



4 - 2 - '04.

The Secretary,
Senate Legal and Constitutional References Committee,
Parliament House,
CANBERRA, ACT 2600.

Dear Sir,

I wish to place on record my objection that the Senate Inquiry into an Australian Republic does not canvass opinions from the majority of Australian citizens who do not wish a change towards a republic. I would also like it formally recorded that I do not agree with any change to our existing constitution.

Furthermore I am fully against any plebiscite being held. Neither the constitution nor the law of this country provide for plebiscites. Also, any government could purposely frame questions in such a way that it would facilitate the obtainment of answers desired.

No republican constitution could ever guarantee the delicate and excellent set of checks and balances which our present system of government provides. A president appointed by the Federal Parliament would become a minion of the government. If he or she would be elected by the people, he or she could assume an authority which could obstruct the workings of that government. In other words: republican rule would then restrict our democratic freedoms. That has become apparent in those countries, former British colonies, which have retained a Westminster system, but are constitutional monarchies no longer.

The thirty questions as formulated by the Senate Inquiry are most one-sided; they do not leave any room for the opposite viewpoint as far as a change towards another form of government is concerned - as if the Australian population had voted in favour of such a change already!

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "J. Baird". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.