

Sunday 24th January 2010

Attention: Senate Community Affairs Committee

Re: Enquiry Into Three Bills Regarding Racial Discrimination And Social Security

Dear Mesdames et Messieurs,

I write this submission in support of a Food Stamps model for the provision of basics to the poor, with no racial discrimination whatsoever.

Racism must be resolutely opposed. Racism must be recognised for the mental pollution that it is. An article I wrote on the theory of racism is attached as Appendix I.

However, the income management policy of the federal government unnecessarily intrudes into the household budgeting decisions of the poor. Food stamps are the solution.

With thousands of pages, the Social Security Act is begging for a rewrite. As demonstrated in Appendix II a very rough draft Food Stamps Act 2008 (a document I have previously circulated to Victorian Senators), the provision of a gratis charity of food and drink to the poor should occupy no more than ten statute pages including Schedules and Regulations.

My understanding is that the starving are in some places in some countries offered a charity of ten cents of lead bullet by the police; whether in Brazilian slums, Central America, African slums, or wherever it occurs, the lack of gratis charity that recognises the other in the poor and starving, and identifies with their right to eat, stands condemned.

I know that my rough draft Food Stamps Act 2008 proposed that food stamps would be legal tender for food and basics, but also for the purpose of expenses related to seeking gainful employment. I thought then that one could justify this on the basis that it is necessary and expedient to allow this expenditure to minimise long term expenditure on food stamps from consolidated revenue.

As such I proffer the attached rough draft Food Stamps Act as evidence that redrafting this law is not a technically difficult task, but a task that someone skilled in structured computer programming in C or Pascal with a good command of English grammar can undertake with a little thought and a couple of days typing.

I ask that this contribution to this issue be considered by the members of parliament on the Committee.

Yours Sincerely,
Andrew Oliver (copy with signature to follow by post.)

APPENDIX I: POLITICAL CORRECTNESS AND RACISM

A few remarks have been made about the use of derogatory sexual terms in union newsheet articles. It is time to bring the real issues relating to political correctness out into the open.

In *The Age* some years ago the claim was made that 'Abo' was originally an affectionate term for Aboriginals. The fact that such claims are published indicates that people do not understand the issues. To make them clear I will discuss the attitudes of British right-wingers to racism.

The British right claim not to be into the sort of malicious racism that the populist fascist movements propagate. Certainly they fought against such scum in world war two. But British right-wingers bemoan the taking over of traditional "Cockney" areas of inner London by immigrants. They don't understand that people are no longer willing to choose to be looked down upon as low class Cockneys, and move out for this reason.

Thus there are two kinds of racism: malicious race-hatred on the one hand, and looking down on as inferior on the other.

In a survey on the British right and its S.I.S. Right connections in *New Socialist No 13* in 1983 the tensions between individualist and nationalist strains in Britain during the '70s are analysed. The right wing protest movements that led to the election of the Thatcher government had contempt for much popular ideology. One right winger bemoaned that people were insisting on their rights, "robbed by secular liberalism of the experience of authentic spirituality, with its self-denying criteria..."

The S.I.S. Right find it hard to cope with the breakdown of the British class system with its many systems of people looking up at or looking down upon other people, that has been occurring commencing with the decline of the landed gentry in the 1800's.

To understand racism or sexism or other similar worldviews one must that there admit that there are two kinds of these: malicious hatred, and looking down on as inferior.

Another problem is concerned with terms of abuse. A term of abuse often has two meanings: a normative one and a descriptive one. "Slut" has both a descriptive meaning, female promiscuity, and a normative one, the double standard.

A left response to such ideologies must begin with a call for "absence of malice". Many racist and sexist statements are made with malicious intent, as expressions of hatred. The intellectual moral criminals who incite such hatred must be condemned.

But more than "absence of malice" is needed. A look at our own psychology is needed. An analysis of motivations and the dialectic of desire is needed to see why people bother to look down on others, or admire them as heroes. How much emotional energy is wasted by people barracking for sports heroes to win?

A society without social class is unimaginable to many leftists. They are committed to the Marxist theory that links attainment of occupational skills with looking down on other social classes, and sees consciousness as class based. That this is not necessary can be seen by the argument that the end of social class is the end of reality, a nuclear war or the like, the whole cosmos collapsing.

