine imported from Russia. ... We hope to exterminate Communism not by repression—which should be avoided as much as possible, *though it should not be shirked should it become necessary*, but by the introduction of sane and stable governments." (Emphasis added.)

National Mutual Life Assurance Co. Board Members

Board members	Term
Herbert Brookes	1928-1952
Stanley Melbourne Bruce	1919-1922
W.S. Fraser	1927-1928
Sir Robert Gibson	1922-1934
Lt. Gen. E.F. Herring	1939-1943
Sir Harold Luxton	1930-1954
Sir D. Orme Masson	1925-1937
Sir Richard Stawell	1929-1935
Sir Cyril Brudenell White	1928-1940

Herbert Brookes (1867-1963) was a wealthy Melbourne patriot and the founder of Australia's first private intelligence and fascist militia network (see page 36). He was a key figure in the international Synarchy associated with the British Round Table movement.

Stanley Melbourne Bruce, later Lord Bruce of Melbourne was Australia's ultra-reactionary Nationalist Party Prime Minister from 1923-1929, subsequently becoming a member of the British House of Lords.

Sir Robert Gibson headed the Commonwealth Bank, which under him became a British-model "independent" central bank.

Lt. Gen. E.F. "Ned" Herring was secretary of the special constables during the 1923 Melbourne police strike, and in 1930-1932 a leader of the League of National Security militia.

Sir Harold Luxton was closely connected with two companies in the Collins House financial and manufacturing empire, as Victorian director of the Bank of New Zealand and chairman of directors of the Metropolitan Gas Company.

Sir D. Orme Masson was a consultant to Collins House's Electrolytic Zinc and a director of the Union Trustee Co.

Sir Richard Stawell was a member of the Waterfall Fly Fishing Club, which Jack Lang denounced as a "sinister cabal of politicians, judges and businessmen."

General Sir Cyril Brudenell White was the first chief of staff of the AIF. In 1923 he created the private White Army during the Melbourne police strike, the precursor to the 1930-1932 League of National Security, which he also headed.

New Guard leader Eric Campbell's memoirs record that Gibson was even more of a fascist than he, Campbell, was: "Outside the movement our well-wishers did not appear to take the 'Fascist' angle to heart. Some would say, 'Well, Communists cannot be handled with kid gloves', and others, 'It doesn't matter what they call you, you are doing an amazingly good job.' Then again there were more than a few of our conservative backers who would urge me to take action that I was not prepared even to contemplate. Even the chairman of the Commonwealth Bank, Sir Robert Gibson, said to me one day in Bligh Street.

"'Don't you think it is high time the New Guard did something?'"

"'What would you suggest?' I asked, not concealing my surprise.

"'That's up to you', he said. 'Lang has got to be stopped—and that is what the New Guard was formed for, wasn't it?' And off he strode looking very cranky."

But Sir Robert did not really need to plead with Campbell for action. All he had to do was talk to his fellow NMLA board members.

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Defeat the Synarchists—Fight for a National Bank

The Storm Troopers—I: The League of National Security

Archival evidence documents the almost unbroken existence of secret, fascist-style armies in Australia from the close of World War I until the last such formation, the 100,000-member "Association", was apparently disbanded in the early 1950s. Three main fascist armies were founded in the crucial period of 1930-1931: the League of National Security (LNS), headquartered in Melbourne and also called the White Army, and the Old Guard and New Guard, based in Sydney and rural New South Wales. They totaled perhaps 100,000 men among them, out of a population of some two million males.

The most important militia was the League of National Security (LNS). Available evidence shows that the LNS instigated the rise of the other two paramilitary organisations, the Old Guard and its Young Turk split-off, the New Guard. Moreover, while the Old Guard and New Guard plotted to overthrow Jack Lang and seize power in New South Wales, the LNS was planning to take over the entire country. Historian Keith Amos summarised the archival evidence of the LNS's aims: "The League's objectives were specific: action would be taken at 'zero hour' in the event of an industrial crisis that arose either from 'repressive legislation by a Government sympathetic to militant trade unionism', or 'trade depression'. On such an occasion two plans would first be executed: a) the assumption of control of all strategic points and machinery of government; b) the

maintenance of essential public services and distribution of food-stuffs. In the event of either of these plans failing as a result of 'retaliatory action on behalf of the trades organisations', a third plan would be implemented: the consolidation of the position of the League as a governing body and the development of its national policy."

What was planned was a military coup, either against a Federal Labor government, or against Jack Lang in NSW, or both. The leadership of the LNS was identical with the historical leadership of the regular army, the AIF, in the person of two former AIF chiefs of staff, Gen. Sir Brudenell White and his protégé Gen. Sir Thomas Blamey. Most of the top leaders of these private armies were former officers of the AIF, a layer of society largely made up of graduates of Melbourne's six British-style "public schools" and the similar institutions in Sydney. At these schools, staffed by British teachers for decades, sons of the Australian elite imbibed the glories of the British Empire and learned to speak with a British accent. *Every one of the 417 Old Grammarians, graduates of Melbourne Grammar, who enlisted in the AIF became an officer.*

Michael Cathcart, historian of the White Army, aptly compared the events in Australia to the military-led fascist coups and attempted coups of the same period in Europe, including the Synarchist attempted coups in France. "The White Army can be compared to the French [explicitly Synarchist



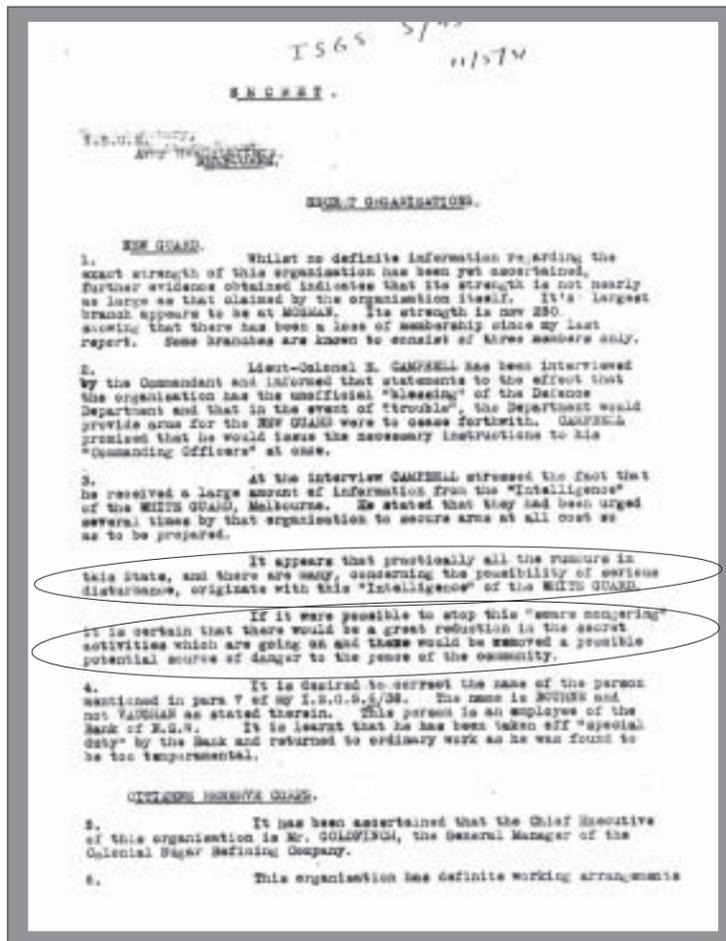
General Sir Cyril Bingham Brudenell White. Aide to the Royal Family, first Chief of Staff of the AIF, head of the League of National Security.

