

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**

**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**

**Additional Estimates February 2017**

**Communications Portfolio**

**Special Broadcasting Service**

**Question No: 58**

**Special Broadcasting Services Corporation**

**Hansard Ref: Page 38, 28/02/2017**

**Topic: Trump Coverage**

**Senator Leyonhjelm, David asked:**

**Senator LEYONHJELM:** Yes, I like it. But there is an aspect about it that I want to draw to your attention and you might want to comment on it or ignore me. In the period between the US election and the inauguration of President Trump and since then—let me make it plain that I would not have voted for Mr Trump had I had the choice—I do not think I have seen a news session at 6.30 pm where there has not been an item on Mr Trump which is either overtly negative, critical, or by implication critical. I do not think I can remember ever having seen a segment that has had anything positive to say about him. Now he is not my favourite politician by a long way but I just wonder if he is as bad as the news would suggest. I am just wondering whether you have any thoughts on that.

**Mr Ebeid:** I will take your comment as a comment. I am happy to have a look at it. I dare say that many senators in the United States would be saying the same about the media at the moment and looking for something positive to report on. I would have to go back and look at our coverage to see what sorts of stories there are. I have not notice that myself, but I am happy to have a look at it.

**Senator LEYONHJELM:** Thank you.

**Answer:**

SBS News and Current Affairs has reported on and analysed the reasons for President Trump's electoral success and continued popularity among his supporters.

For example, prior to the election the SBS current affairs program Dateline presented two documentaries relating to Mr Trump. The first "I'm Mr Trump", profiled the then-candidate and balanced the comments of his critics with those of his supporters. The second Dateline documentary, "Who's Still with Trump", covered communities in America's 'Rust Belt' examining voter support for Mr Trump, including among African-Americans and former Democrats voters. It highlighted how concerns over issues such as education and employment were giving momentum to the campaign.

SBS has reviewed its coverage of the US Presidential election and Mr Trump, and is satisfied its coverage has been balanced, fair and consistent with SBS' editorial policies. Examples include:

## **Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**

### **Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**

#### **Additional Estimates February 2017**

##### **Communications Portfolio**

##### **Special Broadcasting Service**

- 14 November 2016 – SBS covered President-elect Trump’s first interview following his election in an extended four minute report, followed by a story on the President-elect’s latest appointments.
- 2 December 2016 - SBS covered President-elect Trump’s "thank you" speech in Ohio. It was his first major address following his election.
- 8 December 2016 - SBS covered President-elect Trump being named by Time Magazine ‘Person of the Year’.
- 16 December 2016 - SBS covered President-elect Trump’s ‘victory tour’ which concluded in Pennsylvania, a formerly Democratic State.
- 3 January 2017 - SBS covered President-elect Trump’s views on Peshmerga fighters and Kurds who supported his policies.
- 28 January 2017 - SBS covered the positive reaction to President Trump’s first meeting with British Prime Minister Theresa May in Washington.
- 31 January 2017 - SBS ran a story from Pennsylvania, one of the states in which Mr Trump won the Presidential vote. The coverage included Americans strongly supportive of his policies on immigration and border protection.
- 2 February 2017 - SBS broadcast the BBC report from Tennessee where President Trump’s supporters endorsed the progress the President had made on keeping his election promises.
- 4 February 2017 – SBS’s story on the refugee deal between the US and Australia featured Australian supporters of President Trump.
- 19 February 2017 - SBS covered President Trump’s campaign-style rally where he told thousands of supporters of “incredible progress” during his first month in the White House.