

From-
Chris Shaw
Carisbrook

Dear Senior Clerk

The following is my submission to the Senate L C L Committee to help their enquiries into the terror laws. I have sent copies to Senators Payne, Crossin, Bartlett, Kirk, Mason and Scullion. Would you be so kind as to pass this on to any other Senators who will be involved?

Although my views will be seen as vexatious by some, I have no desire to be anonymous. Do with my letter as you will. In addition, I have not published this missive in any newspaper or website, nor sent it to any other person. Therefore I think it satisfies the basic courtesies required by the Senate Committee.

My grateful thanks

Chris, Carisbrook

To the Members of the Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee.

Dear Senators

I am deeply concerned that these laws may be used to limit open discussion about this government's motives for going to war.

So great were the lies told, so horrible the outcome for the people of Iraq, that it cannot be doubted that my Prime Minister and (then) Cabinet were guilty of war crimes.

I myself wrote to the GG, Hill, Downer, Costello, Vanstone and Abbott in February 2003, telling them that the justifications for war were a pack of lies (the PM was o/s at the time). To his credit, Tony Abbott did at least reply with a sermon from George Pell, which left me feeling more baffled than ever.

So flimsy were the fabrications, that I could not bring myself to believe that my government would actually do it. Until the opening salvos were fired, I steadfastly believed that we would desist at the last moment, that it would all prove to be a cruel joke; mere sabre-rattling.

How wrong I was. I am ashamed that I didn't make a much greater effort. What might I have accomplished had I learned to put my e-mailing skills to better use?

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It seems to me that these new terror laws are the outward expression, the canker, the ulcer that grows from the guilt of so many misdeeds. This is the legislation of frightened, guilty men who are destined to live behind concrete barricades for the rest of their lives.

On this side of the barricades, my grandchildren and I are determined to live without fear. If this is a democracy, then we

accept our share of the blame. Only we, the common people of Australia, can heal the wounds of war crimes; but only if we are not thwarted by laws that impede free and open public discourse.

Those wounds may yet heal during my children's lifetimes, but only if they are disinfected with the plain, honest truth.

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