

23 May 2011

Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committees
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

Dear Sir

INTELLIGENCE SERVICES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2011

I refer to the above bill.

I do not believe I have any personal interest affected by the Bill nor do I have either the wish or the time to make a lengthy submission.

However, as a matter of principle, I believe this sort of legislation to be both obnoxious and evil as well as contrary to every inherited principle of British liberty.

I observe that hundreds of thousands of Australians went to war to fight the degradation of humanity necessarily implied by police states. I do not wish to see Australia becoming even more of a Gestapo State or a Stasi State where every banking transaction, every phone call and every email is seen as fair game for the spy or police agencies of State and Federal Governments.

Legislation of this kind is the sort of hypocritical and intimidating abuse of power which brings both politics and Parliaments into public contempt.

It also means governments and politicians have no legitimate reason to complain when their own peccadilloes are exposed to public view. Why should politicians whinge when their "private lives" are opened up if they are authorizing others to spy into the private affairs of the general public?

Sooner or later, you will be paid back in your own debased coin.

At the very least, requirements for independent judicially-authorized warrants should be imposed on all such activities by governments if civil society is to be tolerable and civilized.

Yours faithfully

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