—ed.] Croix de Feu which was founded in 1927 with the financial support of prominent businessmen. Originally open only to decorated war veterans, it expanded to a membership of over 200,000 men. On 6 February 1934, the Croix de Feu attempted to storm parliament and unseat the socialist government, but was held off in a bloody confrontation by troops loyal to the government." The invective hurled by the French Synarchists against the Socialist government in France, was almost identical to that of the LNS, and its "conservative" financial and business leaders and backers, against Labor in Australia.

Indeed, the *fascist* character of Australia's secret armies was emphasised even by its supporters. Thus, the head of the Commonwealth Investigation Bureau (CIB), Major C.E. Jones, sent an evaluation of these secret armies to the CIB offices in each state, attempting to legitimise their existence. Under the title, "The formation of secret bodies in the Commonwealth for the protection of the State against BOLSHEVISM", Jones approvingly observed, "For some time the air has been full of what has been termed a Fascist or law and order movement for the protection of constitutional Government," adding that the LNS had been formed "for the purpose of supporting established authority to save Australia from any red rising or attempt to Sovietise the country." As CIB director Jones well knew, no such Bolshevik threat existed. His lieutenant in Melbourne, Inspector Roland Browne, had told him as much, asking rhetorically, "But what of the red organisation, if any? Is the whole business [the LNS —ed.] a steel hammer to crush a nut?" CIB documents of the era show that the Intelligence sector of the LNS itself was working hardest (alongside the Synarchist-owned mass media) to fan the Red scare.

Inspector Roland Browne also informed Jones that the LNS was prepared to seize power *unconstitutionally*: "It is said that the White Army is purely protective and would not be used without constitutional authority, but there is every reason to believe that if it did not approve of constituted authority it might act in opposition to it—a position which might well lead to civil war."

The few surviving LNS documents—files on this organisation have one of the highest rates of disappearance and culling, in the Australian Archive—demonstrate that the League intended to establish a one-party state and to replace the Federal Parliament with a bicameral "Federal Council", the



The Intelligence Section of the General Staff reported that most of the "Red scare", used to justify the fascist armies, was really organised by the LNS ("White Army") itself.



General Sir Thomas Blamey, protégé of Brudenell White, in a 1926 cartoon highlighting his Nazi mentality. As Victoria Police Commissioner in 1923, Blamey brutally broke the police union. He went on to become a leader of both the LNS and the post-war fascist army, The Association.

state Parliaments with bi-cameral "provincial Councils", and local councils with "District Councils". An LNS document spelled out the scheme: "The Executive of the Federal Council shall consist of the Chief of the League who shall be Chairman of the upper Council [Chamber], the Vice Chief, who shall be the Chairman of the Lower Chamber, and the Heads of the Federal Government Departments. The Executive of the [sic] Provincial Council shall consist of the

Chairman of the Upper House, the Chairman of the Lower House, and the Heads of the Department of the State legislature...." Historian Cathcart observed, "It was a characteristically fascist arrangement."

From best estimates, the League of National Security was already well-established by August 1930, four months before the founding of the Old Guard. The LNS had 30,000 members by March 1931, according to an Investigations Bureau report.

Leaders of the League of National Security

The first point of the LNS bylaws was, "Loyalty to the British Throne". Members swore an oath of secrecy, beginning, "I (name in full) do hereby and hereon solemnly and sincerely swear allegiance to our sovereign Lord the King".

Leaders of the LNS included these prominent personalities.

General Sir Brudenell White, head of the LNS, also 1923 White Army. Australian superintendent of N.Z. Loan and Mercantile.

Thomas Blamey, Police Commissioner. Blamey excelled at Red scare propaganda.

Col. Eric Fairweather Harrison, director of Military Intelligence from 1920-25. Harrison's career, like those of AIF ex-Chiefs of Staff Brudenell White and Blamey, shows the LNS's overlap with the highest levels of the AIF. In 1929-1931, he was commandant of the Royal Military Academy at Duntroon, until he suddenly resigned in early 1931 and moved to Melbourne to head up LNS Intelligence. Harrison had been Secretary to the 1923 Special Constables, which Brudenell White organised when Blamey was Victorian police commissioner.

Col. F. P. Derham, solicitor in the Melbourne firm Moule, Hamilton and Derham, a director of G.J. Coles and McEwans Ltd., and a senior officer in the Melbourne U. Rifles.

Col. W.E.H. Cass, CMG. Commandant of the 3rd Military District (Victoria) since 1921.

Lt. Col. C.H. Simpson, pharmacist, later Blamey's number two in the "Association" fascist militia, 1947-52.

Lt. Col. Edmund Herring, later Chief Justice (1944-64) and Lt. Gov. (1965-72) of Victoria. A senior member of the White Army, he had played a key role in organising the Specials in 1923.

Maj. Julian Smith, LNS Intelligence.

Maj. Len Roach, LNS Chief of Intelligence.

Hugh G. Brain, leading figure in Secretariat Pty. at Collins House, founding secretary of Western Mining Company, and secretary for other CHG firms.

Wing Commander Archie MacArthur, OBE and **Nelson Capp**, Gippsland leaders of the LNS.

Donovan Joynt, director, soldier, a founder of the Constitutional Club and of Legacy.

Sir Alfred Kemsley, distinguished soldier, businessman and secretary of the Special Constabulary Force used against the police union in 1923; President of Legacy in 1932-33.

Col. Neil McArthur, secretary of the White Army; he maintained an office in Collins Street as a White Army HQ until his death in 1961.

M.E. Wettenhall, Nationalist MP for Lowan.

H.W. Harrison, secretary of the Chamber of Automotive Industries.

Julian Smith, director Arbuckle & Co., who at one point headed the White Army Intelligence Unit.

Lt. Col. Jack Clarebrough, head of Melbourne University Rifles.

Defeat the Synarchists—Fight for a National Bank

The Collins House Group

While much archival material has come to light about the NSW militias, deep secrecy still cloaks the LNS. The entire correspondence of LNS leader Gen. Thomas Blamey has disappeared, the cabinet records of state Labor governments are missing, and other key intelligence files have been culled, researcher Cathcart reported. Almost every page of Military Intelligence files on the White Army has been culled from the MI holding in the Australian Archive. The documentary history of the LNS is mostly limited to some crucial fragments, found in New Guard files seized by the NSW police.

Faced with such a conundrum, an investigator is in the position of Edgar Allan Poe's detective in "The Purloined Letter". He can either search in vain for concealed evidence from the "bottom up", or he can start "top down" by reading the minds of his opponents, and thus discern where the letter *must be hidden*—in plain sight, where its thief knew the police would never look! And so it is, with Australia's fascist militias, in 1930-1932.

The first place to look for the mechanism of Australia's fascist movement is in boardrooms of the Anglophile financial elite, since the events in Australia were part of the London-centred financial oligarchy's 1920s-1930s drive to install fascist regimes wherever needed. Frank Anstey hit the nail on the head, with his observation that the British-tied banks and firms in Australia were the "biggest subsidisers of reactionary propaganda."

As we shall see, the Old Guard in NSW is one excellent case study of how the financial elite organised mass fascist movements. The LNS in Melbourne followed the same pattern, which is not surprising since it preceded and, no doubt, inspired the Old Guard.

