

ATTENTION MR. SHANE STONE.

Congratulations for sending "that memo" to the Prime Minister.

It hit the nail on the head several times.

The issues raised in the memo have been a source of discontent amongst the general public for some time.

They are the reason One Nation did so well in the Queensland State Election a couple of years ago.

Howard, Costello, Moore et al were too blind or arrogant to see it then and still don't get the picture.

History is littered with the carcasses of powerful people who chose to listen only to what they wanted to hear.

You have nothing to apologise for.

If the Liberal party chooses to shoot the messenger rather than heed the message, it will only hasten its inevitable demise.

Copies to Mr. Howard
and Mr. Costello.

J. Andison
John Andison,
8 Horseshoe Bay Road,
BOWEN. 4805.



The Liberal Party of Australia

FEDERAL SECRETARIAT

FEDERAL PRESIDENT

Hon. Shane L. Stone QC

Mr John Andison
8 Horseshoe Bay Road
Bowen. Qld. 4805

7 June, 2001

Dear Mr Andison,

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.

Don't worry I'm not about to be shot and One Nation don't have the answers – all they do is raise the problems and we all know what they are. The question what we do about those problems – let me tell you I'm working overtime.

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.

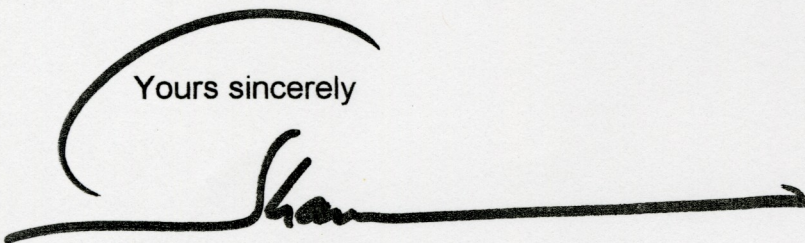
Thank you for your note. It was greatly appreciated and came at time when I needed and valued a little community reassurance.

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.

So how about a bit of support?

My kind regards and best wishes.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shane', followed by a long horizontal line that ends in an arrowhead pointing 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 ?*