

John Greenwood QC

3 February 2009

The Standing Committee on Financial
and Public Administration
The Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Re: Submission – Enquiry into the Plebiscite for an Australian Republic Bill 2008

May it please the Committee,

I wish to make the following points in favour of constitutional monarchy, the system which we have enjoyed for over one hundred years:-

1. The Crown gives the Army a focus for loyalty. Many coups which install dictatorships are conducted by the army (Fiji, Pakistan, Greece and numerous African republics). The Army there followed the orders of its commanders. On the other hand, when soldiers have a focus of loyalty that is superior to their commanders, the military coup is less likely to occur.

At the very least, the knowledge that many units would remain loyal to the Crown, is likely to make rebel commanders do some serious counting and may well dissuade them altogether. Britain hasn't had a military coup since General Monck's counter-coup in 1660, and that was by officers loyal to the Crown to overcome the superiority of Cromwell's military councils and restore King and Parliament in their traditional roles.

2. The other side of the coin is that the Executive Government currently in power is unable to use the Army as an instrument of tyranny.

Fiji and Pakistan again provide recent examples where the Prime Minister or President for the time being has had the Army under his thumb. In Australia we have embedded safeguards in our law. The Federal Government cannot "call out" the Army without approval and counter-signing by the Governor-General.

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