Melbourne was the mining, manufacturing and financial capital of the country, the power of the Bank of New South Wales in Sydney notwithstanding. The city's most important firms were also London-centred, "Anglo-Australian" entities. Historian Peter Cochrane noted, "Two mining groups dominated manufacturing



W.L. Baillieu (l.), Synarchist kingpin of the Collins House empire; Sir Walter Massey-Greene (r.), director of 40 Collins House companies, and a coordinator of the plot to dump NSW Premier Jack Lang.



development throughout the period between the two wars. These were Anglo-Australian groups in which British capital predominated. The first was an alliance of lead-zinc interests which became known as Collins House, the second, the iron and steel manufacturer Broken Hill Proprietary." Both of these were headquartered in Melbourne, as were most of the British-owned banks. In terms of its financial and political reach, both within Australia and abroad, the more important of the two was the Collins House Group, centred around Melbourne financier W. L. Baillieu and his partner in numerous ventures, W.S. Robinson.

The Collins House Group took its name from the address 360-366 Collins Street in Melbourne's financial district, a building W.L. Baillieu had specially built to house the interests of companies controlled by himself and his associates. But the Collins House Group's real power base was in London. In 1935, Labor MHR J. A. "Jack" Beasley castigated "the ubiquitous Baillieu family, a financial dynasty sometimes called 'the House of Morgan in Australia', and which has its roots in the London financial ring and operates from Collins House, Melbourne in such a way that it boasts that it can even make and unmake Prime Ministers..."

The *Australian Financial Review* reported in 1961 that Collins House was "the most prolific parent of industrial enterprises Australia has ever seen." One of these offspring was the London-

headquartered Zinc Corporation, which merged with the British-owned Imperial Smelting Corporation as Consolidated Zinc, and then, in 1962, with the British Round Table-tied firm Rio Tinto to produce Rio Tinto Zinc. The Australian interests of Consolidated Zinc and Rio Tinto then merged into Conzinc Rio Tinto of Australia (CRA); in 1995 CRA and Rio Tinto unified as a single entity. RTZ has incalculable power over Australia in corporate, cultural and political affairs, as is documented in the CEC's pamphlet, "Stop the British Crown Plot to Crush Australia's Unions". Another creation of the Collins House Group was Western Mining Corporation, which has done more than any single other firm to establish the dominance of "economic rationalism" in Australia, since the mid-1970s, by founding or funding the major economic rationalist think tanks like the Centre for Independent Studies, the Tasman Institute and the Institute for Public Affairs.

The *Australian Financial Review* once put a finger on the unusual, highly elusive nature of the Collins House Group, whose actions from the 1920s through the 1940s and beyond still have such a profound effect on this country: "In some respects Collins House resembles the devil... Everyone has heard the name of his Satanic majesty. Everyone suspects his vast influence upon their affairs. Yet few have seen him: few could describe accurately his features; even fewer have transacted busi-

ness with him."

All this is made more mysterious by the fact that no written history of the group exists! A book scheduled for release in 1987, which was to be the first ever monograph on the CHG, never appeared. Nor is there any biography of its founder, W.L. Baillieu, a leading financier and one of the most powerful individuals in Australian corporate and political life for three decades. The one manuscript on Baillieu which once existed at the Melbourne University Dept. of History has disappeared, perhaps into the embargoed archive of Lord Clive Latham Baillieu.⁵ According to an informed source at Melbourne University, the Baillieu family material is "the most embargoed material at this university." Lord C.L. Baillieu's papers, for example, are embargoed until 2040! And the papers of other key Collins House figures that *are* available, such as those of Colin Fraser, require the permission from the Pasmenco Company to even look at them, as well as company pre-publication approval of anything written. W.S. Robinson left memoirs, but they curiously *never mention the Collins House Group*. More generally, anyone attempting to do research on any of the principal figures in the Collins House is met with a virtual wall of silence among all the families involved, even now, almost a century after the group was founded!

The cloak of secrecy over Collins House is as thick as the one that enshrouds the League of National Security. Might the two have had anything to do with each other? It would be astonishing if they *didn't*.

Despite the mystery surrounding both organisations, at least one crucial tie between the LNS and Collins House has survived in the archives. This was no minor connection, but involved the very "nerve centre" of Collins House, the Secretariat Pty Ltd. firm. Secretariat's founder, Edward Shackell, was W.L. Baillieu's brother-in-law. And Hugh Brain, who ran Secretariat in the early 1930s, left a paper trail that documents his LNS activity.

In commenting on the legal companies and other "service" firms attached to the CHG and headquartered at Collins House, historian Peter Richardson observed: "Most important of all in this regard was undoubtedly the firm of Edward H. Shackell & Co., later to be known as Secretariat Proprietary Ltd. Throughout the interwar period, this firm doubled as company secretaries and managers for an astonishing array of Group companies." And the *AFR* noted, "What an effective instrument of centralised control it was may be realised from the fact that companies as large and important as, say, Electrolytic Zinc [E.Z.] and Associated Pulp and Paper Mills, might not have their employees as business manager, secretary or chief accountant, but officers placed there by Secretariat. As many as 40 goldmining companies ... passed through Secretariat. At the height of its influence it was responsible for the management of 56 companies, including such substantial ones as E.Z. and Metal Manufactures."

Sir Hugh Brain had joined Secretariat right after leaving the army in World War I. In 1933 he would be founding secretary of Western Mining Company, sponsor of the Mont Pelerin Society revolution

in and after the mid-1970s. Sir Hugh, who stayed with Secretariat until 1960, notes in his papers that he was one of the special constables in the 1923 Melbourne police strike. Like many of those who were active against the police strike, he became deeply involved in the LNS in 1930-31. This is Brain's own recollection, on file at the Sir Hugh Brain papers collection in the Melbourne University Archives:

"At the time when concern was being felt in NSW about the possibility of subversion during Jack Lang's regime an unofficial organisation was established in Melbourne to be in readiness to cope with any similar trouble here. It was organised in groups, with a regular chain of command, and commercial names were given to all those formations and their officers. Methods of coping with revolutionary situations abroad were closely studied and a lot of training went on. The groups were of the most diverse character: they were formed in Banks, in Insurance Offices, in City Clubs, and one with which I was associated was drawn from Melbourne's Wharf labourers, and met, incongruously enough, in a ladies frock shop at the Paris end of Collins Street. Had any trouble broken out here it would have been found that immediate control had been taken of key transport and communications facilities, and that ample personnel was available to thwart subversion. Moreover, every move that would have been taken would be in accordance with existing law. The top leadership of the organisation was of the highest quality. Fortunately, it was not needed, but in some quiet suburban residential squares the residents registered some alarm when trial parades were held, filling their squares with dozens of motor vehicles, scores of men and equipment of all kinds. The organisation quietly faded away when the prospective need for it passed."

Sir Hugh's ultimate commander within the LNS, the organisation's *Il Duce*, was Gen. Sir Cyril Brudenell White, who had been the first chief of staff of the AIF. Brudenell White not only sat on the NMLA board alongside Herbert Brookes, Sir Robert Gibson, and LNS leader Gen. Sir Edward Herring, but was also Australian head of New Zealand Loan and Mercantile, a Collins House firm. On the controlling, London board of New Zealand Loan and Mercantile sat various British oligarchs and Sir (later Baron) Clive Latham Baillieu, eldest son of CHG head W.L. Baillieu. Brudenell White was also on the board of the Baillieu Education Trust. Given how tightly the Collins House Group was organised, the notion that the LNS activity of such prominent CHG figures as Brain and Brudenell White might represent unapproved "freelancing" behind the backs of Baillieu and Robinson, will not hold water.

