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Mr. G. Solth,
Committee Secretary,
House of Representative Standing Committee
on Education and Training.
Suite R 1 106,
Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600.

2nd August 2002.

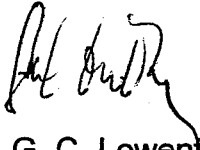
Dear Mr. Solth,

Re: your letter of 17th April 2002,

Following your letter I wrote a submission trying to be quick but at the time omitted a number of relevant points. I am aware of your deadline, but if you can still deal with material, I attach a revised version of that submission to this letter. Following a letter of 23/5/02 from your Inquiry Secretary, Mr. Rees, I should mention that I wish to reserve the right to use the content of the revised submission for the information of interested parties.

You are of course free to use or not to use the enclosed material without further reference to me,

Yours sincerely,



Dr. G. C. Lowenthal AM

A Modified Version of a Submission to a Parliamentary Inquiry on Schoolboys of
June 2002.

By Dr. G. C. Lowenthal AM PhD

As seen from today, the social, cultural and educational background affecting the well being and performance of school boys underwent fundamental changes since the 1920s. Although not referred to in the terms of references, a few comments on these developments should be of interest to the inquiry.

Far-reaching social changes occurred since the 1960s largely caused by rising affluence, advances in the social applications of science and technology and there was the "follow-on" from the rapid growth in the employment of women during WW1 (1914/18). Technologies had made much work physically easier to perform and there was the increasing influence of feminist ideologies.

It was a new brand of feminism based on the totally unrealistic assumptions yet widely accepted throughout the population that the only significant differences between men and women is their sex and that women have babies. The relatively very large differences between the sexes in anatomical, physiological and psychological characteristics caused by natural evolution over thousands of generations (see below), are ignored even though glaringly obvious and confirmed in numerous studies* (footnote).

Prior to the mid 1930s, the wages supporting the large majority of Australian families were only sufficient for food, shelter and a few amenities. As in other Western countries, 75 to 85 percent of the Australian population were manual workers, the large majority being males, and their families who at that period of frequent economic depressions, an uncertain labour market and very few government pay-outs commonly wanting no more for their children than a basic education followed by early employment.

These attitudes changed radically after WW2 when growing economic opportunities caused the numbers of boys and girls completing high school to increase rapidly, creating a shortage of good teachers and hence, well instructed children. In prewar days High Schools, both public and private, had taught a limited number of academically oriented subjects to rarely more than 20 percent of children. Most subjects taught in High Schools were compulsory, providing a solid education with educational punishments for poor performance. Sufficiently capable pupils qualified for university education which, at that time was open to everyone able to pass year 12 school examinations.

Girls too qualified for university studies not lacking intellectual abilities. Pre WW2 girls had on average less schooling than boys and few leading positions in industry and administration, but the large majority knew and still knows by inborn talents how to reap the social and economic benefits of their house wifely competence and were almost invariably the effective heads of the household whatever the appearance. Claims made by many feminists that prior to their intervention women were normally subject to merciless male exploitation and violence are an insult to

the outstanding ability of women to hold their own relative to men not to mention the readily observed concern of men for the well being of women.

There are not only the physical but also the intellectual and psychological differences between the sexes. They followed the evolution of sexual reproduction and eventually of homo sapiens, the former began 1000 million (1 billion) years ago when living organisms were still confined to the oceans. They reached land as amphibians nearly 500 million years ago while the earliest hominids descended from apes some three million years ago reaching homo sapiens a mere 100,000 years ago, nearly 4000 generations on the human scale!

These vast differences in time scales between natural evolution and human time scales should be known by high school pupils as items of general knowledge. It should also be known that long time scales can be measured accurately using radioactive elements distributed throughout the crust of the earth. There are, in particular, uranium losing half of its activity every 4.6 billion years and thorium, losing half of its activity every 14 billion years.

To return to the contemporary scene, the late 1950s and the 1960s saw the emergence of that new brand of militant feminism referred to earlier. Insisting on equality and strongly aided by propaganda in word and picture by the news media and pro-feminist legislation. Using political as well as news media support (paper is patient), girls are encouraged to compete against boys instead of supporting them at home by seeking positions in business, industry and the learned professions, taking advantage of pro-feminist legislation and prejudices.

As the mutual need for support bringing men and women together was weakened by feminist agitation and commercial manipulations (well paid women are good customers), common interests are made to rely more and more strongly on sexual attraction pushed by profiteering advertisers and news media in films and videos to pornographic limits and forced on to every body not omitting school children. A recent stunt of the media dragged schoolchildren along with priests and teachers into sex scandals. Neither Churches nor Schools nor the public are helped by scandal mongering, knowing very well there are intrinsic difficulties which have been dealt with quietly since time immemorial, human nature being what it is.

There is at present a divorce rate of well over 40 percent of the marriage rate, not to mention "partners" coming and going without the benefit of the law. They are evidence of the catastrophic failures of feminist policies. No-one knows how to restore constructive mutual dependence involving men and women and this in a way which would be sufficiently widely accepted to be made to work. Although school boys are taught about feminism it tends to be shown as seeking "fair go" reforms instead of a force in conflict with human nature.

