Philosophical Statement, Party Platform & Pledges of the Republican Party of Australia for Senate Election (State of New South Wales) Saturday, 1st December 1984

Peter Consandine
Brian Buckley
respectively in GROUP "G" on the official ballot paper for the election.

Philosophy:
We believe Australia should become a Democratic Republic. 1986 should be the year — when we celebrate our BICENTENARY of European settlement — that we complete our efforts to bring about the most appropriate republican system. We envisage that this system will be a Commonwealth of Nations if we wished to. However, we need urgent constitutional reform. For 150 million people — we are an over-governed nation. We have too many elections. We need a real Bill of Human Rights — indeed an entirely new, more flexible, effective and appropriate constitutional reform. For 150 million people — we are an impossible people. We need fixed terms of government of 4 years, with National and Regional elections held simultaneously. And we need a multiple-member proportional representation system. The Westminster system has "had its day" — it is outdated.

We see the Australian Republic, and a Republican governmental system as essentially a vital step in the world of creating an Australian identity, self-confidence and independence — a breathing of our multi cultures.

We hold to the politics, ideology and ethics of the real world, in PRACTICALISM. The Republican Party expouses egalitarian virtues and values, choice and individualism. Australian Republicans give precedence to the concept of the sustainable lifestyle, and to the strategy of survival. The earth is humanity's life support resource and is therefore of a critical threat. Our highest priority must therefore be the practice of a lifestyle which is sustainable yet comfortable and accommodating (not a permanent base). Thus the need for the strategy of survival (S.O.S.). We can but make only an embryonic contribution to the beginnings of this most important process. Popular support for the practice of the sustainable lifestyle should transcend all allegiances and be in the interest of all Australians that we all contribute to the S.O.S. strategy in whatever way we choose.

The Continuing "GREENING" Campaign:
Emerging threatening threats to the resources of Earth's surface. The alternative is the surfeit exploitation of Earth's resources now and in the foreseeable future by an EARTHSOURCE DOOM of our own making. Already we are witnessing the alarming destruction of our precious forests, moist woodlands and wetlands — and with these, the destruction of the whole National Ecosystem. And acid and mutagenic pollutants is increasing alarmingly. Native plants and animals are being wiped out by the rampant advance of experimental growth accelerators. And our water tables are sinking rapidly, our soils are eroding dramatically.

Green is Australia's fundamental colour. Our campaign strategy, in no small measure, is meant to heighten environmental and ecological awareness. "GREENING" emphasizes not merely trees but all urban things: the window box, community garden plots, school gardens, nature strips, herb and vegetable gardens, trees and shrubs in our cities, towns and suburbs and on our farms and in our forests and rural centres.

"GREENING" essentially is about the intensified conservation activities which we all can, indeed must, make a contribution towards. Simply put, reduced GROWING will lead to an OXYGEN FAMINE. What will Earth describe the "GREENING"?
GREENING POLICY
1. The allocation, by regional authorities, of the utilization of municipal and federal forests, and the distribution of 5 native trees or shrubs per plant, in order to encourage the planting of plantations per public road and freeways.
2. Mandatory native tree and shrub addiction and planting of urban and rural areas, highways and freeways.
3. Mandatory native tree and shrub addiction and planting of all new industrial estate development.
4. Preservation and conservation of all native fauna to the utmost extent practicable.
5. Severe punishment for the proven poachers of the Nation's Estate.
6. National introduction of lead-free petrol and taxation deductions for conversions by private motorists over a 2 year period.
7. The establishment of an AUSTRALIAN SURVIVAL AUTHORITY.
8. A 5 fold increase in funding for Agricultural Biology Research.
10. Re-statement, forthwith, of the Water Resources program.
11. New Anthropology courses (with modern refinements) introduction at Australian universities so that we can learn the skills of our aboriginal people who lived in organic harmony with their surroundings.
12. Completion of 'PROJECT AQUARIUS' bushfire control research.

We have had RADICAL CHIC and CONSERVATIVE CHIC in recent times... it is now time for SURVIVAL CHIC!!!

