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

3rd. July 2002.

Submission to Inquiry into the 2001 Federal Election.

My comments refer more to suggesting ways to improve the electoral system of voting.

1. I think we should stop compulsory voting.

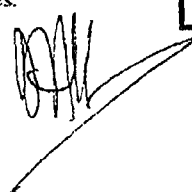
- (a) Surely it would be more democratic if we had the choice whether to vote or not.
- (b) Australia is amongst a very few countries that insist on compulsory voting.
- (c) Compulsory voting cause a lot of people to make up their mind JUST as they fill in the voting paper, with no real interest in the results. What a waste of time and paper.

2. I think we should stop preferential voting.

- (a) The present system leans very heavily towards the two major parties and against any independent candidate.
 - (b) With the present system many electors are denied their real vote. If I am emphatically against one of the parties or candidates on the voting form my vote can still end up where I don't want it to go, i.e. being used FOR the very party I am against.
 - (c) I think it was a much better and fairer system when we could use the 122222 system to select JUST ONE candidate of our choice, perhaps we do not have a PREFERENCE! We are forced into one anyway.
 - (d) There should be a process by which any elector can avoid their vote going to one of the major parties against our wishes. OR ANY RADICAL PARTY WHO WE ARE VEHEMENTALLY OPPOSED TO.
3. Both the preferential and compulsory voting systems would be considered undemocratic if operated in the Third world countries.
- (a) Should we put the choice to the people in a Referendum?
 - (b) Should we ask the United Nations to give their opinion and suggest alternatives to our present electoral system?

Yours faithfully,

D.G.Holmes.



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| Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters | |
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