



Dear Sir

Regarding the U.S. - Australia Free Trade Agreement. I urge the Committee to ensure that the Pharmaceutical Benefit Scheme remains a cost effective scheme for the benefit of all Australians, with no concessions to the profit demands of U.S. drug companies.

I urge the Committee to examine the quarantine provisions to ensure that nothing is done to risk Australian industries through allowing trade pressures to have any role in determining our quarantine standards.

Successive governments have abandoned most Australian tariffs resulting in the decimation of our great manufacturing industries which provided much full time employment in the past. Any further reductions in tariffs in textiles, clothing, foot wear and motor vehicles will result in further loss of employment, particularly in regional areas.

The Foreign ~~Review~~ Investment Review Board threshold of investigation should remain at \$50 million dollars. It is not in Australia's interest to surrender its sovereign power to

review and limit foreign investment.

Access to key areas like health, education, water and energy appear to be up for grabs in the F.T.A.

I urge the Committee to ensure that all levels of government in Australia retain the freedom to determine how these essential community services are managed.

The F.T.A. was originally promoted by the government as a means of gaining access to the huge American market by Australian agriculture.

Sugar ~~has~~ been completely excluded in the interest of protecting the U.S. sugar producers.

Beef and dairy tariff ~~reductions~~ from the U.S. side are to be reduced in 13 years! Additionally, there are price protection clauses which allow the U.S. even after this time to veto entry of these products if they threaten the domestic price.

As one commentator was quoted 'the devil is in the detail' the U.S. - Australia Free Trade Agreement is slanted in favour of the U.S.

This agreement has failed to deliver substantial benefits for Australia, particularly Australian agriculture.

The United States, like Europe and Japan, is always going to protect the interests of its own

farmers. The Australian Government does not appear to care if whole rural industries collapse because of an inability to compete with subsidised or protected agricultural products in both the domestic and international markets.

I urge the Committee to examine this agreement minutely.

Yours Sincerely,
Michael Evans.