A reading of *New Socialist*, the former magazine of the British Labour Party would suggest that many reformist leftists have given up the fight for a class free society. The ALP does not produce any thoughtful publications, but the drift to the right here has been obvious for years.

The union movement should stand for a new psychology, an absence of malice, a desire untainted by looking down, unalienated by hero worship.

Food Stamps Act 2008

Whereas the peoples of Australia recognise the parlous state of social provision in Australia, with the lack of charity that that entails;

And whereas the peoples of Australia note the degenerating problem shifts in recent decades of the Department of Social Securities' programmes which have become less and less effective in achieving any useful social purpose, and more and more inefficient in wasting consolidated revenue on administrative costs;

And whereas the peoples of Australia lament the capture of the state and consolidated revenue by the selfish moral bankrupts of the new class, and the bankrupt projection of the interests of the new class onto the body politic;

And whereas the peoples of Australia assert that consolidated revenue being the accumulated proceeds of the labours of the ordinary people is therefore the property of the ordinary people, to be used by the ordinary people for the purposes of the ordinary people by this act restituted from the hands of diverse public servants as restituted property in the hands of the ordinary people;

Be it therefore enacted by the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia the delegates of the ordinary people and by the authority of the same as follows:-

Food Stamps Act 2008

PART I: General Provisions.

1. The following programmes of the Department of Social Security as administered by Centrelink and other agencies shall be abolished with immediate effect as of the 1st July 2008:-
 - (i) Newstart Allowance;
 - (ii) Disability Support Pension;
 - (iii) Widow's Pension and Widower's Pension;
 - (iv) Special Benefit;
 - (v) any like benefits other than Old Age Pension;and the legislative provisions for the same shall be repealed as of the 1st July 2008 as specified in Schedule I.
2. Lists of the various beneficiaries of the abolished programmes shall be compiled beforehand with appropriate details and given in a timely manner to the elected administrators of the replacement programmes as specified in this and other acts to aid in the elimination of fraud.
3. This act is to be read in conjunction with the Emergency Shelter And Allowances Act 2008, the Pharmaceutical Benefits Act 2008, the Old Age Pensions Act 2008, the Permanently And Totally Incapacitated National Insurance Scheme 2008, the Medical Aids Insurance Scheme And Torts For Personal Injuries Not Justiciable Act 2008, the Health And Dental Insurance Scheme Act 2008, and such other replacement enactments as prove necessary.
4. The Department of Social Security shall be abolished on the 1st July 2008 and its staff retrenched.
5. There shall be no racial discrimination whatsoever in the administration of the Food Stamps Act 2008.
6. Food Stamps shall be not income to recipients for the purposes of income tax, as assets they shall be not recoverable assets at law, and shall be declared not to be compensation for the purpose of any law.
7. The established offices of Food Stamps Clerks for each borough shall be elected on a date in March of each calendar year as determined by the Minister of Food Stamps.

PART II: Food Stamps Clerks

DIVISION I: Established Offices

8. For every financial year each federal electorate of the Commonwealth of Australia shall be assessed by the Bureau of Census and Statistics to determine the numbers of poor people in each electorate who in the absence of provision of Food Stamps would be malnourished, and these numbers and geographical considerations shall be utilized by the Australian Electoral Commission to divide each federal electorate into the number of boroughs each thought able to be capably administered by the number of three Food Stamps Clerks that this act provides for each borough.
9. Each borough shall have established offices being three Food Stamps Clerks who shall each be paid a sum of \$250,000 each year for themselves and all the expenses of their offices and the carrying out of their duties as prescribed by this act, payable in four yearly instalments.
10. Each panel of three Food Stamps Clerks shall be provided with as many sheets of Food Stamps, and as many sheets of Postage Stamps, as they require for the carrying out of their duties.

