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217 Esbe Avenue,
Cheltenham, VIC. 3192,
21 June, 2002

The Secretary,
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters,
Canberra, ACT, 2600

Dear Sir,

I have noted the Committee's expressed interest in "improving Australia's electoral system". The attached paper is an updated version of my submission 101, in 1996, to the Committee Inquiry after the 1996 election. Since then Senate scrutineses have been successfully computerised, hence my attached paper arguing the merits of completing all Senate scrutineses, bringing them into line with H. of R. scrutineses, and enabling the production by computer of "elected parties preferred" statistics for the Senators.

I am,

yours truly

Alan Jeffrey B. Com.

ALAN H. JEFFREY

(Hobby - Ocephology)

Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
Submission No. 57
Date Received 26/6/02
Secretary John

"Elected-Party-Preferred Statistics for the Senate."

The Commonwealth Electoral Act has 2 sections on conducting scrutineses. -

Section 277, "Scrutiny for Information".

After a candidate is elected -- in a House of Representatives election the AEC may, for purposes of obtaining information, give the DEO who conducted the scrutiny directions for the examination of the 2nd and later preferences of candidates and for the distribution of these preferences -- and the DEO shall comply --.

Section 273, "Scrutiny of votes in Senate elections".

This section concludes thus -

(32) When the last vacancy is filled the scrutiny shall immediately cease and any exclusion in progress shall not be completed.

The above differences in Senate and House of Representatives counts appear to date from at least 1984. The electoral office has always been pressed to complete scrutineses quickly, particularly Senate ones. However, quoting para 4.21 of the 1998 Committee's Report, -- "the Senate scrutiny is now computerised, which allowed delivery of all Senate results -- about 3 weeks after polling day." -- "instead of some up to 2 months", e.g., from memory the 1984 election for NSW Senators the manual scrutiny was very prolonged needing about 3000 separate counts. Computer counts are here to stay with manual Senate counts surely a last resort. With 2-party preferred figures available for the Lower house as a result of the operation of sec. 277, why should not the Senate enjoy equality and their own "scrutiny for information". How? It is essential to -

1. Delete Section 273 (32) completely.
2. Insert a new section headed "Scrutiny for Information in a Senate Election", worded the same as Section 277, except the words "House of Representatives" deleted and the word "Senate" inserted instead.
3. The title of Section 277 changed to "Scrutiny for Information in a House of Representatives Election".

At present 100% accurate Elected Parties Preferred (EPP) figures can be compiled readily for all Ticket votes which made up 94.4% of all formal votes (FV) in 1996, and 96.9% in 1998; the difficulty lies in the Candidate votes (CV) to some extent. There is no trouble if in a scrutiny,

AHJ 6/02

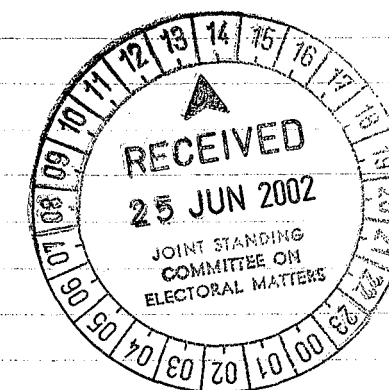
a stage is reached where ONLY the EPP parties remain. See the APPENDIX, where e.g. the 1996 count 216 for NSW had only the 4 EPP's remaining so all the preferences of CV's were in the EV figures.

The real difficulty is where there is no such stage reached. Take as an example, the 1996 A.C.T. scrutiny, count 1. Here the nos. 1 candidates had sufficient FV's at the first preference stage for 2 to be elected, so that there was not any stage with only 4 EPP candidates left, other than this, available for dissection. The best I could do was to use all the FV's for the 4 EPP parties plus the CPP TV's (which favored the LP), leaving unknown the CV's for the CPP and the Independents of which there were 2,625.

I await with interest publication of the "National Results" for the "2001 Election", when I hope to compile EPP figures for that election. (I have on hand the necessary details of all the Group Voting Tickets.)

If the Committee needs further details I will try to comply within my powers.

Appendix "Elected-Parties-Preferred Voting for the Senate, 1996, 1998"



ELECTED-PARTIES-PREFERRED VOTING FOR THE SENATE

APPENDIX

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	AFTER
ALP	L/NP	DEM	GRN	ETC.	QUERY	TOTALS	COUNT
1,374,534	1,605,760	380,845	144,828	864	8,865		
69,541 (ASP)		9,356 (a)	3,481 (b)			3,682,283 N.S.W.	215
1,102,879	1,163,926	311,661	88,455	453	6,609		
	57,259	34,332 (b)	19,111 (R.B.R)			2,767,485 VIC.	149
585,046	998,335	262,075	78,687	319		1,924,462 QLD	184
341,868	485,781	112,274	64,162	214		1,004,299 W.A.	93
300,771	427,505	135,952	19,578	76	9,982		
836 (c)	1,270,641 (c)		12,012 (d)			933,776 S.A.	5
120,614	134,700	24,530	28,950	176		308,970 TAS.	30
81,866	74,949	19,590	11,297		2,625		
	1,730 (CDP)					192,057 A.C.T.	1
38,667	4,005	1,535	5,453			85,705 N.T.	1

1996

(a) 38,556 RARI	(b) 33,417 DLP	(c) 7,869 AFI
54,424 AFI	17,170 ASP	7,372 ASP
585 QPM	6,672 CIR	5,093 CTA
9,356	77,259	4,592 QPJ
		2,138 EFF
(d) 7,241 GRY		27,064
4,771 AWP		
12,012		

In 1996 the formal vote (FV) identified as to elected party preferred (EPP) was 10,868,874 of the total FV, the remaining 30,183 being unidentified, i.e. less than 0.28% of the total FV.

