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The Secretary
Senate Finance & Public Administration Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam

In reply to your advertisement in The Mercury newspaper, 17 July 2002 re Members of Parliament (Life Gold Pass) Bill 2002 I submit the following information.

In this day and age when the gap is growing larger between the have and have nots, or rich and poor, I do not think that members of Parliament including Prime Ministers, should qualify for further assistance with travel or a secretary once they retire. Perhaps a compromise would be that a former Prime Minister could maintain a publicly funded secretary for twelve months after his/her retirement. After all once an ordinary citizen of Australia retires from his or her employment they are expected to survive on retirement benefits or pension.

I realise that Members of Parliament work hard but so do most other employed Australians – in the administration, medical, manufacturing, agricultural, industrial, defence etc sectors – all for the greater benefit of Australia. Most of my friends and myself are retired and if we want a trip interstate we save for that trip, if we do voluntary work we catch a bus or take the car and pay for fares and parking.

It appears to the ordinary citizen of Australia that a majority of Members of Parliament seem to “loose the plot” and become indifferent to the needs of their constituents. An example of this is the huge superannuation they acquire – let them plan and pay for their future like most other Australians do.

In summary, Australians are disgusted with “Life Gold Pass”.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Anne Speed'.

Anne Speed (Mrs)
30 July 2002