



Nugget Coombs and his place in the postwar order

Evan Jones, University of Sydney

ABSTRACT

The publication of Tim Rowse's biography of H.C. Coombs, *A Reforming Life*, provides an appropriate context to further explore the life of Coombs. In particular, the relationship between Coombs and his environment is an important consideration, given Coombs' iconic status in 'progressive' circles in Australia. Inquiry into the factors that both facilitated and constrained Coombs' influence suggests that his influence has been overstated. This juxtaposition may provide insight into the nature of postwar reconstruction and the long boom in Australia, important periods that remain inadequately understood. Finally, Coombs' experience is relevant for a better

understanding of the origins of
the current economic policy
regime in Australia.

*Dr Evan Jones is Associate
Professor of Political
Economy at the University of
Sydney. His research on the*