DIVISION II: Electoral Provisions For Food Stamps Clerks

11. For each financial year the three Food Stamps Clerks in each borough shall be elected at a public meeting in March held in the evening at some venue situate in the borough.
12. The three Food Stamps Clerks in each borough shall be elected by and from the ordinary people in the said borough present and voting at the said meeting.
13. The annual meeting for the election of Food Stamps Clerks shall be publicised in the borough by the Australian Electoral Commission by newspaper advertisement, posted bills, and otherwise.
14. The electoral procedure shall be by open division with the three candidates having the most votes elected after progressive elimination of candidates with the fewest votes each ordinary person having two votes as follows:-
 - (i) the Australian Electoral Commission shall provide a Returning Officer;
 - (ii) nominations will be taken at the start of the meeting;
 - (iii) the meeting will twice divide into supporters of each outstanding candidate, moving apart to distance themselves from other candidates' supporters;
 - (iv) the numbers from the two divisions will be tallied;
 - (v) if four or more candidates remain, the candidate with the fewest votes will be eliminated, provided that if several candidates tie for having the least votes then the Returning Officer will draw a name from a hat to eliminate;
 - (vi) steps (iii) through (v) will continue until three candidates remain;
 - (vii) if only three candidates stand they shall be elected without further process.
15. Every Food Stamps Clerk shall be issued with an official stamp, as shall every federal cabinet minister.

PART III: Procedure For Determining Eligibility For Food Stamps

16. Every person legally resident in Australia temporarily or permanently citizen or not shall be eligible for Food Stamps if at a quarterly one hour audience with the three Food Stamps Clerks for the borough the person resides in determines the person is at risk of malnourishment in the opinion of at least two of the Food Stamps Clerks having regard to:-
 - (i) the person's employment status;
 - (ii) the state of the person's place of residence and whether the person derives familial support from other members of the person's family;
 - (iii) the person's income howsoever derived;
 - (iv) the person's liquid assets, marketable publicly listed shares and other securities and the like;
 - (v) the food supplies at the person's place of residence;
 - (vi) whether the person has other assets not immediately required for sustenance or as tools of trade and whether or not they could be auctioned by the person for a fair price, such as stamp albums, coin collections, or such like, and whether the person has been making efforts to convert such assets into cash;
 - (vii) efforts to find employment or improve employment status;
 - (viii) any other considerations thought relevant by the three Food Stamps Clerks.
17. Each person in receipt of Food Stamps shall be posted a Food Stamps Application Form being Schedule II approximately every three months with notice of the time date and place appointed for an audience with the three Food Stamps Clerks for the borough in which the person resides with details of any documentation the person should bring according to the three policies of the three Food Stamps Clerks for the said borough. Provided that in the case of persons under the age of eighteen the notice may be sent to the person's parent or adult guardian. Provided also that upon written application by new applicants this procedure shall be applied mutatis mutandis.
18. Each person in receipt of Food Stamps and every new applicant shall attend a one hour audience with the three Food Stamps Clerks every calendar quarter to become or remain eligible, bringing any documentation the person considers relevant. Provided that in the case of persons under the age of eighteen the person may be represented by a parent or adult guardian attending together with the person.
19. The person shall submit a Food Stamps Application Form to the Food Stamps Clerks at the audience being Schedule II and when signed and stamped by the official stamps of two of the Food Stamps Clerks the person shall retain the form as proof of eligibility for approximately a quarter until the next audience.
20. The Food Stamps Clerks shall record the person's name and postal address and arrange for the postage of \$100 of Food Stamps being \$80 of \$5 Food Stamps and \$20 of \$0.50 Food Stamps weekly to the said address. Provided that by reasonable notice to the Food Stamps Clerks the postal address may be updated.
21. The determination of Food Stamps Clerks to grant or refuse any application for Food Stamps shall be declared to be of inherent administrative discretion and non-appealable at law. Should an applicant write to the Minister of Food Stamps then in cases of corruption or maladministration or whensoever the Minister otherwise so determines then the personal signature and stamp of the Minister of Food Stamps together with the personal signature and stamp of another federal cabinet minister shall suffice to overrule a panel of Food Stamps Clerks until the next annual election for Food Stamps Clerks in the said borough or applicable redistricted borough as the case may be.
22. A determination to refuse Food Stamps for one quarter shall not bar re-application for the next quarter.
23. Food Stamps Application Forms being Schedule II shall be freely available at every post office.

