



The Chairman
The Senate Legal & Const. Committee
Rm. F1/61
Parliament House
Canberra

PO 183
Curtin
ACT 2605
Mobile 0402016179
Messages to: 62922633

Dear Sir/Madam

A short Submission on the 'Brain Drain'

This submission compares 3 Countries – Australia, Britain and South Africa. The adverse comment is not Brit/Australian but Britain and Australia **then** versus Britain and Australia **now**.

Travel is easy if one's income is in \$US, Sterling or Euros (D Marks), difficult in \$A and impossible in SA Rand. Because of fortunate circumstance I have been able to travel more than most Australians (including Committee members/staff?). Consequently, I believe it's important to understand that Australia is in an auction with other first world countries both for migrants and the return of our own

To quote 4 cases in my immediate and recent experience all of whom are in the late 20s – early 30s 'upwardly mobile' group.

- The solicitor, formerly with a leading Canberra firm is now practicing in the Inns of Court
- The journalist is now in Fleet Street
- The exceptionally brave woman (UN Afghanistan etc.) with a M'bourne BSc and Doctorate from a prestigious US Uni. is now OS long term on a contract in \$US and no doubt beneficial tax arrangements
- Her partner, an expensively trained Military pilot has gone with her. He finds that even in a relatively poor country his skills reward him in real terms better than Australia.

Our brightest and best, being so, work out faster than the rest of us how the system really works and escape. Much of what follows is about the ills of that system.

PLUSSES

Great people, great climate, good housing (outside big cities), good food, good 'adventuring' (bush walking, fishing, shooting, sailing etc.). – we also have the world's 1st/2nd most efficient building and mining industries.?

MINUSES

Economics

"We are a rich Country' – In fact we are, in money terms, the 2nd poorest in the 'Anglo' world, just beating NZ. Evidence – On the basis of population, our military should be 1/3rd the size of the UK's. We should also have a full on universal National Health Service including Dentistry. The Brits achieve this on lower individual tax rates than we have. (Note: *they did this by 'taming' their Doctors and dictating pharmaceutical prices by way of cost plus; as did most of Western Europe including Germany and Scandinavia*)

Poverty in both countries is far worse than 'back then'. People live in cardboard boxes in London and 12 year old kids sleep under bridges in Canberra. Did you know that the National Capital has to run a soup kitchen?

However,

- In money terms, the average Brit. is rich beyond most of our dreams. As examples –
 - the son of a friend who was a crane driver. A lad in his early 30s who is hard working and talented, but no genius. When he bought his 2nd Ferrari he kept the first out of sentiment!
 - a pleasant couple with whom I traveled in Italy. He was a foundry worker but had no trouble in keeping up with Australian/Canadian professionals.
- The observed standard of living of the Middle Class in Spain, Italy, Greece and Turkey is similar to that in Australia

Social/Political

The late great Australia is not deceased but you don't find it now until just short of Isa. City Australia is becoming an increasingly unpleasant place to live. It costs nothing to repent and return to the old ways. Petty tyranny and corruption could be tolerated when we were a lucky country and everyone had room to move. Now they cannot.

Examples

- In a recent 10 year period Political Superannuation was indexed by 50% and the Military/AFP?/APS were indexed by 25% (Further info. SCOA and recent Senate enquiry). That is hardly an advertisement for employment in the APS and such dishonesty in Government reflects on the credit rating of the entire Country.
- Also a Parliamentary enquiry i.e. Family Law Act/Child Support Agency – example - she takes off with another and poor hubbie finds that the payments he makes in excess of his share of real child cost, are as effective alimony, supporting the boyfriend. If you had the slightest doubt about your marriage would you be fool enough to come here?
- ~~AP~~ Smoking Policy – on which over painful time I've become somewhat expert. The attached paper should be of interest in the general work of your Committee. On this issue the 1st/2nd pages and the anecdotes section will be relevant. The former because it demonstrates that the system does not work in the way we're told it does; the latter because it gives a view from the outside in. It's going to be a 'close-out' if one wishes for the return of someone who either smokes themselves or one of whose family members does.
- Information Control – Would the Committee be aware that there was a genocide in Mozambique to compare with Cambodia? Also that two years after Independence black Africans fled Zimbabwe in large numbers into Afrikaaner controlled South Africa. (At least they give you a fair trial before hanging you?). How many of you knew the nature of nicotine addiction before reading the attachments? This extends from the media to the schools. The Americans teach their children about History /Constitution Bill of Rights, the Brits learn from their History lessons. Most of our Government and Law came from these two Countries – given to us 'on a plate' rather than the bloody Revolutions which both of them had to endure. Doubt me? ask most children and young adults who Cromwell or Washington were. This is so bad that a former Q'Ind Premier was unable to describe the separation of powers. Information control is not an option for Brit. Govt. since the average citizen has ready holiday access to Europe and further - US? Africa etc.

- Unjust Taxation – Those on incomes less than the nett basic wage are still being taxed. Those who are little better off face marginal rates of near 60%. The poor still provide a very small proportion of overall direct taxes. Their very real punishment seems mostly due to ATO/DSS finding it inconvenient to sort out the regs rather than financial necessity. Again, much taxation in the UK is becoming 'optional' i.e. easy movement of people and money including walk in access to the banks of Liechtenstein, Luxembourg and Switzerland

You'll notice that many of the above are examples of English diseases which we've got worse than they have. I've cited them because they are things which can be fixed without lots of money

Personal Freedom

Sitting round a dying fire in the Brindabellas one cold night. The Scouts were abed and the hip flasks were going into the brew. Our leader, a man who'd turned round a lot of lads going the wrong way, realised he was the only one native born. The conversation turned to why we came. Fred summed it up in the classic Midlands accent. He said "I fought British tanks in support of Australian Infantry in Korea, I said to myself - Any Country that can produce men like that I want to be part of" – "then I came to Canberra lad – not too many like that here" Canberra is instructive: under the local ALP we get nanny state political correctness – under the Coalition we get 'family values' Christian Right. The men Fred talked of would suffocate here.

The Common Law concept of my Freedom ending just short of your nose is the business of Government. Provided I cause no harm to others I should be able to live my life, my way. It is no business of Government to 'mould' Society. They can lead by noble example, and must ensure that Common Law values are taught in schools without spin. This they fail miserably to do.

I've lived in places where freedom prevailed

- Churchill's England of my youth, my early days in Australia and more recently and strangely South Africa – Government there has more urgent problems than social engineering.
- Where there was no law except the natural variety i.e. the natural decency of ordinary people: Specifically a remote Pilbara camp, back country Nepal and rural South Africa.

I once made the mistake of working for weeks on a detailed submission only to find the Committee had only a part time researcher and I suspect a pre agreed outcome. That is not to damn you all i.e. the ongoing work of Senators Faulkner and Ray. Also if Senator Bishop had done nothing else her work on Midford Shirts would have made her a hero. One must ask though, why there was no accessible law to protect the victims?

I'm happy to answer written questions or give verbal evidence.

Yours Faithfully

JR 16/2/04

John Reavell

PS * Attachments first otherwise this would be unbelievable.