Brudenell White's ultimate orders for LNS activity, however, would not have come from anyone inside Australia, but from the British Crown itself, for which he had long been a retainer. The general's *Australian Dictionary of Biography* entry describes him as more committed to the British Empire and an "Imperial view of Australian defence", than he was to Australia. He was made an aide-



The skyscraper on the right has replaced the Baillieus' old Collins House building at 360-366 Collins St., Melbourne, nerve centre of Australia's Synarchy. At least one original Collins House firm has stayed at that address: E.L. & C. Baillieu Stockbroking, shown on list of tenants (inset).

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de-camp to George V at the end of World War I, and appointed K.C.V.O. in 1920, for organising the Australian tour of the Prince of Wales, and K.C.B. for organising the tour of the Duke and Duchess of York in 1927.

Another central CHG figure was Sir Walter Massey-Greene, director of an astounding 40 companies, including core CHG firms like Electrolytic Zinc, Associated Pulp and Paper Mills, and others. Massey-Greene had been a ferocious opponent of national banking ever since King O'Malley's founding of the Commonwealth

Bank in 1911. When the Synarchy succeeded in ousting the Scullin government and installing their puppet "Honest Joe" Lyons in 1931, Massey-Greene was brought in to run Lyons' financial policy. Officially he was "Assistant Treasurer", because Lyons kept the post of Treasurer for himself, but, by Lyons' own admission, he relied heavily on Massey-Greene. According to one credible account, provided by historian Andrew Moore, Massey-Greene did much more: he personally oversaw the plans for the fascist Old Guard to seize Lang's office

by force and oust his government, a plan preempted by NSW Governor Sir Philip Game's dismissing Lang from office before it could be implemented.

Yet another tie-in of the Collins House Group to the fascist activities of 1930-32 was through former Acting Prime Minister W.A. Watt, a member of His Majesty's Privy Council. Watt so revered the Crown, that he opposed equal status with Britain for the Dominions, even including Australia! As Acting Prime Minister in 1918-1919, he played a key role in the establishment of the first fascist

private armies. By the mid-1920s, he was based at Collins House, chairing CHG firms such as the Zinc Corporation, Dunlop Perdrillau Rubber and British Dominion Film. Watt's subordinate at the latter, the managing director for British Dominion Film, was none other than Ernest Turnbull—the same Ernest Turnbull, who as Staniforth Ricketson's recruit to head the Melbourne AFAL branch called for not shirking the use of violence to "exterminate Communism." Turnbull was also active—as organiser, then Victorian president for seven years, and federal presi-

dent—in the Returned Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Imperial League of Australia, one of the main bodies from which rank-and-file members of the fascist militias were drawn. And Turnbull was a member of the Melbourne branch of the Legacy club, which boasted several known LNS leaders. It is unimaginable that Turnbull would have chaired the AFAL without the approval of Watt and the rest of the CHG leadership; indeed, it was most likely that they deployed him for the position.

Herbert Brookes: Éminence Grise of the Secret Armies

More light can be shed on the MLNS, the Old Guard and the New Guard, from the vantage point of their decade-long prehistory. Archival material filed in Canberra documents that the roots of Australia's secret fascist armies reach back to the end of World War I and wind through the far-reaching clandestine activities of the wealthy Melbourne industrialist, patrician and Round Table member, Herbert Brookes (1867-1963).

Brookes was closely tied to the Collins House empire, a connection that continued into the next generation—as did his family's involvement with secret intelligence and political influence at the highest levels. One of his sons, Sir Alfred Deakin Brookes, was an assistant to Richard Gardiner Casey, president of the Liberal Party of Australia, and went on to become the founding father of the Australian Secret Intelligence Service (ASIS) at the close of World War II. ASIS historians Toohey and Pinwill report that Sir Alfred believed the clandestine intelligence services should run the country. Another son, Sir Wilfred Deakin Brookes, was a director of several Collins House firms, including Western Mining and Australian Pulp and Paper Mills, which he chaired.

The senior Brookes was a wealthy and influential man. He married the daughter of Liberal Prime Minister Alfred Deakin, whose obsession with theosophy and other occult matters he shared. Brookes co-founded the Commonwealth Liberal Party in 1908 and the People's Liberal Party (PLP) in 1911. He was editor of the PLP's journal, *Liberal*, from 1911-14, and headed the party from 1912 until its dissolution in 1916. Then Brookes became prominent in the National Union, which controlled the Nationalist Party of the 1920s. He was chairman of the family company, Australian Paper Mills, president of the Victorian Chamber of Manufactures from 1913-1917, and then president of the Associated Chambers of Manufactures of Australia, while overseeing extensive family pastoral interests in Queensland and Western Australia.

By 1917, according to the unabashed Brookes apologist Rohan Deakin Rivett (a fellow Round Table member, as well as relative of Brookes by marriage), "he had been called to the executive of almost every major war organisation in Melbourne." The most important of these was the State Munitions Committee, established in 1914 under the chairmanship of financier and political kingmaker W.L. Baillieu of the Collins House Group.

Like most Round Tablers, Brookes was a fanatical British Empire loyalist, who hated and despised the "uppity" British "Dominions" (colonies) like Egypt,

India, and Ireland, which dared to demand independence. "Their claim to equal status," he wrote, "in which their soul seems to find delight, is prompted in great measure by dangerous conceit or cherished bitterness unworthy of civilised beings and [this] has blinded them to the supreme privileges which membership in the empire has bestowed upon them." The hundreds of thousands of Irishmen, Indians, Sudanese and others slaughtered by the British Empire naturally did not see it that way, but as Cathcart observed about this typical outlook of Brookes' entire class: "Even after the first world war, Melbourne high society remained a closed colonial world whose spiritual and economic centre was the British Isles. Fashion, cuisine, literary taste and habits of speech were all derived from upper-class England." And Brookes, like almost all his associates, saw the heavily Irish Catholic labour movement in Australia as the "enemy within", who were out to overturn their beloved Empire—not to mention their own positions in Australia. Throughout Brookes' papers, there is a constant refrain: "The machine must be broken!" The "machine" was the Irish Catholic-dominated ALP.

In addition to his specifically political activities, Brookes waged a life-long Clash of Civilisations-style religious war against Catholicism. He established the Victorian Protestant League and edited its newspaper for many years. Even his fawning biographer, Rivett, called Brookes the "armourer and financier of anti-Catholic protestantism."

March 16, 1918 was a turning point in Brookes' life. During a St. Patrick's Day parade in Melbourne, the Catholic Archbishop Daniel Mannix refused to remove his biretta to a band playing "God Save the King" in front of Parliament House. Almost immediately thereafter, however, he did doff his biretta to a banner inscribed, "To the Martyrs of Easter Week", referring to the Dublin Rising of Easter 1916, against the British occupation of Ireland. Melbourne "loyalist" society was outraged, and no one more than Herbert Brookes. Mannix's view of Australia was an implicitly republican one, to boot: "Australia first, the Empire second," and he had led the opposition to military conscription in the bitter referendums of 1916 and 1917.

A few days later, Brookes organised the largest "loyalty demonstration" Melbourne had ever seen. He arranged for Prime Minister Billy Hughes, a close friend, to



Herbert Brookes, businessman, Round Table leader and organiser of fascist militias like the Australian Protective League, modeled on a U.S. militia that was financed by Wall St. and tied to the Ku Klux Klan.

address the meeting, and demanded that Hughes ban the Irish republican organisation, Sinn Fein, in Australia. Hughes obliged.

