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Monday 1/3/04

The Secretary, Senate Legal &
Constitutional References Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA A.C.T. 2600

RE: SENATE INQUIRY
INTO AN AUSTRALIAN
REPUBLIC

Dear Sirs / Mesdames,

I wish the following to be formally placed on record:

- (1) that I object that the Inquiry makes no provision for the majority of Australians (as evidenced by the Referendum of 1999) who do not wish a change to a republic. This is blatant discrimination.
- (2) that I personally disagree with any change to our existing Constitution
- (3) that I am unreservedly opposed to a plebiscite because our Australian Constitution makes no provision for a plebiscite, nor does the law of Australia - for the very reason that any government can deliberately frame the questions so that the response is the outcome they desire.
- (4) that taxpayers' money is wasted in this way only 5 years after millions was spent on this issue, & the outcome was "NO REPUBLIC".

Irrespective of which style of President is adopted, the result would be that the present brilliant set of checks & balances enshrined in our Constitution would be upset by placing too much power in the hands of a political president, whether appointed or elected. Our Constitution, as it stands, places this power in the hands of the people, due to the wisdom of our Founding Fathers. History has clearly shown that removing the Crown from the Westminster system of government has never resulted in democratic freedom for the people. In other words, no Westminster-style democracy has ever worked effectively once the Crown has been removed. Also, in almost all cases, the result has been riots & civil war.

FACE THE FACTS.

In a survey reported in the Courier Mail's "Sunday Mail" of 14th February 1993 page 17 et seq, of the 72 troublespots around the world, 66 were republics & only 6 were monarchies. (Ref. "The Statesman's Year Book 1997-1998", 134th edition, edited by Brian Hunter).

These facts need to be given careful consideration, lest a system which has worked extremely well for hundreds of years & is the envy of the world, is replaced by a proven inferior system.

Yours sincerely, Mrs J. A. LEES
J. A. Lees.