

We The People

Program 121

Union Treason Again



Listeners, have you ever heard of Point Henry in Geelong Victoria.....perhaps not . If you lived in Geelong you would know that it's the location of an Alcoa Aluminum smelter which produces huge amounts of aluminum selling at least 55% of its production into Japan, Korea and Taiwan. The output accounts for 5% of Victoria's exports with a capacity of 192,000 tons of aluminum a year with a 40 year history of community involvement and employment. By any measure it's an important industry for Victoria and Australia and employs about 1500 people. The production of aluminium consumes prodigious amounts of electricity and in the case of Point Henry Victoria its 360 million watts 24/7 accounting for up to 25% of Victoria's total power generation. It's a big deal.

Now under the previous State Labor government in May 2012 the government would not face the impending financial plight of Alcoa and so Ms Gillard handed over \$40 million dollars for the plant to stay open for another two years to buy the doomed federal government more time. What's worse is that the previous State Labor government introduced a contract for extremely cheap electricity which has cost the tax payers hundreds of millions of dollars and the contracts are up for renewal in July this year. The clever Chinese have been relentlessly building aluminium smelters which are not required but which have depressed the price of aluminum world wide and as the electricity contract is tied to that, the issue is just made more insoluble.

Now enter the other arm of Labor being the unions. Alcoa are now locked into some very onerous worker agreements pressed through over the years by union muscle and the threat of financial sabotage. Yes, it's more union thuggery and a list of employee benefits that would make Bill Gates envious and this has undermined the Alcoa operation to a very dangerous point. As an example, Tristan Edis comments that one worker complained bitterly about having his sleeping mat stolen which he used to sleep on the job in working hours. Tucked up quietly in a corner he would snore away and one can only imagine what other dreadful work practices went on with the union's knowledge. Anyway the worker was enraged that nothing was done about the theft of his sleeping mat and the thought that a fellow worker would be entitled to his while sleeping on the job is a part of the union DNA. Now add to this benefits such as 14% super, incentive compensation plans, novated car leases, cheap private health insurance, an employee share scheme, recognition programs, wellness programs, study assistance programs, memberships, generous leave, leisure days, employee social clubs, maternity and paternity leave, professional development and mentoring, support for gays and lesbians, leave prior to maternity leave, personal accident insurance, onsite medical professionals, child care expense and so it goes on to the eventual detriment of Alcoa and Australia.

Wages are unaffordably generous with the average at well over \$70,000 while in 2012 workers were offered a package of over \$190,000 plus accommodation if transferred to Saudi Arabia. A control room operator at Alcoa can earn up to \$152,000 plus benefits and so the unions have done a mighty first-class job of manipulating Alcoa to the brink of extinction.

I believe that that Alcoa at Point Henry Victoria is about to shut down and quickly, rather than go through the protracted motor car industry, death by a thousand cuts. Labor of course will demand more public money be thrown at the problem and yet the Alcoa plant apparently has total losses of over two billion dollars. Hang on to your hats folks as we leave the era of entitlement and join the rest of the world in reality. Labors massive federal debt and unavoidable commitments means we have nowhere to hide and its heart ache ahead. The Rudd and Gillard spending spree is a noose around our necks along with State debt courtesy of the same mob. What a shame and what dreadful union destruction on such a massive scale and I say bring on the royal commission and lets have the facts on the widespread corruption and power hungry politicians and unions. The Queen of Hearts in Lewis Carole's work summed it up.....Off with their heads she cried, off with their heads!

Until next time this is Kent Bayley