

Senate Select Committee

After reading through the Free Trade Agreement there is one blaringly obvious thing that should make it impossible for any true Australian to consider allowing it to be signed by Howard et al. That is, that in so many ways IT HANDS NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY to USA, on a silver platter. Whether this involves the clause which enables an external so called independent (for this, read USA pharmaceutical company lobbyists) to question the decisions made by an Australian Committee on the drugs applicable to OUR PBS! Or whether any alterations can be made by an Australian government on Australian content in the media and arts fields without the input of USA media interests. Whether it is the implied opening of the flood gates for the USA corporations to actively interfere in every public service we have. (I suggest Senators read the cases of the Canadian government being sued by a USA company for so called loss of earnings for their tender being disallowed. I also suggest they consider the fact that a USA take-away food company is having an input into the CURRICULUM of British schools. I suggest they consider the cultural loss of cricket to the West Indies, because all the kids see is USA tv which of course pushes base ball and basket ball.) These are but a few things that will kill off any remaining cultural Australian identity.

And to suggest there will be BIG benefits for Australian business is like saying that the local corner store can compete effectively with the large supermarkets when it comes to price. It is a David and Goliath war and one which David (Australia) can never hope to win. There is already ample opportunity for innovative and smart Australian companies to compete in certain products if they can.

I am outraged that Howard et al is willing to give away almost every Australian commercial, moral and cultural right to USA government and, perhaps worse, to their rapacious corporations. It is tantamount to TREASON. You are the only stumbling block to this totally insane proposition. Please exercise that option and have the gratitude of generations of Australians. Otherwise I tremble for Australia's future.

Sincerely


Bette Guy