

Comment by Michael C H Jones

In May 1969 I did an interview with Mungo MacCallum which was featured in the Australian newspaper under the heading "Keeping in touch was the masses" (Australian May 15 1969 as attached). He reported me as saying I believed in the New Left philosophy of 'Existential Humanism' meaning that I was sceptical of 'pie in the sky when you die' theories and most major political systems whether capitalist or communist.

The following year in late 1970 I did a major US TV programme panel interview wherein I described myself, somewhat jokingly, as a Libertarian Socialist in that I favoured the Right of Conscience and opposition to the excessive 'hoarding' of capital and the manipulation of stock markets. The coming to office of firstly Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, in some ways an old-fashion Christian Socialist in the European tradition, and secondly US President Barack Obama, obviously seriously influenced by the Christian led Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s and its New Left undertones, has caused me to reflect on those optimistic and hopeful years of over 4 decades ago and my part in them.

I think the values, attitudes and ideals expressed in the MacCallum interview and others during that ten years from 1962 to the election of the Whitlam Federal Labor Government in November 1972 stand up very well to present day scrutiny. I have few regrets apart from the death ten years ago of my 'sole mate' Janice ("And so to jail" Tribune February 11 1970 attached)

Which brings me to the New Yorker article and present day Global Economic Relations and Governance.

The battle for countries and regions has restarted. But this time whereas the old Soviet Union was always outside the American engineered post world war two economic system, China since its membership of the WTO in 2002 is well and truly inside the tent. With the consequences of the GFC EU 'capitalism' based on massive social safety-nets is vulnerable whilst in the USA the entrenched interests of unregulated capitalism may make Obama like Jimmy Carter a one-term President. On the other hand the PRC has introduced a new hybrid of capitalism called the Socialist Market which the Beijing Consensus is increasingly exporting to the world concentrating initially on West Asia, Africa and South America - although never rejecting SOE purchases in Southern Europe, North America and Australasia.

In my view the concept of Libertarianism has to be revisited and not allowed to be continuously shanghai-ed by US media organisations. I completely reject the statement and commercial definition as implied in the statement "the Kochs are longtime libertarians who believe in drastically lower personal and corporate taxes, minimal social services for the needy, and much less oversight of industry—especially environmental regulation". Malcolm Turnbull made his millions in business but is a genuine libertarian in that he believes in the right to know/information and that governments have no place in the bedrooms of the nation. He understands that there are social responsibilities beyond the 'hoarding' of personal capital/wealth.

Similarly modern day socialism, social democracy, welfare-ism and so on bears no resemblance to last century's totalitarian political systems. One wonders what is happening in the Conservative side of the Australian Liberal Party with their fundamentalist attitudes of rejection to almost everything, and similarly in the Right Wing of the Australia Labor Party with almost no values or loyalties beyond a parliamentary pay cheques and entitlements. There will be by necessity a wholesale re-alignment in Australian politics

as our society re-structures to meet the new Indauspac economic environment.

Global Governance is accelerating everywhere as the economic plates increasingly grind against each other. In the robber-baron days of the USA, where corporations such as Koch Industries with annual revenues of over a hundred billion dollars make their personal owners - the two Koch brothers David and Charles - a combined fortune of more than 35 billion dollars, governments at almost all levels were for purchase - the John Kennedy Presidential election in 1960 was just a modern example. Post 2010 however USA 'free unregulated market' corporations will have to compete. Knocking over Obama in 2012 will not be sufficient, they will have to buy a whole host of Rising Powers Governments (RPG) which believe in some form of regulation. In the case of China this means all roads lead to the CCP. Lets see if the American unregulated capitalism can overcome the socialist market capitalism. As with all things there will have to be an accommodation - existential humanism or libertarian socialism?

# Keeping in touch with the masses

**MIKE JONES:** Hit the Establishment and watch what happens—see where the power is. Hit it again, and hope they over-react. This involves other people.

years' goal for his beliefs; he is for personal freedom, social egalitarianism, and, rather to the party's embarrassment, he is a member of the A.L.P.

But in more general terms, he is saying what should be done with society. He would like some form of participatory democracy, but admits the need for a socialised element involved in making it work; he is a socialist, but realises the danger of a new power elite.

"I suppose the philosophy of the New Left is existential humanism," he says rather vaguely. "I want the good ideas of the New Left, but I am very sceptical of people who say 'wait for a while, make a sacrifice now, you can have it later. So I suppose I am a bit of a New Leftist."

"Many of the left are just as bad as the right," he says. "And I'm buggered if I'm going to work my guts out to put

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*Sydney Wed 11/2/70*

# AND SO TO JAIL . . . ?



**ABOVE:** Draft defier Mike Jones with his bride, the former Janice Loy, after their wedding in Sydney last Saturday.

It was a wedding with a difference, for the groom faced the immediate prospect of two years' jail.

He had been summoned to report for National Service on Monday this week, two days after his wedding.

A vindictive line-up of top Post Office and Army personnel led to the final serving of the call-up papers on Mr. Jones on February 2 at Redfern Mail Exchange, where he was employed as a trainee mail sorter.

At 10 a.m. on that day, a post office official called Mr. Jones to his office, where a Commonwealth Police Officer was also present. The Commonwealth policeman handed the call-up papers to Mr. Jones.

The next day, the same GPO official called Mr. Jones in again and told him he was sacked without notice. He had just a fortnight to go to complete his training.

When the job officials of the Postal Workers' Union took up the case, and pointed out Mr. Jones' excellent record over the several months of his employment, they were told that he was being dismissed because he had failed to make a correct statement of his police record when applying for employment.

Officials denied the dismissal had anything to do with his political activities.

Mr. Jones has no police record except that arising from his activity as a Sydney University student leader in demonstrations, and his stand as a draft defier.

It is understood that at the time of his employment he explained his record to the person interviewing him, but was told that the GPO was only concerned with "criminal offences", and that Mr. Jones' offences did not fall into this category.

Mr. Alec Saint, NSW vice-president of the Postal Workers' Union, and secretary of the job representatives at Redfern, is handling negotiations with the management.

Although the story is far from over yet, Mike Jones' treatment already looks very much like an Establishment conspiracy to "get" one of the country's best-known anti-conscription fighters, and in the process to deny him the right to work.

When Tribune went to press, Post Office authorities said that they would treat union applications on Mr. Jones' behalf "on their merits."

As for the draft, Mike Jones, despite his newly-married state, is still not having any.