

We The People
Program 119
A Union of Shame



I must say I am amazed why so many people are surprised by the cessation of manufacturing by Holden in Australia. They are in a long line of other motor car manufacturers to leave because it's just too hard to deal with trade unions here. I appreciate there are some other factors but the common denominator is union power and corruption and governments which are wedded to them. Those factors have caused the transformation of unions from a noble body which represented the worker to an unpleasant distorted organisation which sabotages business and holds commerce to ransom. It was never going to be sustainable and now we are seeing the fruits of their labour over decades, where the workers were perfectly happy to take the spoils. However all this shameful union thuggery started a long time ago.

Perth Lawyer Hal Colebatch has done the nation a service with his groundbreaking book, *Australia's Secret War* telling the untold story of union bastardry during World War 2. It's the harrowing true tale where the unions and in particular the wharfies vandalised, harassed and robbed Australian troop ships and probably cost the lives of many as a result. Miranda Divine reports, one of the most obscene acts occurred in October, 1945, at the end of the war, after Australian soldiers were released from Japanese prison camps. They were half dead, starving and desperate for home. But when the British aircraft-carrier HMS Speaker brought them into Sydney Harbour, the wharfies went on strike. For 36 hours, the soldiers were forced to remain on-board, tantalisingly close to home. This final act of cruelty from their countrymen was their thanks for all the sacrifice.

The union thieves stole radio valves preventing the operation of essential radio transmitters, slowed down vital coal production, prevented a planned rescue of POWs in Borneo and assaulted strike breakers regularly. It's a shameful history untold until now and it's appalling and treasonous. When I was a boy growing up, the unions went on strike like clockwork every Christmas, year after year to hold ships and cargo to ransom. The retailers would capitulate just to keep their businesses going while successive Labor governments did nothing. So over the years this country has often been held captive by many wayward unions and until the federal government took them on in the Melbourne docks, nothing much changed. For the record the outcome then was denounced by Labor and yet at the end of it the clearance of shipping containers doubled.

Now we have a series of vehicle manufacturers leaving Australia and Holden are to go in 2017. The major reason for this is the insane union led Holden Enterprise Agreement which makes the business of Holden simply unaffordable and unworkable. As an example the base rate for a worker is around \$40,000 per year but quickly doubles or more when all the loadings, penalties and allowances are calculated. Most will leave with a golden handshake of between \$300 and \$500,000 dollars and much of that money will come from previous Labor governments which quarantined industry subsidies for just this moment. This money never went to the car makers. The public pays yet again and it infuriates me and my father before me and his father before him along with all hard working Australians and business. The Holden Enterprise agreement is full of complexities and industry legal speak and clauses within clauses in order to make the document unreadable and unmanageable and I've read it. It covers over 170 pages and is the requiem laid bare for Holden by the treacherous corrupt unions. The truth is that Holden worked for the Unions and as a result they are leaving and I don't blame them.

Now it's the construction industry again riddled with union bribes, corruption and violence and soon I will cover the Australian teachers unions work agreements which will lay bare the inordinate waste and futility of teaching in Australia and I will do so because for all the money and all the time and all the complexity and because our students have been going backwards for decades. Our education system as it stands is unaffordable and broken, again through excessive union demands. The gyrations of the last federal Labor government and the unholy mess they left plus the intricate web of vast union corruption now about to be laid bare by the Australian Federal Police will even convince the true believers they have been part of a cruel treasonous plan driven by union power and corruption to the loss of all Australians. We must change and now else we lose the standard of living we enjoy. Oh what a feeling.....no motor.

Until next time this is Kent Bayley