

From: wigles [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 5 August 2001 2:33 PM
To: The Secretary
Subject: ABC Board Appointments

Dear Secretary

When I recently returned from an extended trip to the USA, I was delighted to be able to again relish the high quality of our ABC radio---in contrast to America's National Public Radio, which has only sporadic offerings that can compete with our Radio National.. The contrast between our ABC TV and their Public Broadcasting System TV was less marked, unfortunately---evidence of the demise ABC TV has suffered in recent years.

I feel that the ABC has lost its uncompromising commitment to consistent high standard programming. And I worry about some of the changes imposed upon the ABC during the past few years, namely those which seem to be politically motivated or budget driven.

The decline of Radio Australia in Southeast Asia has been a tragic development for our neighbours who used to depend on us to provide them with an unencumbered free and impartial media. And this was done to save 5 million dollars!! Outrageous.

The loss of Quantum is an unnecessary attack on our ABCs Science programming. We no longer have both a Friday Stateline and the Friday 7:30 Report. Another loss. I fear that Late night Live, surely one of the shining stars of intelligent broadcasting in the Western World, is in the firing line of the ABC board.

There's no doubt that the ABC Board too often allows a political agenda to displace the ABC Charter as its primary guiding influence in policy development. We need apolitical members who have a sincere interest in promoting, protecting and preserving the ABC. Investment bankers and former heads of state political parties have no place on the board. A better way must be found of selecting independent, qualified board members.

I have lost all hope I may have had in Jonathon Shirer's ability and willingness to nurture our ABC. But he is the minion of the Board, isn't he? I fear that the ABC is inexorably declining to the mediocre standard found in America's underfunded, neglected PBS.

Please use your power and influence to reverse this most disturbing demise of our ABC.

Sincerely

Bill Wiglesworth

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