

Tim de Beaux

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## The Australian Manufacturing Industry Inquiry

Dear Senators

I arrived here in Australia when I was about a week old.

So, at the present age of 74, I have been here for a while and have personally experienced a progression of various things in Australia, but in particular, in Manufacturing.

In the 1950's, a family could bring up kids, in their own home, comfortably on a very ordinary worker's wage. And that, in retrospect, was because we did most of our manufacturing here. Sure, real prices were higher than now but they could be afforded.

Then, we experimented with Economic Rationalism. Even I thought it sounded great. But it wasn't. It turned out to be a disaster for all but the wealthy.

So, my fundamental recommendation is to do what we used to do. Oh yes, we would have to use what has been bandied about as a dirty word... that dreadful, dare I say it? Well, here goes; Protection. Don't hit me!

But it worked. Oh, it worked really well. Now that this country has all but killed it to the benefit of other countries, they are rich and we are sliding down the wealth scale.

In the US, in the 1800's, the government there had protection then free trade – meaning no protection – I think it was 3 times. While there was protection, the GDP rose significantly. When protection was removed, the country stagnated. Protection back, off GDP went again. Back to no protection and again stagnation. It was amazing to see the numbers.

In the late 1800's, we were around the richest nation in the world. Now, where are we? Even the car industry has nicked off.

Come on guys! It's not really that hard. Anybody vaguely around my age knows the facts. There's a fundamental truth about life: if you've gone the wrong way, go back!

How do we do that? You as the government know how to do that far better than I. After all, you led the way so you know how to go back. I'm not here to make wrong. What's done is done. All we have to do is be "man" enough to acknowledge we made a couple of mistakes and return to what worked.

I can guarantee you, most of the people who are not communists but truly care about this country will support you all the way. I, for one, will do so in any media you want; TV, newspaper, radio, in person, in parliament. You name it and I'll support you.

So, what do you say? Shall we get on with it?

I know it will take a lot of guts to make this happen. After all, we didn't go the path we did because a few people tossed a few darts at a board, randomly. No, this was very well planned. And "they" are very happy the way things have gone. Because, they are the rich who have benefitted very handsomely indeed.

Have we got some strong and patient politicians to make this happen? Hmm, I wonder.

Best regards

Tim de Beaux.