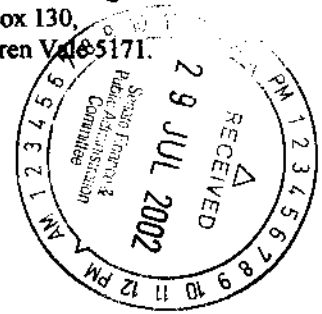


JF& MB Golding,
P O Box 130,
McLaren Vale 5171.



The Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee Gold Pass Enquiry.
Parliament House ,
Canberra 2600.

Re Life Gold Pass —Federal Politicians

Dear Sir/Madam,

Further to an article appearing in the Sunday Mail (South Australia) July 21, 2002 (page 21) relating to comments being sought regarding to the above matter, I consider that the federal politicians (past and present) have created a mistrust in the community by continuing to increase their remuneration as politicians (public servants) and their numerous undisclosed benefits are maintained and increased without any regard to the citizens of the nation. There appears to be some "committee" which approves such generous increases however I am not aware of a recommended reduction in remuneration or indeed maintain a status -quo in recent years .

These costs must amount to many millions of dollars per year. Yet this is further exploited in Gold Passes handed out to retired politicians and their spouses (would you believe) for years after retirement as partially set out in article. Such an attitude really sums up politician's attitude and their interest in the welfare of our wonderful nation.

As an individual I am amazed that these people (on all sides of politics) are still tearing the country apart by seeking such benefits with an apparent lack of concern for their fellow citizens.

I am pleased the Prime Minister had given notice that the Life Gold Pass will be reviewed, (cap domestic travel for future prime ministers— interestingly enough the proposed criteria is still too generous for people who have been extremely well compensated during their time in office). Personally I consider the (politician perks) should be abolished, except for past Prime Ministers who should only receive a limited Gold Pass for domestic travel for a maximum period of five after retirement from politics.

I support the proposal and further suggest that all details relating to politicians and senior public servants salaries, superannuation and all other benefits (including travel costs) be made available to the public and all details be published in daily newspapers throughout the nation at the end of each financial year.

This will then give the public an indication of the amount of money is being expended in the national parliament Canberra at least, let alone the funds expended in the states in relation to this area.

Thank you for providing the community the chance to comment on this matter.

Yours faithfully,


JF Golding.

24/7/02

Attachment.

Cuts vow to MPs life travel perks

By Mercedes Florez

In Sydney

THE Senate has called for public submissions on why some former MPs should be stripped of their lifetime travel perks.

The Government last year vowed to publicly disclose travel expense details for former prime ministers, governors-general, MPs and their spouses who hold prized Life Gold Passes.

The Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee last week asked the public for their opinions to be lodged by August 9.

The Life Gold Pass entitles retired MPs with more than 20

years' service to unlimited domestic travel. Some former ministers — such as Peter Reith and Michael Woolden — retained the pass based on their service in Cabinet.

Prime Minister John Howard last year promised to cap domestic travel for future prime ministers — effectively making him the first leader to have domestic travel limited.

"The Government does not believe the current situation where all former prime ministers have unlimited access to domestic travel is consistent with community standards," Mr Howard said.

The new bill will restrict former and future prime ministers and

their spouses to 40 publicly-funded domestic trips each year. All other Life Gold Pass holders will have domestic flights limited to 25 trips a year.

A report released by the Auditor-General last year stated travel expenditure by former MPs, though not used deceitfully, could be open to abuse.

In 1999-2000, former MPs racked up \$2 million in travel costs — with many retired MPs each spending more than sitting MPs.

Former National Party leader Ian Sinclair accounted for nearly \$75,000 a year on 100 domestic flights. His wife who also receives Life Gold Pass benefits added a similar amount through 70 domestic flights.