

4. 2. 09

The Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration,
The Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA,
ACT 2600.

Dear Sirs,

I was horrified to see that you are planning to issue a Plebiscite for an Australian Republic - to be put before the electors at the next General Election as a "yes" or nothing issue alongside the election itself.

Ten years ago, the public turned down the idea of a Republic in favour of the Monarchy. You and I know fully well that the Queen virtually represents a buffer between the people and a possible tyrant of a president. The Constitution holds good. It was put together by intelligent people and provides a safety net, under the Queen, for the people of Australia. We also know that the Queen does not interfere with the goings on in either the House of Representatives or the Senate so any persuasive behaviour on the part of any faction of Parliament against the status quo means only one thing: that is that politicians want power over the people. Politicians are there to serve as representatives of the people, not to be their masters - eyes and all.

If you really intend to do the right thing by the people who, after all, keep you in the manner to which you have become accustomed via their taxes as their servants, not their masters,

it would behove you to issue fair and clean for and against arguments, Monarchy vs. Republic arguments, prior to any referendum - preferably in that form rather than plebiscite - some considerable time before the next (or whatever General Election is targetted for such practice) election in order to give the people sufficient facts - for both sides - so that the people may make up their own minds and vote accordingly.

This business of shoving a bill like this (with a deadline of 6.2.09) during a holiday period is an insult to the Australian people and smacks of persuasive pressure on somebody's part, not necessarily in the interests of the Australian public.

So, to conclude, I ask you - please do not put this Plebiscite through. Throw it in the rubbish and play fair with your employers, the People of Australia.

Yours Faithfully,

(VALERIE F. BUDGE) Mrs.