

Simon J Steer

Monday, 24 March 2003

The Chairman,
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters,
Parliament of Australia
Canberra,
ACT 2600

Dear Sir

I wish to register my grave concern in reference to a conflict of interest of a member of your committee, Mr Michael Danby.

I find it extraordinary that a person of his standing with publicly documented extremist views expressed through the "Australia / Israel Review" (also known as "The Review") as the long time editor, can be a member, let alone a deputy chairman of your committee.

After reading submission number Sub167 from the ADC attacking the Citizens Electoral Council (CEC) on the 2001 election, I am appalled that your committee allowed it to be published when the CEC response has been censored. (Sub180). Sub167 is a poorly presented piece of propaganda documentation, which contains many serious inaccuracies. These include references to non-existent pages of CEC publications.

The centrepiece of the ADC's lies is a 2001 article from the Australian Journal of Jewish Studies by one Rodney Gouttman entitled, "Pernicious Vision: Challenge from within Australia's extreme right".

Amongst other wild claims, Gouttman sets out to prove the CEC is anti-Semitic, an extraordinary claim given the many Jewish people associated with the CEC.

I also find it offensive to see claims relating to the CEC, such as a reference to The Queen ~ "She is the Queen of the Jews" and foot noted the source as page 280 of "Stop the British Crown plot to crush the Unions ". This publication is 96 Pages long!

It is not a simple typo as Gouttman makes a further reference to pages 280-282 with more lies and non-existent pages!

Can you now advise me what your committee does to verify the existence of reference documents quoted in the above submission 167?

As a member of the CEC I take personally comments contained within Sub167 challenging the intellect of people associated with the CEC. Unlike the two major political parties who provide no long term planning or ideas for Australia's ongoing development, the CEC have long term planning policies

The CEC have in fact publicly documented the many ideas for Australia's economic and technical development. These are laid out in both a book "What Australia must do to the survive the Depression" and a publication, the February 2002 edition of the "The New Citizen" with many ideas for water development projects.

I now look forward to your early response.

Yours faithfully

Simon Steer