

Submission

(Ed: 53)

Dir: Inquiry

DR Brendan Nelson MP

19-7-99

Dear Sir,

① I heard on ABC Radio that you are doing a Report on Redundant Mature age workers. I'll make a few comments. "The business of America is business", a quote from author and US Senate aspirant Gore Vidal. USA Boardrooms decided to close "Watties" Cannery at Eden, no doubt they were pressured by US Pension Funds which are fueled by Baby Boomer money & these funds have large monies invested in American owned companies. "Watties" can produce tuna cheaper offshore.

② The victims are Australian Baby Boomers in one company towns such as COBAR, Oakdale & Eden. The Miners at Oakdale who are ROTTED out of Superannuation should have access at 55 to DSS PENSIONS after all ET - Senator O'Chee, age 34 got a \$45K PA pension after only 9 years work. WORKERS < 55 should get free accommodation at least Hills Army Camp (once Refugees leave) to help them get ad'gency jobs.

③ Just a few anecdotal points;

A. A civil engineer friend aged 50 comes back from Bridge Building for the UN & puts in for a job, he is told that he is too specialised & the job goes to a young University Graduate.

B. An auditor acquaintance, 58 passed the Public Service Entrance Test then was told he failed the Compatibility Test.

C. Self Interest always wins. I know of a boss who was so dependant on his young Secretary, a veritable VIRAGO that he managed to keep her job on the books, even though it was unoccupied a few months, whilst she was on Extended leave. The trade off was that other jobs were cut, in the downsizing process.

D. We are de-skilling! a former Mature age Forklift Driver is now a casual cleaner; an Administration Manager works in a bottle shop.

4 In a competitive global & local economy Enterprise agreements are either cutting jobs or salaries but its unbalanced as Company Directors, CEO's etc don't bear any pain, whilst employees do.

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