

January 14, 2009

Secretary,
Finance & Public Administration Committee,
Parliament House,
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir or Madam,

It has come to my attention that by February 6, 2009, objections will close to the Bill proposed by Senator Bob Brown regarding a plebiscite about Australia becoming a republic of some sort.

I certainly object to the fact that tax payers' money is being spent to revive a debate that was settled in November, 1999.

Senator Brown must have too much time on his hands to be flogging a dead horse, while most of the population is enjoying the Christmas, New Year and annual holidays with myriad entertainments and wonderful weather, rather than being informed of his plebiscite proposal and making an objection by the required date.

Our system of Constitutional Monarchy has served us extremely well for more than 100 years and I expect it will continue to do so. It has covered periods of wartime, depressions and recessions, and, in 1975, a forced change of Federal Government with dignity and without a shot being fired. A referendum is the only way to change it - does Senator Brown welcome anarchy? - and must be informative and specific, which a plebiscite is not.

In answer to the suggestion that demographics in Australia are changing and so our system of government may need to change, may I counter that many other cultures have migrated here because they fear the systems they have left behind, and are elated to live in Australia with freedoms they only dreamt about. Who, in their right mind, would want to change that?

Please, refuse or allow to lapse this Bill for a plebiscite, which, if approved would have to lead to many more, all of which detract from the focus on sensible government and the next Federal Election.

I will await your acknowledgement of this formal objection.

Yours faithfully,

(Mrs) R. Walker OAM