

Wednesday, 19 May 2004



The Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional References Committee
Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600

Although probably too late for consideration, we place on record our objection to the Enquiry on the values of a Monarchical or Republican System for our country as you presently are considering. We do not agree with the making of any change to our Monarchical System unless it is an improvement, which the present proposals do not.

To change to a republic for reasons advocated so far is nowhere near acceptable —In today's unstable societies, only those with monarchical systems in place, apart from a notable few, are politically stable. However much we may disapprove of the behaviour of certain members of our royal family, it is the system which so far cannot be bettered.

To hold a plebiscite is not acceptable either for it all depends on the wording in the questions asked. The promoters of such a scheme will simply frame their question in a manner which will give them the answer they want.

When our present monarch abdicates or dies, many of us who presently defend the present system will be having serious doubts about her successor. So you should consider these suggestions which may form a compromise.

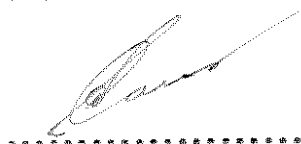
After our Queen abdicates or dies:

- 1. Retain the Monarchical system but have as our Monarch — a Governor General and Regent whom we elect from 3 people nominated by both Houses of Parliament by 75% majority for each in a joint sitting.*
- 2. Parliament by joint sitting will agree on the wording in the publication of attributes of each nominee.*
- 3. a. The nominee, nor any other person or body, cannot advertise his or her qualities or solicit votes in any direct or indirect way.*
b. The media in any way cannot comment on the nominees except to report on what the Government provides.
c. The Government alone through the Prime Minister or Deputy Prime Minister will provide all necessary personal details and attributes for the position.
D After submission of names by the Joint Sitting of Parliament, the Government nor any member cannot in any direct or indirect way comment other than provide the attributes as approved by Parliament.
- 4. Governor- General and Regent's term is for 6 years and may be eligible for consideration with others for his or her re-election.*

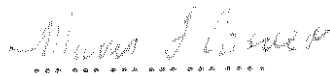
5. *Nominees must be Australian born and hold Australian nationality only.*
6. *Nominees must be of Christian persuasion and must vacate the office if persuaded otherwise.*
7. *Governor General and Regent's authority is to remain the same as at present except for the obvious necessities of change from the present Monarch to elected Governor General and Regent.*
8. *All states of Australia must adopt similar processes and its Governor rank below that of the Governor General and Regent of Australia.*
9. *Governor General and Regent will continue to hold authority to chair the Executive Council, give regal approval of legislation, superceding the powers of the Prime Minister only if in the opinion of the High Court of Australia, the Government of the day is unable to legislate in both Houses of Parliament.*

In this way, neither the PM or the GG and R's powers will vary from the present Monarchical System.

We commend this to you.



Stanley O.



and Mavis F. Carver