

Some thoughts on United States Free Trade Agreement.

There may be some benefits from this agreement of which I am not aware

The following detail my fears

① Quarantine is one of the biggest considerations for Australia.

We are fortunate in living on an island, so are protected by nature. However we did develop valuable quarantine service personnel which needs to be improved and returned to its original status (before privatisation).

A country so dependent on what we grow in fruit, grains & animal products must protect itself or suffer. Remember during the war U.S. forces did not abide by our quarantine regulations with adverse consequences.

② Our pharmaceutical benefits

Keep our population as healthy as possible. To allow the pharmaceutical industry of U.S.A. to influence in any way what our government has provided is a big step backwards. Should this happen we will find a big blow out of treatment needs which our government will not be able to afford.

③ Through T.V. radio & live theatre we are able to hear & see a good range of Australian & other country entertainment & information. Any interference with this balance achieved so far would be disastrous. Since most of our younger generation appear to be already influenced ~~by~~ unduly by American movies it would be unhealthy to denigrate Australian culture any further.

④ Australia currently has only produced G.M. cotton for sale. We are able to buy human food G.M. free, produced in this country. It is becoming possible to be deceived by Genetically modified food produced in the U.S. & exported to Australia & incorporated into food here. Our laws require labelling with respect to G.M. food but in the USA they are not aware of the need for knowledge in this area. We could easily be swamped by G.M. food & not be made aware of it.

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