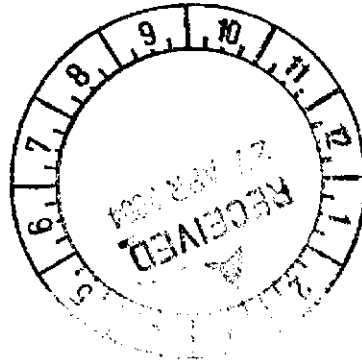


# R G DIXON

The Senate Select Committee on the  
United States Free Trade Agreement  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600



## UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

I wish to protest against the signing of the above Agreement on the following grounds

The economic benefits are not clear, indeed they are most doubtful as some economists have already stated

The USFTA Dispute Process limits our democracy. Hearings need not be made public and decisions cannot be appealed.

Extension of copyright from 50 years to 70 years will mean high costs for libraries and educational institutions

There will be restrictions on regulation of investment and services.

There will be fewer rights to review foreign investment. Article 11.3 means that US investors cannot be required to use local products, transfer technology or contribute to exports (Article 11.9)

There will be fewer rights to regulate essential services. Services include health, education, water, postal, energy and environmental services. The USFTA applies to all levels of government. The text states that "services" does not apply to public services (Article 10.1) These are defined as services not supplied on a commercial basis nor in competition with one or more service suppliers. This is a flawed definition as many public services in Australia are supplied on a commercial basis in competition with other service suppliers including health, education, water, energy and post. Water services will be particularly at risk.

The US will have too much influence on quarantine and labelling – in the US there are no laws insisting on labelling.

Restrictions on Australian content rules in new media. Australian TV content is capped at 55% on no more than two channels, or 20% of the total number of channels.

Tariff cuts in Australia are likely to result in job losses.

R G Dixon  
18<sup>th</sup> April 2004