

Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee

S1.57 Parliament House, CANBERRA ACT 2600

Submission to Senate Inquiry into Independence of ABC Board

ABC radio and television must be freed from the influence of the government of the day. The imperative for greater ABC freedom is made even more urgent because our parliamentary democracy has serious defects in its ability to properly reflect the full range of voter sentiment and opinion. I do not vote for either the Liberal or Labor party. I do not want either party to have the dominant say in how the ABC is run when they are in government. I dearly wish I could leave both parties out of the ballot paper numbering at federal elections without destroying my voting power.

I have read arguments from opinion writers in the commercial newspapers in favour of funding of the ABC through advertising, sponsorship or commercial deals. I have never found their intellectual content to go beyond bland reassurances – the sort we might expect from the charming fox wanting to be in charge of the hen house. I am utterly fed up with philosophies of government which are founded upon the notion that in the best of all possible worlds all human endeavour would be based on commercial interests and market forces. This is the blind, unselfconscious ideology of our time. Please free us and the ABC and our universities from its grip and influence.

I am a devoted Radio National listener and have been for the great bulk of my 49 years. Lately I have noticed here and there the most inane twaddle – an affected attempt to be brazenly and off handedly reactionary in the face of people and movements who are ringing today's alarm bells about the state of humanity in a crowded, polluted and disoriented world. It is the sort of twaddle that I could hear any day on a commercial radio station. I do not listen to commercial radio. I want my interesting, thought provoking, reflective and intelligent ABC back again, thank you very much.

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