PART IV: Food Stamps As Legal Tender

24. Subject to section 36, Food Stamps shall always be declared legal tender for the following payments:-
- (i) food;
 - (ii) drinks other than alcohol and intoxicating liquors;
 - (iii) water, but not water bill infrastructure levies;
 - (iv) gas and fuel for cooking or heating the place of residence, but not gas bill infrastructure levies;
 - (v) electricity for cooking or heating or lighting the place of residence or storing food, but not electricity infrastructure levies;
 - (vi) towels and aprons and cooking gloves;
 - (vii) cutlery and dishes and cookware and pots and pans;
 - (viii) public transport;
 - (ix) second hand clothing;
 - (x) second hand kitchen furniture;
 - (xi) fridges;
 - (xii) stoves ovens and cooking appliances;
 - (xiii) telephone per call usage charges, but not telecommunications infrastructure levies;
 - (xiv) postage stamps;
 - (xv) newspapers and magazines containing job advertisements relevant to the person's trade or profession;
 - (xvi) stationery necessary to make job applications;
 - (xvii) in respect of persons whose trade or profession requires the paying of an annual licence fee or the membership of a trade or professional association or the paying of a professional indemnity insurance levy or scheme fee, the said levy or fee or membership fee, subject to section 31;
 - (xviii) in respect of persons whose trade or profession requires tools of trade or equipment or the like, insurance of the same and repair fees for the same;
 - (xix) Internet café hourly fees and printing charges.
25. For purposes pursuant to section 24 for which Food Stamps are legal tender the person may haggle for cash change of up to \$4.95 per sale whenever it proves convenient to the merchant or service provider.
26. Food Stamps may be banked by merchants and service providers into an ordinary bank account.
27. Food Stamps shall not be assessed as income for the purpose of income tax for recipients of Food Stamps.
28. Food Stamps shall not be regarded as assets for the purpose of estate duties or gift taxes.
29. Persons in receipt of Food Stamps shall be exempt from paying:-
- (i) local rates and garbage levies;
 - (ii) water infrastructure levies, being the fixed annual or quarterly charge on a water bill;
 - (iii) sewage infrastructure levies, being the fixed annual or quarterly charge on a sewage bill;
 - (iv) electricity infrastructure levies, being the fixed annual or quarterly charge on a electricity bill;
 - (v) gas infrastructure levies, being the fixed annual or quarterly charge on a gas bill;
 - (vi) telephone infrastructure levies, being the fixed annual or quarterly charge on a telephone bill;
 - (vii) post office box rental fees;
 - (viii) prescription drug fees;
 - (ix) standard medical and dental consultation fees.
30. Secular and religious charities one of whose principal purposes is to offer free or subsidised goods or services to those in receipt of Food Stamps shall be exempt from paying:-
- (i) goods and services tax;
 - (ii) if a company, company tax;
 - (iii) if a trust, income tax;
 - (iv) in respect of bequests, estate duties and gift taxes;
 - (v) local rates and garbage levies;
 - (vi) water infrastructure levies, being the fixed annual or quarterly charge on a water bill;
 - (vii) sewage infrastructure levies, being the fixed annual or quarterly charge on a sewage bill.
31. Persons in receipt of Food Stamps whose trade or profession requires the paying of an annual licence fee or the membership of a trade or professional association or the paying of a professional indemnity insurance levy or scheme fee shall during the period when the said person is unemployed or underemployed and in receipt of Food Stamps be eligible to pay 10% of the quarterly normal fee calculated on a quarterly instalment basis.

PART V: Fraud Procedure And Criminal Offences

32. There shall be no discrimination whatsoever against recipients of Food Stamps in the provision of goods and services, other than the legal tender restriction provisions for Food Stamps in sections 24 and 36.
Penalty: 1 year's imprisonment.
33. Food Stamps Clerks shall apply this act in all good faith and sincerity and without corruption.
Penalty: 1 year's imprisonment.
34. Food Stamps Clerks shall administer this act in an effective and efficient manner without gross maladministration. Provided that where a public meeting of the ordinary people situate in the borough concerned resolves by two thirds majority to have no confidence in the Food Stamps Clerks for the said borough, the Minister of Food Stamps shall consider the matter and may dismiss the said Food Stamps Clerks and order a by-election for three Food Stamps Clerks to complete the said Clerks' term.
35. Where it is proven in the Federal Magistrates' Court that applicants for Food Stamps have lied to the Food Stamps Clerks at an audience for application for Food Stamps or uttered forged documents thereto the said applicant may be imprisoned for a period of up to one year.
36. Food Stamps shall not be legal tender as payment for the following purposes:-
(i) prescription drugs;
(ii) alcohol and intoxicating liquors;
(iii) tobacco;
(iv) gambling;
(v) medical and dental fees;
(vi) computer game playing;
and any attempt to tender Food Stamps as payment for the same shall be declared fraud.
Penalty: 1 year's imprisonment.
37. All offences under this Part shall be dealt with by the Federal Magistrates' Court.