

I am completely in favour of this legislation, which in my opinion is deserving of the widest possible support. I have been actively involved in civil liberties matters, in depth, for forty-five years, and know precisely what I am talking about. It is a shocking reflection on Government and media apathy and inaction that the matter has had to be left to a Private Members Bill.

As it stands, the legal situation regarding anti-terrorist law and practice in Australia, both State and Federal, has become a nightmare threat to normal civil liberties, and has on several occasions been deliberately and dangerously misused, while the bodies supposedly there to investigate abuses have completely failed to do their duty. The Jack Thomas case, and particularly the Al-Haq case are only two of such cases. Overseas, abuses of "security" laws in the USA, Britain, Malaysia, and Singapore are too well known to require further comment.

This proposed Bill goes some way towards clearing up the mess, though a great deal still remains to be done.

In particular, the full repeal of the National Crime Information Act is extremely welcome. It must surely be the most dangerous and disgraceful Act ever passed by Parliament and chock-full of potential abuses that makes it worthy of Hitler or Stalin.

David F.