



Objection 36

Digby Habel

2 pages

AEC

Redistribution Secretariat.

Objection to the potential naming of the new Southern ACT electorate.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide an objection to the proposed naming of the new electorate.

My objection is based on comments based on excerpts from the book, “Charles Bean: If People Really Knew” by Ross Coulthart and also comments made by Coulthart in a Radio National broadcast

The proposed name, (Bean), for the new ACT southern electorate is not appropriate for the following reasons:

- Charles Bean on several occasions attempted to undermine Sir John Monash’s military leadership in World War 1 on the basis of his Jewish heritage. Bean wrote, “We do not want Australia represented by men mainly because of their ability, natural and inborn in Jews, to push themselves”. Bean also condemned Monash’s “Jewish capacity for worming silently into favour without seeming to take any steps towards it.”;
- According to Coulthart, “Bean did what he could to have Monash removed from his command”. Fortunately, he did not succeed. Monash was later knighted on the battle field for “shortening the war”. Monash is probably Australia’s greatest military commander;
- Many in the Australian community will resent having an electorate named after a person who was known to have anti-Semitic views that could have impacted on Monash’s efforts. Whether such views were acceptable then is irrelevant, they should never have been acceptable;
- The new electorate will encompass the existing suburb of Monash. Given Bean’s animosity towards Sir John Monash, it would be insulting and hurtful to those who respect the dedication of our most famous soldier if the electorate is named after Charles Bean; and
- If it is important to have an electorate named after a significant ACT based historian perhaps you could consider Manning Clark, the author of the most known history of Australia

Note: The AEC website indicates that Charles “Bean was Australia’s official correspondent to the Australian Imperial Force after winning an Australian Journalists Association ballot. “

It may be appropriate to check the linked ABC podcast below (at 23minutes 30 seconds) which suggests Banjo Paterson, the Boer War correspondent, was the journalists' choice. (http://mpegmedia.abc.net.au/rn/podcast/2016/11/Inl_20161110_2205.mp3)

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

Digby Habel

17/4/18

Please acknowledge the receipt of this email. Thanks