

TELSTRA SALE COMMITTEE
THE SENATE
PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA ACT 2600

14/4/05

Dear Sir,

re: TELSTRA SALE A LITTLE EARNER FOR MATES?

Rather than to serve conservative ideology, including arguments of efficiency, cost saving and that "government shouldn't be in business", I wonder if the final sell-off of Telstra against the majority public will, including the will of country Australians in particular, is nothing more than the busting up of public assets to create wealth for the Government's mates (any governments when public utilities are busted-up or licences are put up for tender) in brokerages, law firms, accountancy firms and all kinds of consultancies. It is of course for the benefit of share speculators as well.

Personally, all I've seen since the beginning of the bust-up of Telstra was forecast and started years ago, is the depletion of the services I need: if I dial directory assistance, I have to go through a lot of time-consuming nonsense before I get a number and I can no longer get an address with a phone number to organisations. I can never find telephone books in public phone booths if I need one and so I have to carry them in my car (the ones in today's post offices are often incomplete as well). Mobile phone calls cost a fortune, and yet some communications experts have said they should cost less than land line phone calls, but the government doesn't want to know. And phone bills have a sizeable impact on the cost of living, yet shouldn't. Privatisation: the busting up of public property for profit and to hand the public wealth to a few private citizens and businesses.

The Telstra sell-off: I wonder what Jesus would think of those good "mums and dads" share speculating, nice Christian families who profit by such acts at the expense of the mass, and of the politicians who cause it, just as I wonder what he would think of negative gearing and housing speculation which makes capital city home ownership impossible for many on low to even average incomes, let alone middle-aged politicians snatching East Timor's oil or sending young men and women off to invade far away countries? I suppose he'd be dismissed as a nutter if he spoke up against such authority, and punished if he persisted - just like last time.



John Dobinson

113 Mountain View Road
North Balwyn Vic. 3104

ph. 9859 4065