Shortly thereafter, on May 29, 1918, Brookes attended a meeting at the offices of one of his closest friends, Acting Prime Minister and soon to be Privy Councillor (1920) W.A. Watt—the future Collins House Group leader and employer of Melbourne AFAL head Ernest Turnbull. As Treasurer of Australia during World War I, Watt had argued that the war effort would function better by "putting the country into the hands of a Committee of Public Safety. ... It is doubtful if a democracy can fight a great autocracy." Present at Watt's office for the May 18 gathering were Minister of Defence George Pearce (another close friend of Brookes), Chief of the General Staff Major General J.G. Legge, and top businessmen, bankers, insurers, solicitors and academics of Melbourne.

The purpose of the gathering was to establish the Australian Protective League, modeled on the 250,000-man American Protective League, set up by the U.S. Department of Justice and Wall St. financiers and tied to the Ku Klux Klan, whose purpose was to ensure loyalty against "Reds" and "foreigners". Pearce had recently sent R.C.D. Elliott, a Melbourne businessman and former member of the Australian Intelligence Corps, to the United States to visit the American Protective League and learn how it functioned. (Elliott was another associate of Brookes, and had married the daughter of Collins House Group associate Theodore H. Fink, who himself had been the best man at W.L. Baillieu's wedding. In 1940, Elliott would pop up in London as the private secretary of the leading British Synarchist fascist Lord Beaverbrook, who was then plotting a pro-

Hitler coup.)⁶

Brookes' papers at the National Library in Canberra document how, in the weeks and months after the May 1918 meeting with Watt, Pearce et al., he had numerous contacts with Military Intelligence, the head of civilian intelligence (which was run by the Governor General), his close associate Queensland Police Commissioner F. C. Urquhart, and others. Brookes' files are full of memoranda and letters by him and his associates on how to set up secret organisations to gather intelligence on "disloyal" elements. He planted spies in the Melbourne Trades Hall, the Victorian Railways Union, the One Big Union, and the Victorian Police Department.

Brookes' activities involved more than intelligence work. He made notes: "Propose to use men recruited from masons, loyalty leagues, soldiers and sailors ... as *vigilantes*." (Emphasis added.) Brookes proposed a two-tier organisational scheme, under which highly public loyalist organisations would serve as a cover for secret armies. He wrote that the proposed Australian Protective League "might be used when necessary to stimulate a public or semi-public organisation to do some work which might be necessary."

At the time he was setting up the structure for his secret armies, Brookes wrote out what might best be called, if not a "last will", then certainly a testament: "I am prepared. I have already taken the steps and without assistance I will go on at my own expense. This shall be the work of my latter life. In my opinion it is the best work a man can give himself to. ... I know what's wanted. ... I have arranged to be released from business affairs except sufficient for a screen. I can serve best, as those of the other side do, by keeping in the background. I will give half my waking life to the work. ... Everything we hold dear for our children's sake is at stake."

Brookes did turn over the chairmanship of the family company, Australian Paper Mills, to his brother, give up his presidency of the Chambers of Manufactures and resign from various government bodies. He kept two posts, each of them part-time, which happened to require extensive travel all over the country: he was a founding member of both the Commonwealth Board of Trade (1918-1928) and the Tariff Board (1922-28). After a stint as Australian trade commissioner in the USA, he also became a foundation member and vice president of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (1932-39).

Brookes proposed specific individuals to head his secret organisations in each state. For Western Australia he proposed his close patrician associate of many decades standing, Round Tabler Walter Murdoch, an avowed admirer of Mussolini who wrote: "My own impression is that Mussolini is a far greater man than most people outside Italy recognise.... One of the extraordinary men whose will admits no impossibilities, is barred by no obstacles, and pushes them into history." Murdoch avowed his devotion to Mussolini, even as *Il Duce* brutally consolidated power: "No one can be in Italy for a week without seeing that the long series of assassinations and outrages by the Fascist gangs has done its desired work, and that Mussolini has the country cowed and terrified." For NSW, Brookes proposed another of his longtime pro-fascist friends, E.P. Simpson of Minter Simpson & Co. Archival records show that Simpson began to act for Brookes' scheme, disbursing CSR funds for anti-Labor causes. His business partner Minter was later a member of the New Guard, while Simpson's closest associates were leaders in the Old Guard. In Queensland, Brookes and Police Commissioner Urquhart set up the United Loyalist Executive, which targeted the Labor government there and instigated violence in the famous "Brisbane riots" of March 1919.

When a militant Labor government under Premier Storey came to power in NSW in April 1920, an oppositionary mass meeting was called, out of which came the loyalist King and Empire Alliance. The January 1921 editorial in the first issue of the Alliance journal explained the new group's concerns: "The King and Empire Alliance has been formed by a body of citizens who view with grave concern the development in our midst of an element of disloyalty and disunion which is foreign to the true spirit of the Australian people. ... The Bolshevik revolution, which broke out in Russia and extended over Europe, has reached Australia. ... [A]n aggressive and ruthless minority aims at enforcing its will upon a massive majority. ... Besides the Bolsheviks a number of our own race are absolutely disloyal. ... Their numbers are not large [but] such numbers will be increased unless counter-measures are adopted."

Author Robert Darroch, an expert on secret armies of the early 1920s who examined Brookes' files in Canberra, concluded: "There seems no question that the King and Empire Alliance, like the United Loyalist Executive in Queensland, was a front organised by Brookes." As Brookes' Queensland creation did in Brisbane, the K&E Alliance instigated violence in Sydney. One of the Alliance's leaders, Brigadier General Camp-

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bell, proclaimed that it “was very much on the lines” of the “Fascisti movement in Italy”.

Leading Alliance personnel would later turn up in the Sydney-based Old Guard. They included:

- Maj. Gen. Charles Rosenthal, commanding officer of the Army's Second Division, who was the organising secretary of the K & E Alliance;
- W.J.R. “Jack” Scott, a Sydney Grammar boy from the eminent Street family, described by one historian as “members of the British gentry whose antipodean offspring, to the present day, have proved to be frequent occupants of high public office as members of State and Commonwealth parliaments, chief justices, lieutenant governors, supreme court judges and cabinet ministers.” Scott's uncle was NSW lieutenant governor and chief justice Sir Philip Street;
- E.P. Simpson, Brookes' friend from the CSR-connected law firm, Minter, Simpson;
- Sir Henry Braddon, prominent financier who proclaimed that “what we really need is a capable ruthless Dictator”;
- George MacArthur Onslow, military leader of the Old Guard and descendant of the famous pioneer family. MacArthur Onslow's Camden Park estate was a sort of “unofficial Yarralumla”, where Sir Otto Niemeyer was a guest during his 1930 visit;
- Charles Davis of Davis Gelatine, who would later be a leader in the New Guard.

After the K&E Alliance, the next documented evidence of a secret army comes in 1923, when the Melbourne police force went on strike over low pay, no pensions and atrocious working conditions.

Police Commissioner General Thomas Blamey set out to break the strike. Sir John Monash created a 6,000-strong force of “special constables” to replace the 650 striking police, but another, unauthorised secret force called the White Army was also put into motion. Its leader was General Sir Brudenell White, future supreme commander of the Melbourne-based League of National Security.

In 1925, when the wharfies' union went on strike, a gang of thugs was formed to help smash the union. Its leaders were former K&E Alliance Secretary Jack Scott, and Eric Campbell, who would co-found the New Guard a few years later.

Herbert Brookes had been in the United States as Australia's Commissioner-General from approximately September 1929 until he suddenly submitted his resignation in September 1930. Whether or not Brookes came home expressly to help organise the LNS, that body was a resurrection of the White Army from the 1923 Melbourne police strike. The Melbourne AFAL and the LNS followed the pattern Brookes had established since 1918: of a large “voluntary” organisation, intersecting and serving as a front for a secretive military one.

