

Ms Linda Banks

Submissions.

The Senate Inquiry into  
an Australian Republic.

The Secretary  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Reference Committee  
Parliament House,  
Canberra, A.C.T. 2600.

STATEMENT:

I place on record my objections that the inquiry does not canvass opinions from the majority of Australians who do not wish change to a republic and I would like it formally recorded that I do not agree with any change to our existing Constitution.

Furthermore I am totally opposed to any plebiscite being held. Neither the Constitution nor the law of this country provide for plebiscites and any Government can purposely frame the question to facilitate obtaining the answer they desire.

The Founding Fathers created a brilliant set of balances checking each arm of government as no Republican Constitution could ever do. If the President is appointed by the Parliament, he will become a minion of the Government. If elected by popular vote, he will assume an authority which could well counter that of the Government.

No former British Colony which retained Westminster but removed The Crown has been able to maintain the sort of democratic freedoms enjoyed by Australians under our Constitution.

All of the questions raised by the Inquiry whether

relating to a United States type of Presidency, a French style or a President appointed by the Parliament will completely upset its delicate system of checks and balances within our Constitution. The Office of Prime Minister and the Lower House of Parliament have already assumed as much (and possibly even more) power as allowed under the framework of our Constitution. To create what will be a political presidency will, in the case of an appointed President, place too much influence into the hand of the Prime Minister, or in the event of an elected President, create a rival power to that of the Prime Minister. Both systems will undermine the democratic nature existent in our current Constitution and will greatly depreciate the power of the people.

Linda Banks (Mrs)