



Objection 33

Edith J Hamilton

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-----Original Message-----

From: Edith Jean Hamilton

Sent: Sunday, 15 April 2018 7:12 PM

To: imfo@aec.gov.au; INFO <info@aec.gov.au>; Andrew.Leigh.mp@aph.gov.au; ISS Information <info@awm.gov.au>; Gai.Brodtmann.mp@aph.gov.au; ISS Information <info@awm.gov.au>

Subject: Proposed Name new ACT Electorate: Bean

Importance: High

I write in response to the Commission's invitation to members of the public to provide comment on the proposed name of BEAN being considered for the new electorate in the ACT.

Your invitation invited contact in the form of a letter; in the year 2018, I prefer cybercontact and trust this receives the same acknowledgement. However, I was unable to locate a specific email address, so have directed my response to the AEC general email contact address.

To say I am astounded and appalled that this name is being considered as most preferable, has attracted statements of approval from such notable citizens as Dr Brendan Nelson. Director, Australian War Memorial and may even be the final choice is to put it mildly, indeed.

There is ample reliable historical and empirical evidence - the latest available in Ross Coulthart's recently published biography - of Charles E W Bean's unabashed and unremorseful anti-semitism. Mr Bean's renowned and bold investigative journalism has provided Australians and the wider world with matchless historical records of the strategies, failures and horrors of Australia's role in World War I. However, his malicious and virulent post-War campaign designed to undermine the deserved and just recognition of the achievements of General Sir John Monash cannot be discounted. Sir John Monash has been only recently, undeniably, and gratefully, credited with shortening the duration of this dreadful conflict of nations with his original, bold and enterprising military strategies employed in its closing stages.

Mr Bean's pusillanimous efforts to deny Monash's just honour were aided and abetted successfully, regrettably, by the willing participation and

falsification of evidence by Keith Murdoch, newspaper owner. If I may

be permitted a personal observation, this careless treatment of the facts persists in the manner of news dissemination by his descendants today. Thankfully, this honourable Australian has finally been recognised after many years of diligent, accredited scholarship denying the misinformation and prejudice set in motion by Mr Bean and his accomplice, Keith Murdoch.

The persistent, unpleasant, malicious and insulting language used by Charles Bean in his propaganda campaign against Jewish people generally, and thinly disguised animosity and contempt for Sir John Monash's familial history is beneath contempt. It belongs to a time in history that is shameful to all Australians and should receive no accolade, despite other worthy achievements of this complex Australian.

It would be a moral outrage to disregard this graceless prejudice and set this unpleasant aspect of Charles E W Bean's persona in the perpetuity of electoral acknowledgement by giving his name to this new proposed ACT Electorate.

Yours faithfully

Edith J Hamilton

Courtesy cc: Attention: The Hon. Brendan Nelson, AO BMBS FRACP (Hon.) FAMA FRSN
Andrew Leigh, Member for Fenner
Gai Brodtmann, Member for Canberra