While in America, Brookes had stayed in close touch with Australia. His diary entry for April 1, 1930 reads: “Two very serious letters ... revealing secret information from Cabinet. Position extremely critical. We must help. We must sacrifice. War time call again.”

What was “extremely critical” and “war time”? This was when Federal Treasurer Ted Theodore was putting forward bills to assert government control over banking. Brookes suddenly quit his post as Australian commissioner to America, on the patently spurious



May 27, 1918 formal invitation to Herbert Brookes from an aide of Acting Prime Minister W.A. Watt, the future Collins House Group leader and Privy Councillor, to meet on setting up an “Australian Protective League”. This was Brookes' own project to replicate a proto-fascist organisation which existed in the United States.

grounds of “saving the Government the expense” (though he had covered the expenses of many of his government jobs out of his own pocket) and hurried back to Melbourne. There, at a dinner in February 1931 at the elite Melbourne Club, pastoralist Sir James Elder

and former premier Stanley Melbourne Bruce, among others, filled him in on “plans ... being formulated to oust the Laborites and to reassert a British status quo under the control of the traditional Melbourne ruling class.” historian Cathcart wrote. Brookes himself

put it in a letter to the British Consul-General to the United States, “Fear not, there would be a bloody revolution here before we would allow that criminal lunatic Lang in N.S.W. and his following to have their way.”

The Storm Troopers—II: The Old Guard and the New Guard

Historian Andrew Moore summarised the social layers that organised the Old Guard: “In 1930 Sydney's ruling circles were tightly and cohesively constituted. Their dominant figures were men connected with the colonial pastoral-banking alliance, which, despite the rise of industrial capital in the 1920s and the growing importance of industrialists like Cecil Hoskins of Australian Iron and Steel [an executive member of AFAL—ed.] was still the dominant force in New South Wales. These men were the remnants of the nineteenth-century squattocracy, the general managers of the private banks, the local superintendents of the British pastoral firms, those in charge of the old sugar and tobacco monopolies and the solicitors, accountants and insurance company men who serviced these enterprises. To use [Bank of NSW general Manager and Old Guard funder] Alfred Davidson's phrase they were the ‘directing class’—fiercely anti-communist, anti-Labor and vehemently loyalist Anglo-Australians. Some were the descendants of the original colonial patrician families, those who had ‘dined first and most lavishly on the table of colonial opportunities.’ ... They held interlocking directorships on the boards of banks, insurance firms and other large business concerns. Their families intermarried. ... To such men a Labor government and any challenge by the labour movement was intolerable, for it threatened their world and interests with calamity.”

Befitting the power of the peo-

ple who directed it, “By the end of 1931 [the Old Guard] was a colossus, possessing many times the combined manpower of the New South Wales police and Commonwealth armed forces. ... It was efficiently and intricately organised, well funded and armed, as well as being highly regarded in official circles” (Moore). Old Guard leaders were “the elite of Sydney and the cream of the AIF”. “Command central” for this colossus was the interlocking nexus formed by the country's oldest and largest bank, the Bank of New South Wales, and the country's then-largest corporation, the Colonial Sugar Refining Co. (CSR).

The Old Guard was run out of CSR offices in O'Connell St., Sydney, and more than one of the company's warehouses was used to stockpile arms and ammunition.

Its leaders were hard-core fascists. The Chairman of the Old Guard Central Committee was Robert Gillespie, one of the state's largest flour millers, a director of CSR and the Bank of New South Wales, and a Hitler admirer who later visited Nazi Germany. The Old Guard's “managing director” and treasurer was Philip Goldfinch (later Sir Philip), general manager of CSR and the grandson of colonial governor Philip Gridley King. Goldfinch, too, visited Nazi Germany several times in the 1930s.

The Old Guard's chief of staff was Jack Scott, who would also co-found the fascist New Guard. Scott was nasty, but well-connected: a former leader of Brookes' King and Empire Alliance, and nephew of



Freemason Sir Alfred Davidson (l.), Managing Director of the Bank of New South Wales, financed the Old Guard, whose Supremo was former High Court Chief Justice Sir Adrian Knox (r.). Son of the founder of CSR, Australia's largest company, Sir Adrian was also a member of His Majesty's Privy Council.

NSW Chief Justice and Lt. Gov. Sir Philip Street. After his work in the Old Guard, Scott joined military intelligence, but he was so notoriously pro-Japanese that his security clearances were lifted in the late 1930s on suspicion of espionage. His *Australian Dictionary of Biography* entry reports that in 1942, as the commander of the 2/21st Battalion on Ambon and Hainan, he would hand individual Australians over to the Japanese for punishment. The survivors of his

unit despised him.

Old Guard finances were secured by the general manager of the Bank of NSW, Alfred Davidson (later Sir Alfred), a leading freemason. Davidson not only provided funds, but seconded members of his staff with military training, to help organise the Old Guard. Davidson also financed the Round Table group, and was later to finance the Liberal Party's chief backer and financial sponsor, the Institute of Public Affairs. He was

close to New Guard founder Eric Campbell, whom he employed on at least one intelligence mission. The power of Davidson and his bank was such that economist C. B. Schedvin called him “the outstanding Australian commercial banker of his generation.”

Behind these powerful gentlemen stood another, still more august personage: Sir Adrian Knox, member of the Privy Council and son of the founder of CSR, Sir Edward Knox. Sir Adrian was Chief



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Above: C.L.A. "Aubrey" Abbott (misidentified as "A.G.L. Abbott" in the document pictured here) was chief of staff of the Old Guard's 25,000-man "Country Defence Organisation" (CDO) militia.

Left: Military intelligence document, profiling the New Guard and the CDO; its characterisation of the CDO's military activity as a "sideline" is an understatement. The document names Abbott, as well as the organisation's higher-ups like Primary Producers Advisory Council chief Sir Adrian Knox and Alfred Davidson.

Right: The New Guard's Fascist Legion bashed ACTU leader and communist Jock Garden, as part of its terror campaign against labour. The ultimate sponsorship of the New Guard was no mystery at the time, as the caption indicates.



The New Guard: "We are doing that which his Majesty the King would be delighted for us to do."

9 Assault of 'Jock' Garden, May 1932
Labor Daily cartoon by George Finney

Justice from October 1919 to March 30, 1930. He was a corporate director of the Bank of New South Wales, the Commercial Union Assurance Co. and other companies.

According to investigations by Military Intelligence, "Further evidence has tended to confirm the view that the general control of the organisation [the Old Guard] is exercised by the Primary Producers Association [the PPAC], ... which was formed to watch the general interests of primary producers." Given his membership on the Privy Council, his just-relinquished role as Chief Justice, and his family's ownership of the country's largest company, Sir Adrian was a natural to head the PPAC—the rural-based organisation through which some 25,000 men out of the Old Guard's approxi-

mately 30,000-strong paramilitary force were recruited.

Historian of the Old Guard Moore observed, "Indeed, it seems possible ... that Goldfinch, who owed much of his success to the Knox family, acted as his [Sir Adrian's] errand boy". Moreover, "It seems that if the plan [for a coup] had been carried out, Sir Adrian Knox would have become the unelected leader of New South Wales."

The "rural protest meetings" organised by the PPAC were thinly disguised fronts for paramilitary organising. Military Intelligence observed that "the persons employed by the Council who devote a great portion of their time to 'defence' are A.G.L. [sic] Abbott, the Secretary, and Major G.F. Wootten D.S.O. U.L., 2 M.D., late Australian Staff Corps." Maj. George

Wootten was a full time staff officer of the Old Guard. He and Abbott, also a full time Old Guard staff officer, worked from an office at 115 Pitt St., supplied by Australian Bank of Commerce chairman Sir Mark Sheldon, who also provided Abbott with a flat in Darling Point. On his extensive tours of rural Australia to organise the Old Guard, Abbott put together a "vast country empire of 25,000 members in every city and town in New South Wales." He also became the Old Guard's liaison to New Guard commander Eric Campbell.

