

A SUBMISSION TO the "SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENCES COMMITTEE.

INTRODUCTION. I was born in ADELAIDE in April 1920, and I feel I have gained some wisdom, often lacking in young people. I have never felt that Australia was a dependent country, but I have a strong feeling of pride in Great Britain for her lone stance against Germany and Italy for a year, June 1940 / June 1941.

The first of my antecedents arrived in Australia in 1817, the last in 1864. I served in the Australian army for 31 years.

AUSTRALIAN REPUBLIC. Our constitution provides for the basic rules for a democratic republic:- Our government is of the people, it is elected by the people, and it serves the people. What more do you want?

A republic for our country, if adopted, must have a number of important advantages over our present constitution before it is worth while putting up. The ARM cries of 1999: "Get rid of the Queen" and "then we will be independent", carried no weight with thinking Australians. The Queen being NON-elected and Non-political, is ideally suited to watch over our best interests in so far that she has the power to ensure that our executives do NOT flout the Constitution. The Governor-General is also non-political. No president, however selected, could replace that independent power. {Who is going to guard the guards?}

We do not work for the Monarch; the Monarch helps us. A democracy chooses its government every 3 (or so) years, but someone must ensure that this is adhered to, and also that the government does not stray outside the Constitution in the interim. (1975). In 1999, I asked republicans: "To what country are we now dependent?" None could give me a sensible answer.

The run-up to the 1999 republic referendum caused a lot of bad feeling; it was divisive, even in families; this is not good for our country.

Plebiscites are a waste of money as they achieve nothing and cost the taxpayer a fortune. The republic's constitution must be complete and available for all to study before any referendum is held. In 1999 it was not.

Having studied this problem for over 10 years, I am convinced that once you remove the Monarch, the door is open for skullduggery at the highest level. (TNG 1991). We have seen how Hitler and Mugabe came to power; we should be warned. I have been informed that all your members have a leaning towards a republic so I would like to think that you have all read "For the Sovereignty of the People", by Nigel Greenwood. You would be better informed.

From D.J.Davies. Colonel, (retired).

