

SIX CHEERS FOR QANTAS CEO ALAN JOYCE

For the sake of the Australian airline industry and the iconic Qantas we have to thank God for Alan Joyce and his courage.

After,

- Months of industrial action by 3 unions,
- Falling bookings caused by uncertainty as to the ability of the airline to perform whilst that action went on,
- An ongoing staggering loss situation with international services,
- Union disruptions (designated under Labor's industrial laws 'protected industrial action') which included urging customers not to book with Qantas (how would you like to employ those types in your business? – it is good to be able to record that some of the Qantas union employees themselves objected to this tactic),
- Over 200 meetings between Qantas and the unions,
- The promise from the unions of an on-going campaign against Qantas over Christmas and into next year,
- Substantial on-going direct losses from the industrial action,

Alan Joyce, with the full backing of his Board and the owners of Qantas (expressed at the AGM days before), on Saturday grounded the Qantas fleet to force action on the dispute.

In doing so he used the rights of Qantas under the industrial laws put in place by the Labor Government.

And following his successful action to bring the matter to a head and to force the government to intervene (after months of standing on the sidelines without even condemning the thuggery going on) a reportedly "furious" PM Gillard and Transport Minister Albanese turned on Alan Joyce and attacked him for his action.

The hypocrisy is monumental.

The ideological blinkers of these fools who govern us are stark for all to see.

The injustice of the system put in place by Labor – if using it to balance the abuse of power is to be condemned – is appalling.

Alan Joyce is clearly a man of courage, showing similar courage to that of Charles Copeman in the iron ore industry in the 1980s, and later Chris Corrigan in relation to the waterfront, in saying 'enough is enough' of destructive, business-destroying industrial action.

In the case of Charles Copeman his battle was fought within the then IR system at great personal cost under a situation of State and Federal Labor governments. He won. The iron ore industry won and the nation won.

Chris Corrigan, under the Howard Liberal government and before its Work Choices, fought and won the battle of the waterfront after literally generations of rorts and abuses.

The late Sir Reginald Ansett made such a habit of giving in to the various unions which covered Ansett workers that when the crunch came it was too late.

Ansett, a once great Australian company, sank into the mire of insolvency from exactly the kind of uncompetitive practices and payments that Alan Joyce so clearly sees will sink Qantas if allowed to go on.

The battle is not over and now Joyce will have not only the unions opposed to him but, now openly, the federal Labor government. They have failed to condemn the destructive industrial action of the Qantas unions and are now openly what they always were – apologists for the activities of the union movement.

Joyce needs support and encouragement and I sincerely hope that the Directors of Qantas will not turn on him and wilt in the face of Labor's backlash as did some of the Directors behind Charles Copeman in days of yore.

Best wishes Alan Joyce. May success crown your endeavours to make Qantas the airline of which Australia can be proud.

If you are interested to see further look at the Alan Kohler interview with Alan Joyce on Inside Business last Sunday – <http://www.abc.net.au/insidebusiness/> -- Kohler in his quiet and effective manner asked the hard questions and Joyce answered them, including putting the record straight about his supposed massive pay increase.

Bill Hassell