Knox's PPAC had a 10-person Central Executive, whose members besides Knox himself were:

- James Kidd, former general manager of Australian Mercantile Land and Finance, a specialist pastoral house founded in the 19th Century;
- K. de L. Cudmore of Goldsbrough Mort, another leading pastoral house;
- Sir George Mason Allard, a "bankers' banker", who from 1899 was secretary of the Institute of Bankers of NSW; secretary of the Sydney banks' clearinghouse; vice president of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia, 1928-32, and its president, 1932-41;
- Sir Norman Kater, a director of CSR from 1924-49, who would become chairman of the Institute of Public Affairs in 1951;
- Horace Nock, President of the Farmers and Settlers Association;
- Fred Tout, President of the squattocracy's leading body, the Graziers' Association of NSW, Chairman of the Co-operative Wool and Produce Co., director of Australian Mutual Provident Society, Goldsbrough Mort, Associated Newspapers Ltd., and President of the Bank of New South Wales, 1945-50, from where he bitterly fought against Chifley's plans to nationalise the banks. In 1934 he became President of the influential Australian Economic Advisory Council, on

which his fellow Old Guard leaders, Sir George Mason Allard and Sir Philip Goldfinch, also sat;

- Colin Sinclair, Vice President of the Graziers' Association;
- W.A. Mackay, merchant and shipowner;
- A.E. Heath, Chairman of the Timber Merchants Association and Vice President of the Sydney Chamber of Commerce.

Other prime movers of the PPAC were Alfred Davidson, Philip Goldfinch, A.K. Trethowan (President and then Treasurer of the NSW Farmers and Settlers Association and governing director and chairman of *The Land* newspaper), financier Sir Henry Braddon, and Sir Mark Sheldon, chairman of the Australian Bank of Commerce. On April 9, 1931, the PPAC set up Rural Reliefs Ltd., which may well have been yet another paramilitary organising arm, since it did next to nothing to achieve its stated goal of providing aid to farmers, even though Davidson's Bank of NSW agreed to subscribe £250,000 towards a target of £1,000,000. (The Bank of NSW's funding was later reduced to £50,000, which was still a huge sum.) Given that only some £4,000 was actually extended to needy farmers, the question arises of whether Rural Reliefs were not merely a financial conduit for the PPAC. It was founded when the fascist militias' drive to oust Jack Lang was at white-hot intensity. Round Table member Prof. E.O.G. Shann drafted economic statements for the PPAC. Shann was the Bank of NSW's economic consultant, the first economist ever to hold such a position, and was one of the four economists who had drafted the savage Premiers' Plan.

Besides those already named, senior Old Guard leaders included:

- Sir Samuel Hordern, Chairman of AMP, President of the Royal Agricultural Society (RAS) of NSW. His secretary, Lt. Col. G.C. Somerville, was a key day-to-day Old Guard leader. The Old Guard planned to muster on the spacious grounds of the RAS in Sydney, in case they moved

for a coup. Hordern was vice president of the national RAS from 1933-1958. It was, together with the Bank of NSW and the Graziers' Association, one of the key institutions behind the PPAC;

- Sir Kelso King, Mercantile Mutual, director of the Bank of NSW and Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Co., first managing director of the Australian General Insurance Co. Ltd. from 1912, and director of several other prominent companies, including Mount Morgan Gold Mining Co. Ltd. and several Collins House companies. He was also the executor of the fabulously wealthy estate of Walter Hall, who left over £2 million;
- Col. Selwyn King, Mercantile Mutual;
- E.P. Simpson, commodore of the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron and partner in the powerful Minter Simpson firm, today known as Minter Ellison. Minter Simpson clients included large pastoral firms, banks, colliery owners, CSR, and mining and industrial enterprises. Simpson was a vehemently anti-Catholic British Empire loyalist and former chairman of the Consultative Council of the Nationalists in NSW. He was a leader in the King and Empire Alliance and a collaborator of Herbert Brookes in various other secret armies;
- Brig. Gen. James Heane;
- William McIlrath, NSW's largest retail grocer;
- William Thompson, President of the Royal Benevolent Society in 1931;
- Sir Norman Cowper, great grandson of NSW Premier Charles Cowper and senior partner and dominant figure in Allen, Allen & Hemsley, solicitors;
- Lt. Col. Broc Hinton;
- Maj. Albert Reid, MLA, NSW;
- Lt. Col. Donald Cameron;
- Dr. F.A.M. Maguire, a leading freemason.



Military intelligence reported that the Bank of New South Wales, Australia's largest private bank, was "directly connected" with the Primary Producers Advisory Committee, the chiefs of the Old Guard. Under Alfred Davidson, the "Wales" financed the Old Guard.

Defeat the Synarchists—Fight for a National Bank

The New Guard

Like the Old Guard, the New Guard was organised—in the spring of 1931—in conjunction with mass meetings of the AFAL, which New Guard founder Campbell frequented. Historians often portray the New Guard's members as just a breakaway group of Young Turks who left the Old Guard, and maintain that the New Guard and the Old Guard generally disliked and distrusted each other. In his memoirs, Campbell clearly lied to cover up the real importance of the Old Guard, by profiling the latter as a bunch of do-nothing old fogies. This claim is belied by archival evidence, as well as common sense.

Campbell also absurdly asserted that he organised his New Guard quite independently of the Old Guard, and just happened to become aware of the Old Guard during his organising. But Campbell, who was a wealthy solicitor, was on intimate terms with leading Old Guard figures. "The son of a highly regarded country solicitor, he had married into one of the State's most notable grazing families. He had built up a thriving legal practice and a personal fortune of 30,000 pounds. A member of the Union Club since 1923, among his personal friends Campbell could number Sir Henry Braddon, Sir Kelso King, the meat exporter Col. T.A.J. Playfair and the solicitor A.M. Hemsley, a former councillor of the King and Empire Alliance" (Moore).

Campbell himself reported the liaison role played by Maj. Aubrey Abbott between the Old Guard and the New Guard. Moreover, Campbell recounted numerous approaches by Sydney big businessmen seeking to control the New Guard. Most of them, he said, were members of a "consultative council which backed the Nationalist Party". Thus Campbell gave the game away. To whatever degree the Old Guard and Campbell's hot-heads in the New Guard (whose activities could be conveniently "plausibly deniable" for the Old Guard) mixed or did not mix, they were clearly two soups from the same kitchen—and the Consultative Council of elite businessmen and financiers would have been among the higher-ups ordering the menu. The Council controlled the Nationalist Party in New South Wales. It was the counterpart of the highly secretive National Union of Victoria, chaired by Collins House businessman Sir Robert Knox.

At its height, the New Guard boasted approximately the same membership level as did the Old Guard: some 30,000 members in a highly organised militia system. "A complex system of command, which was far more sophisticated than the hierarchical compartmentalised structure more commonly employed, embraced at its peak ninety-three suburban localities, incorporated into sixteen divisions and four major zones responsible to three main executive bodies, the General and Executive Council and the Council of Action, over all of which Campbell held sway in an increasingly authoritarian fashion" (Moore).

