

Citizens Electoral Council of Australia

Submission to the

Inquiry into the Federal Election 2007

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Public Funding For Elections

The Federal Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters is reviewing the conduct of the 2007 election with several matters in mind, among them the question of public funding for elections.

The foremost public champion of eliminating all private electoral funding in favour of public funding, is New South Wales Premier Morris Iemma. His proposals are being studied by the ALP; by the Federal Government for its upcoming "Green Paper" on electoral reform; and they have also received favorable notice by other state premiers.

Mr. Iemma's stated purpose for such drastic reform, is to "eliminate corruption" from the political system. Yet, Mr. Iemma's own political pedigree, as well as the overwhelming stink of corruption around his proposed privatisation of NSW's electricity industry, demonstrate that he has an ulterior motive for such a radical proposal.

Iemma's chief motive in these "reforms" is to eliminate the Australian associates of American statesman and physical economist, Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. from the Australian political arena—the entirely privately-funded Citizens Electoral Council and the LaRouche Youth Movement. Iemma is acting on behalf of the nominal Jewish civil rights organisation, the Anti-Defamation Commission of B'nai B'rith (ADC), which, dominated as it is by three members of Her Majesty's Privy Council as well as former Governors-General, is actually a front for that Privy Council, the ruling body of the British Empire/Commonwealth.

As it did in a formal submission to this committee in 2001, the ADC and its associated personnel have repeatedly called for the CEC to be de-registered as a political party. Iemma himself testified to the NSW Parliament toward that end in 2002, complaining that "the LaRouche-affiliated organisation, the Citizens Electoral Council, raised more money than the Australian Democrats". Iemma's submission was lawful, given that his own longtime mentor, former NSW Premier Neville Wran, is a member of the ADC's elite ruling board, its "Council of Advisors". Already in 1992, ADC spokesman Isi Leibler warned that LaRouche's associates in the CEC must be stopped, or they would soon become "the most disruptive force ever seen in Australian politics."

The specter of Mr. Iemma crusading against "corruption" can only provoke howls of laughter. Not only has he failed to report private donations made to himself, but he has publicly announced that he intends to privatise NSW's state-owned electricity sector to the benefit of Macquarie Bank, to which he and his associates have long-standing ties. These include, but are not limited to the fact that his longtime boss and mate, former NSW Premier Bob Carr now pulls down \$500,000 per year as a "consultant" to Macquarie, and that one of his closest allies in the privatisation drive is former PM Paul Keating. As the international chairman of the firm advising on the privatisation, Lazard Carnegie Wylie, Keating stands to personally make millions. According to press accounts, for instance, his partner John Wylie personally made over \$20 million from former Victorian Premier Jeff Kennett's privatisation of his state's electricity sector.

Additionally, Mr. Iemma and his friends have also no doubt considered the effect of his proposed "reforms" on the functioning of the ALP itself. If, for instance, the trade unions no longer contributed substantial funds to the ALP, what impact might that have on issues such as the present drive to privatise the electricity sector? The parliamentary wing of the ALP is almost entirely in the Iemma privatisation camp, while any resistance to such privatisation, at least thus far, has come from the unions; such resistance is effective in no small degree because of the role they play in funding the ALP.

The Murdoch media and the Greens party are also championing Iemma's scheme, whereby parties will receive funding based upon the percentage of votes they received in the last election. But such votes are largely determined by the coverage granted to them by *privately-controlled* mass media such as the Murdoch empire. The latter determine who is "newsworthy" or "credible", and thus largely shape the outcome of elections, which in turn determines who gets public funding.

We will be watching the Committee's deliberations with the greatest interest, in particular, whether the one of its members who has long crusaded against LaRouche and the CEC, will also now champion Iemma's public funding "reforms".