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25th May 2001

Mr Shane Stone
Federal President Liberal Party
Liberal Party Federal Secretariat
RG Menzies House
PO Box E13
KINGSTON ACT 2604

Dear Mr Stone,

I've read with interest, mainly in the Bulletin, the contents of your letter to John Howard that caused the furore.

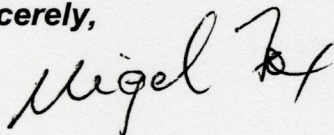
As a life-long Liberal voter, I would just like to endorse everything you have said. Also, most of my friends, who are Liberal voters, think the same way. There is a deep anger amongst the faithful and strangely enough, the anger is deepened by the fact that the opposition are even worse, so there's no one we can really vote for apart from the current Liberal party.

The rot really set in with the superannuation surcharge. It was an ill-conceived "smart aleck" tax that not only made it a nightmare for super funds to administer, but also made superannuation only very marginally better than any other form of investment. It just brought home to me that we'd really just elected another mob of politicians who have no idea how the real world works.

I won't go into the way the introduction of the GST and the BAS statements were handled as there has already been enough said about that. I don't actually do the donkey work associated with the BAS statements, but my wife does it for my practice and superannuation fund and the first few BAS statements just about drove her mad.

I write this, just to give you another letter to add to the chorus of unhappy Liberal voters. They've gone a little way towards redressing our concerns in the budget, but a huge amount of damage has already been done.

Yours sincerely,



NIGEL D FOX

NDF:rb



The Liberal Party of Australia

FEDERAL SECRETARIAT

FEDERAL PRESIDENT
Hon. Shane L. Stone QC

Dr. Nigel D. Fox
186 Thirteenth Street
Mildura. Vic. 3500

13 June, 2001

Dear ~~Dr.~~ *Nigel* Fox,

Thank you for your recent note about **"that memo"**. Sorry I've taken a while to respond but there has been a lot of mail to get through and I type all my own letters.

One of the great lessons I learned as a Minister and Chief Minister of the Northern Territory was **"never forget them that brung yu"** – that is, those who vote you into office and work tirelessly for your re election.

I agreed to become the volunteer unpaid Federal President of the Liberal Party on my retirement because I care about the community that my kids are growing up in I wanted to give something back to the Party.

Even though I still live and work in Darwin friends and colleagues encouraged me to stay involved.

My support for John Howard, and his re election is not based on self-interest. It's very simple – John has restored a sense of integrity and honesty to the office of Prime Minister. Along the way he has delivered important gains for ordinary Australians. Sure, we all have our disappointments and "gripes" – I've got some – but that doesn't deter me from working hard to re elect the coalition government [by the way I do do the "donkey work" in helping prepare the BAS statement and just received my superannuation surcharge bill – I'm not a happy camper on this issue].

However I hope that you and your friends think about the alternative – Kim Beazley and the 3 ex Presidents of the ACTU [Jenny George, Ferguson and Crean] all waiting in the wings. Lets face it a number of the new ministers in a Beazley Labor Government would be former hard-line union officials. And of course don't forget Cheryl. It's too awful to really contemplate.

I was disappointed the memo leaked. In fact there was nothing remarkable about it's contents as you correctly point out. Some say it was a bit slow coming. Written in February it accurately reflected what people had to say at that time. Reporting accurately the views of the community and the membership is my job. I make no apologies for that.

Most importantly the Government has shown that they are listening. Typically and predictably the Australian media brandish headlines like "Government back flip", or "Government Back down" [guess it helps to sell newspapers, radio and TV advertising]. I see it differently but sadly you will never read the headline "**Government Listens and Responds to Community Concerns**". This sad state of affairs says more about the media than it does about any of us.

Well I haven't resigned, I'm no less forthright in reporting back to the Prime Minister and come election time I will be front and center working to re election John Howard as Prime Minister – I'm sure you would expect nothing less.

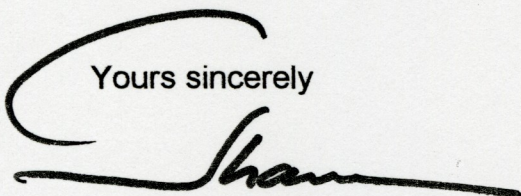
And if as the critics and self-important commentators claim Labor will use "the memo" in their advertising campaign so be it. It will serve as a timely reminder that Government listened and most importantly acted.

Thank you for your note. It was greatly appreciated and came at time when I needed and valued a little community reassurance.

I hope you will consider carefully what I have written and recommit to supporting the re election of the Howard Government. It is one thing to write to me applauding my actions, it is another to stand beside me resolute and determined not to allow the very same economic vandals who ran up a \$90 billion debt, "**a recession we had to have**" and interest rates of 17% or more to take back the reins of government.

You live in a great part of Victoria. I grew up in Wodonga. My kind regards and best wishes.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shane', with a large, sweeping flourish above it that starts under the word 'Yours sincerely' and extends to the right.

Shane L. Stone

PS. How about that – for the last 6 months we have had to put up with the doom and gloom merchants in the media and Opposition tell us we are in recession- not so according to those who actually know what their talking about – no recession for Australia !!!!! What sort of people talk down their own country ?