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3rd May 2001

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Attn Lynton Crosby Shane Stone

Re that shameful leak.

Couldn't have happened at a better time. Fran Kelly and ABC in her company look like idiots. Even Kerry O'Brien couldn't make it sound disastrous.

They (the media) look like fools, not the government...

One does wonder?

Out here in the population who electorate by electorate will be sending you lot back for a third term feelings seem to be mutual in approval.

It is good, the electorate is being governed but not listened to that is a fact. It needs to be said and the electors need to know it is being said.

Peter doesn't smile enough, he does present too often as the benevolent uncle.

On BAS statements he may as well have been patting the electorate on the head and saying "Never mind dears Uncle Peter has fixed it" That is how he came over.

It is a long time since the Australian Government got out and asked the people to tell them when they are dissatisfied and what they think of the government.

It is a long time since the electorate had any significant input into the formulation of policy, and that is the most important of all morale boosters at grass roots level.

Prime Minister Howard isn't blameless in this. It is the real "WE" of the government out here on the ground who get out there and tell people such as superannuants and pensioners that governments have to have time to implement legislation and the government won't overlook them in the next budget. Those of us who have been around long enough know this.

The Prime Minister leaves himself and his government open to critical appraisal by not encouraging communication

The electorate offices are also failing in this regard

"I wrote but they didn't answer"...

"They said my call would be returned"

This applies equally to Ministerial Offices.

"We aren't an information bureau" from one Federal Ministers Office.

We simply are not performing to the best of our ability.

Instead the people have this erroneous opinion that they get a say via the ballot box and only via the ballot box. That is a big mistake-Huge.

We have about 6 months to fix it.

Shane Stone could well have inadvertently brought to the attention not only of the government but also the people a line of communication to be emulated in a truthfully democratic way.

If we the people have no line of communication to the Government, how then is the Government to know what we think?

Following Queensland election I documented some information on One Nation then decided to wait before sending it to the PMs Office. (Tony Nutt) there is some very similar comment to what Shane has said in actual quotes from electors.

This is my personal opinion and has no relevance to the Campaign for Cowper. The Liberal Party can and will win Cowper.

I have been a member of the Liberal Party for 30 years with a couple of short breaks when resident in Maranoa and New England (until branches were established in both electorates)

Sincerely

Fay Relton

Fay Relton.



The Liberal Party of Australia

FEDERAL SECRETARIAT

FEDERAL PRESIDENT
Hon. Shane L. Stone QC

Mr Ray Felton
P.O Box 752
Coffs Harbour. NSW. 2450

7 June, 2001

Dear

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. I rather like your observation about Fran Kelly and the ABC. We should remember Kerry O'Brien's Labor credentials – he was Whitlam's press secretary after all.

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.

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. 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.

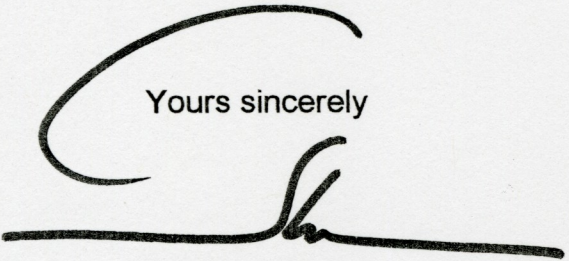
And if as the critics and self-important commentators claim Labor will use "the memo" in their advertising campaign so be it. It will serve as a timely reminder that Government listened and most importantly acted.

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 to take back the reins of government.

My kind regards and best wishes.

Yours sincerely



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 ?