

Be careful what you wish for, Dr Tim!

by Ned K.

In *The Advertiser* on Tuesday January 19, the CEO of Coopers Brewery in Adelaide, Dr Tim Cooper, wrote a letter titled "State Of Stagnation". He also featured in an article on the same day headed "We're stuck in the 1970's".

In both the letter and article he correctly points out that "up until the 1970s; up until about 40 years ago, Adelaide was the third city in Australia". He claims that 40 years ago, 25 of the top 100 companies in Australia had their headquarters in Adelaide, now only two do.

A self-confessed Liberal Party member, he blames the 29 years of Labor Government during those 40 years in South Australia for Adelaide's economic decline. The timing of the statements by Cooper is no doubt part of the Liberal Party's campaign for the state election on 12 March. Their chief campaigner is *The Advertiser*, which consistently runs an anti-Labor line as elections approach.

Cooper's lamenting of the changing economic circumstances of SA may be genuine. His family is "old money" Adelaide, remnants of the local manufacturing industry which developed as an off-shoot of the agricultural and mining based economy of SA before the 1st World War and before the manufacturing boom in SA after 1945, led by the automotive

industry.

The Coopers Brewery is one of the last genuinely local capitalist concerns of any size that has survived the decline of manufacturing in SA during the last 40 years referred to by Cooper in the article. So far it has resisted takeover attempts by multinational brewing companies, and ironically, received Labor and Liberal government money as cheap loans to relocate and modernise its brewery over the last decade.

While Cooper is correct in saying that this decline in the economy through the destruction of the state's manufacturing occurred mainly under a state Labor government, he does not suggest in his letter or the feature article that his Liberal Party or the Labor Party should do anything about the plight of manufacturing in the state. His solution is that the going should be made easier for the mining industry in SA, particularly BHP Billiton's Roxby Downs.

Cooper thinks this should be done by lowering taxes on business in SA.

He is silent on the issue of the amount of money that is drained from the state by all the multinational companies that profited from manufacturing here and who now make even bigger profits out of mining, which employs far less people than manufacturing.

The irony is that as the state governments, whether Liberal or Labor, jump on the mining (and defence) bandwagon, the shorter will be the

supply for skilled tradespersons needed to keep manufacturers like Coopers Brewery going. The cost of labour for maintenance services will increase as workers are drawn to these industries. This will put even more pressure on Coopers Brewery to sell out to a multinational brewery, which may keep the Coopers brand, but manufacture the product elsewhere.

While Dr Tim Cooper may already be moving money into Roxby Downs

mining shares, if one reads between his lines, he should take heed of the saying "be careful what you wish for".

For he could quite easily be the first member of the Cooper family to preside over their family brewery passing in to the hands of the very class of multinational corporations that have led to the 40 year decline of the SA economy which he now complains about!

Cyber Centre aimed to serve US interests

by Jim H.

On January 15 the federal government announced the opening of the new Cyber Security Centre, stating that its purpose is to combat cyber espionage by other countries. Perhaps, but it would be foolish to believe that this is all there is to it.

The centre is based within the Defense Signals Directorate (DSD). It includes representatives from that organisation alongside the Attorney-General's Department, ASIO and the Australian Federal Police. For starters, the job of DSD is to spy on other countries. ASIO's brief is to spy in Australia. Australia's spy agencies operate in close cooperation with American security, especially the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). The partnership is put into effect through the operation of a range of spying and communication facilities around the country. They collaborate in US instigated wars and assist US foreign policy in general. These bases are used to spy on our neighbors.

Ultimately, the centre is a weapon that can be used against the Australian people. When the Cyber Security Centre is operated by the same people, it will

play a similar role.

In addition, the world's biggest violators of the internet are the US spy organisations, often operating out of facilities in Alabama. Extensive satellite networks are used. The Echelon system alone can snoop into 3 million electronic communications simultaneously. A big part of this is the internet. No other nation has the capacity to do this on such a large and continuous scale.

It is ludicrous to think that the Cyber Centre will tackle or prevent US spying activities in Australia.

Defence Minister John Faulkner said, "Cyber intrusions on government, critical infrastructure and other information networks [were] a real threat to Australia's national security and national interests". It sounds good, but the point is that Australia's security network is not defensive. The network is offensive in nature because it is a tool to advance US imperialist interests around the world.

If the system was truly concerned with taking care of Australia's national interests, it would be turned towards safeguarding Australia's independence and defending the Australian people's interests.

Ark Tribe must wait until June



Edited from www.arktribe.org.au

Ark Tribe attended his last court hearing for 2009 on Friday Dec 18th. His extraordinary saga continues this year when he is required to attend the Magistrates Court on the 15th, 16th, and 18th of June to defend his right to remain silent, following a workplace safety meeting.

The Australian Building Construction Commission were more interested in charging the CFMEU and its officials with breaches of anything they could

conjure up instead of concerning themselves with the safety issues facing workers on site, or investigating why John Hindmarsh locked out all the workers from a site on the Saturday following a safety meeting.

Not a Merry Christmas for Ark or his family with six months gaol hanging over his head! We can only hope all those who have supported Ark will continue doing so and have enjoyed a really great Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

For all the others, who cares?

Remember the victims of the Centaur

by Bill F.

Australians were reminded of the horrors of fascism when the sunken wreck of the Centaur was recently discovered off the coast of Queensland.

Although very clearly marked by large Red Cross symbols, the unarmed hospital ship was

torpedoed by a Japanese submarine, with the loss of the crew, several hundred badly wounded soldiers and a more than a dozen doctors and nurses.

The war to defeat Japanese fascism was just and honourable, unlike Australia's involvement in the occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan under the direction of US imperialism.

