

On May 10, the Centre held a special function to celebrate the centenary of the birth of F.A. Hayek on May 8 1899. ‘Man of the Century?’ was the question asked and it was answered in the affirmative by those present, though Wolfgang Kasper offered the thought that maybe Hayek would also prove to be the economist for the next century.

Why the fuss about Hayek then? Certainly his 1949 essay ‘The Intellectuals and Socialism’ was an important influence on my thinking and in turn the development of the Centre over the past twenty years and his enduring legacy to an organisation committed to the principles of the free society can never be understated. Hayek’s ideas are always there to remind us of the critical role of intellectuals, the need to be Utopian in our determination to see liberty preserved and never to lose sight of long-term considerations.

In many ways, the evolution of Hayek’s thinking has also had its echoes at the Centre. Our earliest work focussed on economic issues, but moved beyond economics to the broader social, philosophical, legal and cultural agenda. Hayek was initially of course an economist, but many regard *The Constitution of Liberty*, his great work of political and legal philosophy, as his finest book.

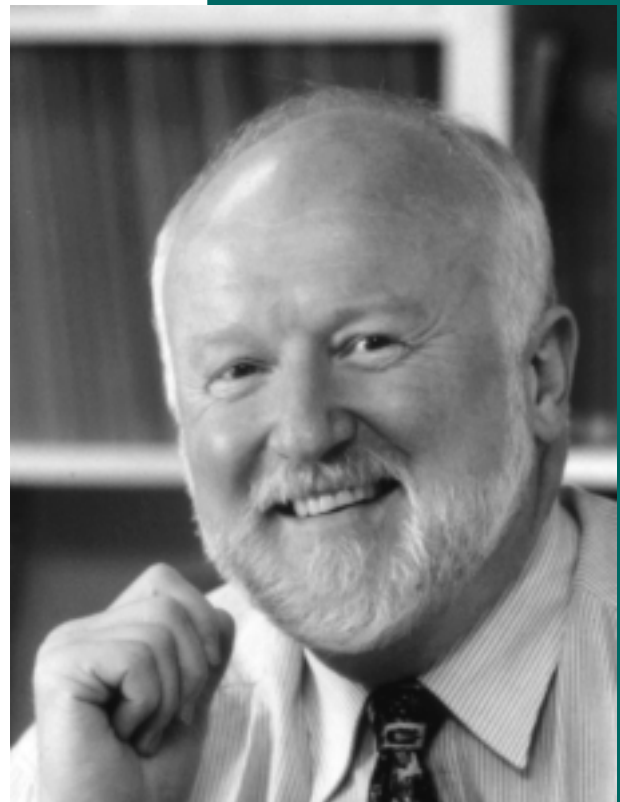
Since the last *PreCIS*, the CIS has experienced a typically busy period. The Bert Kelly Lectures for 1999 are well under way and the first five will have been held by the end of June, with the remainder to be completed, with a change of format, later in the year.

The addition of a new annual lecture, the Acton Lecture, within our recently-established ‘Religion and the Free Society’ programme will be a much anticipated event. The programme continues to develop under the direction of Dr Samuel Gregg, appointed as a Resident Scholar to the Centre last November.

As reported in the last issue of *PreCIS*, the Centre is undertaking a process of Board development and I am delighted to announce the appointment of three new directors: Mr John Phillips AM of Sydney, Mr Robert Champion de Crespigny of Adelaide and Mr John Calvert-Jones of Melbourne. We welcome them to the Board and look forward to their active participation in CIS affairs. Further appointments will be announced later in the year.

A decision at last year’s Board retreat was to bring professional expertise to a number of areas of activity within the Centre which have to date been handled in the spare time of various members of the Centre’s staff. A number of new appointments have been made and these are reported in this issue of *PreCIS*. This process will continue and will assist the expansion of the Centre’s activities which has been taking place for the past year.

Hayek’s message for the next century is that there is no third way when it comes to choosing between freedom or coercion, prosperity or stagnation. That is the message of all of us here at the CIS too as we get ready to embark on our 21st century adventure.



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*Greg Lindsay*