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The Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
Submission No. 163
Date Received 18/9/02
Secretary <i>[Signature]</i>

Dear Sir/Madam

I understand that your Committee is conducting an inquiry into all aspects on the conduct of the 2001 Federal Election.

As usual I cast my vote at the Laburnum Primary School in the City of Whitehorse.

On arrival at the school you are always confronted with 'banners' attached to fences and any other 'things' which might attract persons to vote for a particular party. I would expect you would understand what I mean.

I was most disappointed to see that ALP banners were being wrapped around a large tree in the school grounds. The evening of the election day and the next day were rather 'windy' and as a result it was noted that ALP plastic banners had blown around the school grounds. These banners were still in the school grounds the following day, ie Monday. The school grounds are adjacent to a walking path along creeklands used by many persons.

I would like your committee to consider-

- a. placing a limit on the amount of advertising that each party is allowed to display at each polling location.
- b. any party wanting to display advertising material to pay a bond, not \$5 but a minimum of say \$500, before the election day and the bond not refunded until all advertising material is removed before 12 noon following day after the election.
- c. you appoint a suitable person to police the requirement.

Sure it would cost money to appoint a person but the person in charge of each polling location surely could police this without too much effort and a visit to the site on the Sunday. To me it would seem an easy exercise for you to advise each party contesting the election of these requirements.

Yours faithfully



Victor Lawther