In May 1932, the NSW Police raided the New Guard's Intelligence Department. In the court case that followed, NSW Det. Sgt. Alfred said under oath, that "arrangements had been made to secure arms and ammunition for these men creating an armed force greater than the combined military and naval forces of NSW." Indeed, the NSW police force numbered only 2,500, of whom 500 were stationed



Left: A member of the New Guard's inner elite, the "Fascist Legion". Right: Eric Campbell addresses a New Guard meeting at Sydney Town Hall, September 1931.

in Sydney.

An elite strike force within the New Guard was the Fascist Legion, whose members dressed in black hoods and Ku Klux Klan-style robes. The Fascist Legion burst into public notoriety in May 1932, when one of its squads broke into the house of NSW Trades and Labor Council head and communist Jock Garden in the middle of the night, beat him and terrorised his family.

The New Guard's plans for a military coup, as well as the kidnapping and possible assassination of Lang, were well documented in contemporary police reports. "In May 1932, following a raid on the New Guard's intelligence department, the police secured what they considered to be concrete evidence of an intended coup.... On the basis of this and other evidence, the police concluded that careful plans had been made to kidnap the premier, his ministers and senior police officers and hold them imprisoned in Berrima Gaol.... [T]he police were apparently sure of their case, for in the last days before Lang's dismissal they began to prepare ... charge of seditious conspiracy against seven New Guard leaders...." (Amos).

On one occasion, NSW Police Commissioner W.J. MacKay mobilised most of his force for a march through downtown Sydney, a display of strength in the face of New Guard threats. "[Jack] Lang recalls that the parade passed by the Stock Exchange, the Civic Club, the Union Club, the Imperial Service Club, the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, several of the largest insurance companies' head offices, the biggest pastoral and finance companies, several important banks and the Australia Club. He adds that MacKay told him with a quizzical grin, 'We are going where the New Guard are to be found'" (Amos). As a matter of fact, those buildings housed the leadership of the *Old Guard*—as MacKay well knew.

Prominent members of the New Guard included:

- Clifford Minter of Minter Simpson, which funded the New Guard. The firm was often used as a "pass-through" for funds from CSR. Eric Campbell had worked in the Minter Simpson office before World War I. Reflecting the way in which the financial elite and their retainers ran

both the New and Old Guards, Minter's partner, E.P. Simpson, was a leader of the Old Guard;

- Charles Davis, of Davis Gelatine, earlier a leader of the King and Empire Alliance;
- Maj. George Knox, Eagle Star Insurance;
- Norman Plomley, a founder of the New Guard, and its director of intelligence;
- Maj. Gen. J. M. Antill, a grandson of Governor Macquarie's aide-de-camp;
- Commander J. Patrick of the Patrick Line of Steamers, financial director of the New Guard. In the 1990s, his company would lead the charge to break the Maritime Union of Australia;
- Maj. Arthur Rickard, son of Sir Arthur Rickard, the greatest real estate magnate of his day;
- J. Scott Fell, of the wealthy Scott Fell family, with shipping and coal interests;
- Sir Charles Kingsford Smith, the well-known aviator;
- Samuel Biber, called a "Jewish furrier" in archival documents; he proclaimed that the New Guard "was and must be accepted as fascist". His records are sealed to this day;
- Clyde Packer, father of Sir Keith Packer and grandfather of Kerry;
- Sir Thomas Henley, MLA;
- Brig. Gen. H.W. "Bertie" Lloyd, board member of several companies, including the Adelaide Steamship Co. Ltd. Lloyd was deputy commander of the New Guard, and from 1932-41 a United Australia Party member of Federal Parliament. He was Director General of Army recruiting at the outbreak of World War II.

Notes

1 To the extent the communist bogey had any basis in fact, it was courtesy of the same Synarchist elite that created the fascists. With financing from the British, U.S. and European Synarchy, the Bolsheviks had taken power in Russia in late 1917. Thenceforth "Bolshevik Russia" provided the leftwing, communist foil against which rightwing, fascist forces, such as those of Coudenhove-Kalergi, Mussolini and Hitler, could be both goaded into action, and justified. As movements, both the communists and fascists were run at the top by the financial oligarchy: in the words of the earlier-cited U.S. military intelligence documents made available to LaRouche, they were: "Synarchist: Nazi/Communist". A striking example of the Synarchist financial oligarchy's control over various communist or fascist movements, namely how the House of J.P. Morgan ran the Communist Party in the United States, is given in Carroll Quigley's *Tragedy and Hope. A History of the World in Our Time*, The Macmillan Company, NY, 1966.

2 The Communist Party did develop a larger membership and more political muscle later, in the 1940s.

3 Virtually all the standard histories, as well as the biographies of major Australian historical figures, entirely black out the fact that many of these men were freemasons. Since many of them devoted a great deal of time, energy, and passionate belief to freemasonry, such omission is rather extraordinary—unless, of course, the historians intended to cover something up. As LaRouche and his associates have documented, the history of the Synarchy movement, and therefore of much of world history since the Martinist freemasonic-run French Revolution, is one long history of freemasonry. When dealing with Australian financial and political elites, who were directed from London, it is impossible to ignore this issue, given the interweaving of freemasonry with the British Crown and the oligarchy. *Quatuor Coronatorum*, journal of the "research lodge" of freemasonry (the elite Quatuor Coronati), wrote on the occasion of King Edward VII's death in 1910, just prior to the period we are dealing with: "The prosperity of the G.L. (Grand Lodge) of England since the initiation of Edward VII has been unparalleled, the number of active lodges having increased from fully 1,200 to nearly 3,000, and similar additions have been experienced in the other Grand Lodges of Ireland, Scotland and in the Dominions beyond the Seas." Prominent among the "Dominions" was, of course, Australia. The lodges were organised top-down according to social elites, precisely as the 1930s secret armies in Australia were to be organised. According to one expert on masonry, "Five Kings ... and over 300 aristocrats—princes and royal dukes, dukes and marquesses, earls, viscounts and barons ... have headed various Masonic orders in Britain over the past 250 years.... The entire Masonic hierarchy is built on rank and fortune. Its highest offices are always held by royal dukes or by earls, while

a peerage or a knighthood is almost *de rigueur* even for the rank of Junior Grand Warden.... The highest Masonic rank to which any 'commoner' can hope to aspire is Senior Grand Deacon. Even this is easier achieved by someone with wealth and worldly status than by someone who has neither."

4 There was an "inner circle" and an "outer circle" in the Round Table organisations. The inner circle was committed to a world-ruling British empire, even if it were in the new form of the Commonwealth. Others, however, were drawn to the Round Table by its discussion of international politics and economics, but by no means agreed with, or were even aware of, the goals of the inner elite. For instance, two of Australia's greatest patriots, the founding chairman of the Commonwealth Bank, Sir Denison Miller, and Deputy Prime Minister and Treasurer in the Whitlam government, Jim Cairns, were both members of the Round Table, but two fiercer patriots of *Australia*, as opposed to the British empire, could scarcely be found. For discussion of the "inner" and "outer" circles, see Quigley's *Tragedy and Hope*.

5 The missing biographical ms. on Baillieu is J. Reynolds, *W.L. Baillieu—A Biography*, 1965.

6 A Beaverbrook personal secretary said of Elliott, "Like a St. Bernard dog he followed his master around, a barrel of adulation round his neck, from which Beaverbrook could drink at need." Beaverbrook himself wrote to Elliott's widow that "whenever I, as a Minister, was faced by some tiresome and recalcitrant problem, sometimes a problem which Mr. Churchill had asked me to tackle, I always turned to your husband. I knew that he would never rest or relax and never allow himself to be deflected. He probably annoyed a great many people as he swept on. But he did the job. I was indeed a fortunate man to have his services then and to get so much credit which belonged to him."

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