1998

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	AFTER
ALP	L/NP	DEM	HAN	ETC.	QUERY	TOTALS	COUNT
1,539,300	1,135,279	376,903	403,409	834		3,755,725 N.S.W.	203
1,229,325	1,079,259	367,437	166,648	491		2,843,160 VIC.	214
663,559	773,231	159,748	299,510				
8,517 (a)	27,782 (b)	60,008 (c)		318	11,037	2,003,710 QLD	182
385,276	424,087	135,423	119,047	245		1,064,078 W.A.	20
309,386	397,807	139,917	99,506	170	(b)	946,816 S.A.	112
128,620	105,047	12,188	12,444		(28,408 HAR)		
636 (d)	63,840 (e)	2,147 (e)		205	8,319	308,377 TAS.	69
839,67	62,254	40,211	10,572	31		1,970,35 A.C.T.	6
38,259	36,063	5,119	8,657				
		3,058 GRN		0	1,846	93,002 N.T.	1

(a) 4,529 ACS	(c) 370,48 GRN	(d) 573 DSL
3,988 DSL	8274 AWP	63 RPR(3)
8517	7318 OAP	
	4,512 FST	(e) 1,029.2 GRN
(b) 25,406 CDP	2166 FLR	1111 ACS
1778 ARP	690 QPB	682 AWP
606 QPS	60008	6.2 RPA(2)
2,7182		12,147

In 1998 the FV identified as to EPP was 11,188,407 of the total FV, the remaining 23,496 being unidentified, i.e. less than 0.21% of the total FV.

4,386,845 4,340,872 1,312,489 1,119,793 2,294 21,202 11,211,903. AUS.

EFF calculations

1996.

1998.

ALP	4,016,622 ÷ 271,722 = 14.78 c.f. 14 elected
L/NP	5,017,059 do. 18.46 20 "
DEM	1,376,359 do. 5.07 5 "
GRN	458,814 do. 1.68 1 "
	40 10,868,874 do. 40.06 40 "
	271,722

ALP	4,386,845 ÷ 279,710 = 15.68 c.f. 17 elected
L/NP	4,340,872 do. 15.52 17
DEM	1,312,489 do. 4.69 4
HAN	1,119,793 do. 4.00 1
HAR	28,408 do. .10 1
	40 11,188,407 do. 40.00 40
	279,710

COMMENTS

- The big change from 1996 to 1998 was the emergence of One Nation as a political force, their strongest state being Queensland where their no.1 was the 3rd Senator elected and in effect replaced the retiring National Party Senator. Why with their "entitlement" of 4 seats was this their only success? The reason was the success of the "Say No to Hanson" campaign. A scrutiny of TV (which were 94.9% of FV) shows that while they secured almost 4% of the FV they had few minor party friendly voters; in essence over 9 out of 10 voters put them last or effectively last. (I can supply detailed figures if required). So all our preferences may count, from first to last.
- The success of Senator Harradine rests on his solid personal vote as a Tasmanian plus the fact that the L/P prefers him to the ALP which reciprocates by preferring him to the L/P.
- A popular criticism of the Senate is that a Tasmanian vote is worth much more than a NSW one, a relic of its birth as a States House, but the above figures suggest that "what you lose on the roundabouts you make up on the swings" in deciding whether the Senate represents the Australian electorate as a whole; that's what most Australians look for.

PARTY CODES

TYPES OF VOTES

AFI	Australians Against Further Immigration	HAR	Sen. Harradine Group
ALP	Australian Labor Party	OAP	One Australia Party
ARP	Australian Reform Party	RARI	Reclaim Australia
ASP	Australian Shooters Party		Reduce Immigration
AWP	Australian Women's Party	RIPA	Republican Party of Australia
CDP	Christian Democratic Party	L/NP	(Coalition)
DEM	Australian Democrats		Liberal Party
DSL	Democratic Socialist League		National Party
EFF	Independent EFF		Country Liberal Party
FLR	Family Law Reform Party		
GRN	Australian Greens		
GRY	Grey Power		
HAN	Hanson's One Nation		

TV group ticket votes above the line
 CV + Candidate votes below the line
 FV = Normal votes
 In column (5), headed "ETC", are shown exhausted votes plus fractional losses/gains of votes.
 In column (6), headed "QUERY", are shown the CV whose elected party preferred (EPP) status cannot be established because the count was incomplete.

N.B. The above figures are based on the AEC's National Results, Volume 1 for both election 96 and 98 (The 02 Results have not been published)