The average boy is no longer greatly interested to struggle for good results against girls who, having always been more conscientious than boys have always been on average more successful at studies. Currently boys prefer to concentrate on games and technologies where there is little competition with girls who are invariably assisted by pro-feminist legislation and other measures favouring the appointment

of women. Also, contrary to pre-war educational policies, contemporary school syllabi allow ample choice between alternative HSC subjects (there are some 50 of them in NSW). Pupils can pick what they find easiest to learn and can reach the Higher School Certificate on a minimum of studies.

Girls are encouraged to crowd into universities and colleges outnumbering young men in many faculties though what good it will do them in the longer run to reach a 50/50 and higher ratio with men in the professions remains to be seen. Already memberships in the learned professions and particularly in Medicine and the Law no longer have the standing they used to have and this for good reasons. Next a few comments on the abuse of contemporary knowledge followed by malpractices which undermine every day activities but are left untouched.

Boys are taught that technology based on scientific knowledge did away with innumerable stupid superstitions. They are rarely taught that the price is an out of all proportion growth in population eating into limited resources with very little done to control birth rates. So far most populations have remained socially manageable because most people were poor. However, it is easily seen that conditions are becoming increasingly unmanageable with growing affluence even in developing countries.

Affluence is abused in other ways which should be obvious to thoughtful boys. It brings ample food and potential good health. However, with human nature unchanged as it had been throughout civilisation and with more than enough money around, people act in accordance with "what comes most natural". The large majority maximises food, minimises exercise and all efforts which can be avoided, leading to ill health and many other troubles. Actions grossly abusive of community confidence and good faith are perpetrated ceaselessly by grossly misleading advertisements, most drastically on TV. The fault is in large measure with a general public who have not been taught how to combat mind-corrupting falsehoods just as they accept price tickets for \$ 99.99 as a gain on \$ 100.

News media and especially TV have found it profitable to subscribe to the dogma that there is no real difference between the abilities and nature of men and women. Using the patience of paper they picture over and over again all the women they claim to have shown distinction even if only overnight. They do have the kindness to feature a few men for one reason or another. However, to make it clear that all distinctions have been abolished courtesy titles are almost universally replaced by given names which would have met with the strongest protests not very long ago.

There is Tom and Dick, Harry and Mary which is all that boys hear around them in the streets or even at home or see in print or on TV whether the talk is about Governors, Prime Ministers, Academics or members of a street gang. Intellectual, academic or political distinctions are made light of whenever possible. After all, contemporary egalitarianism is at the lowest common denominator. To the news media and TV everyone is equal and be rid of Mr., Mrs. and especially Miss. The only allowed distinctions are for heroes of sporting events.

There are other sights for boys, especially school boys in uniform. There is the shockingly sloppy dressing by old and young, male or female, often torn, dirty and disheveled in which not so long ago beggars would have been ashamed to be seen. Hotel staff, bank employees and a few other office workers are made to wear ties, but their "customers" hide such talents as they have under shaven heads (once the sign of convicted criminals) and the sloppiest of dressing even when alighting from costly sedan cars, parading their given names whether others are interested or not.

What boys as well as girls should learn in school is not just about the powers of human inventions but also about the likely ultimate fate of these inventions, which of them are likely to prevail and which not and why not. Science and technology appear to have been stunningly successful in creating well being and wealth, but there are more and more dark clouds on the horizon.

Feminism appears to carry all before it, taking women through all the ceilings at least where it gets support from governments anxious to collect votes. Boys and men have to look on and make the best of it. It could be, however, that the successes of feminists are principally a consequence of contemporary political preferences helped by that small proportion of women who are more masculine than most men (see footnote) and who never had it "so good". If the resulting changes turn out to be inconsistent with human nature there is bound to be a reaction when the best to be hoped for is avoidance of a catastrophic collapse.

*Footnote: Genetically transmitted human characteristics (nearly all of them are genetically transmitted), are distributed statistically about average values which differ for males and females but as has to be expected, the distributions overlap to a greater or lesser extent leading to consequences which are all too often overlooked. The following is a greatly simplified account.

There are characteristics like patience or forbearance whose magnitudes can only be estimated approximately. For example, there would be agreement that, on average, women appear to be more patient than men. But, to demonstrate the overlap, a non-negligible percentage of men appears to be more patient than the average woman. Quantitative estimates of patience are clearly uncertain with any two people likely to differ in their estimate.

In contrast, there are many characteristics which can be measured reproducibly with fair accuracy though, as a rule, only for young adults. Taking body height and body weight as examples, young men are on average ahead of young women by respectively 7 percent and 18 percent. Taking life expectancy at any age, the average woman lives longer than the average man. This means that at any age a woman is more likely than not to outlive a man of the same age. Longevity in years observed on average can be verified from statistical tables.

Returning to body height, there is of course a continuous distribution for both sexes, but due to overlap it turns out that even though on average men are taller than women close to one woman in 30 is taller than the average man while one man in 50 is shorter than the average woman.

Another non-quantitative characteristic can be defined as masculinity. This term stands here for a combination of characteristics found, on average more strongly in men than in women e.g. high levels of forcefulness, leadership, pig-headedness, determination etc. Although these and similar characteristics are on average stronger in men than in women, there is a percentage of women who have many or most of them more strongly than the average man. That an above average degree of masculinity is found in a relatively small minority of women is a statistical not a feminist phenomenon.

Statistical distributions also apply to sexuality putting homo-sexuality and lesbianism into perspective, among others. They have always been at one end of the distribution accounting for upwards to 10 percent of men but a much smaller percentage of women. To drag these matters into headlines and street parades helps news media and a few traders but no-one else.