

16<sup>TH</sup> April, 2015

**Ron Manners' concluding comments at Mrs Rinehart's book launch event.**

I'm honoured to add my enthusiastic support for Mrs Rinehart's book and her speech comments.

She is almost a lone voice in taking up the challenge of leadership for the category of Australians who we could call the 'productive Aussies'.

Strangely, silent, are many other CEO's, particularly at a time like this<sup>i</sup>.

Mrs Rinehart's leadership role was acknowledged, almost universally by all of the 35 applicants at the Mannkal Essay Competition, last year at Curtin's WA School of Mines.

Mrs Rinehart's understands the principles of good government and shows this by asking why Australian Governments throttle business when our competitor nations actually encourage business (the example of China abolishing so many restrictions and regulations<sup>ii</sup>).

By taking a stand in this way Mrs Rinehart reminds of my old economic mentor, Leonard E Read (of the Foundation of Economic Education, NY) when he used to say, "You cannot compromise a principle; you can only break it."

He felt that until we succeed in this endeavour of gaining the support of a sufficient number of our fellow citizens, governments will continue to regulate and tax with the express purpose of bestowing principles and favours on some at the expense of others: not much different to a private individual who continues stealing until he is pressured by his peer group or arrested by the police.

We should use Mrs Rinehart's book and her words to remind others that there is much to be gained by all Australians, if we can persuade our Governments to encourage enterprise rather than throttle it.

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<sup>i</sup> The timid response from CEO's that, "they can't afford to upset anyone by 'speaking up'," just doesn't ring true. By speaking up and pouring buckets of sh... over unwelcome bureaucrats, when I had a direct industry involvement, actually resulted in me being invited to be the Keynote Speaker at The Australasian Chief Inspectors of Mines Annual Conference - <http://www.mannkal.org/downloads/submissions/sub19951114.pdf>

<sup>ii</sup> <http://www.mannkal.org/downloads/links/ChinaCutsRedTapeonNewBusinesses.pdf>