The General Platform:

Political Economic Principles for a Sustainable Society:

THE ECONOMY
1. Should encourage the conservation of natural resources.
2. Should enhance the environment and its value, which gives each person the opportunity to fulfill their work and leisure.
3. Should afford equitable growth for all.
4. Should provide planned obsolescence, waste of uncontrolled technology.
5. Should tax economic extravagance.
6. Men and women are not technological animals and more than they are economic or political ones.

The present Prime Minister is meeting a 1985 re-elect TAX SUMMIT and whilst we have met with our own criteria for a fairer, more efficient and better economic and taxation system, then we currently have:

We truly believe that if the ordinary people of Australia do a more efficient and lower tax rate when taxes, overall, should be more visible, the best tax is the visible tax — Eric Ristroms. A large-scale, taxation deductions should be more broad, by Australia's economic and taxation system, demand and urgent needs a thorough overhaul. There should be:

1. Bank finance more readily available for those who seek it. Also: optimum investment and was priority through increased competition between banks. Also access for small businesses. Total growth bank mergers.
2. Hot housing and land values.

Industrial Relations and Employment:

The nature of our industrial relations and employment will be determined by the Australian workforce and its needs.

The need to develop a national infrastructure for our nation's workforce.

Heating the workplace, when we have our workplace, is another day.

A national infrastructure for the workforce. The workforce in the workplace will be further educated.
Transport:
A National Transport Compensation scheme should be married with a National Highways Scheme and levied in the same fashion as Medicare. We support the building of circumferential road systems and planned expressway corridors in the urban areas.

National Urban Plan:
Incorporating aspects of the "Engineered Australian Plan" (see Laurie Hogan's book: "MAN MADE MOUNTAIN"), we believe in the dire necessity of devising a 'CITIES PLAN'. The Scandinavian model would be most applicable to Australia's needs. The National Urban Plan accommodates environmental considerations, regional Australian needs. The National Urban Plan would be most applicable to all urban dwellers. To coin a word: "PLANAGEMENT".

De-Bureaucratisation:
Abolition of security of tenure in public employment: less government intervention and regulation.

Education:
The favouring of the teaching of the "NEW ANTHROPOLOGY" in lieu of the discredited "creationism", to young students. (See "SURVIVAL STRATEGY" outline on Page 1).
The placing of accent on relevant-to-future "sunrise industry" teaching and instruction whilst simultaneously encouraging "peripheral" studies at home (with Education Department guidelines). The minimum of YEAR 10 standard for all students.

The Arts:
The rigorous adherence to the Defence of Australian Employment Policy in theatre, films, stage productions, concerts, television commercials, etc. The Australian Broadcasting Corporation's department heads should be Australian but where a foreigner is appointed he or she should be (a) contracted for a short term (b) prepared to apply for Australian citizenship after one year in the position — provided a renewal of the appointed person's contract is contemplated. No foreign combines may own Australian land — we would permit 99 year leases and/or rentals.

Health and Welfare:
The preventative medicine message should be related to children from their kindergarten days.
The government should register all drug addicts and make it the sensible decision to legalise hard drug distribution by Government agencies only.
We favour Medicare-funded family planning.

Foreign Policy, Defence and Overseas Aid:
The A.N.Z.U.S. treaty should be re-negotiated and "tightened" in Australia's favour. The very best diplomatic and cultural relations must be established with INDONESIA. We advocate a firm treaty of cooperation with the Indonesians. We favour the despatching of aid in the broad sense overseas but we believe a caveat should apply to all aid provided: that we deliver and distribute same to the needs it is aimed for in the first place.

We should export expertise, advisers, trainees, lecturers, surgeons, etc. and most certainly, we should instigate a system of Australian universities overseas (ASIÁ, AFRICA, SOUTHERN AND CENTRAL AMERICA). There are 5 very good reasons why:
- Overcrowding would be reduced at Australian universities.
- New job opportunities would be created for Australian academics.
- Building, staff, maintenance and accommodation charges would be lower in these developing countries.
- The cost of attending these universities would be much less for the students, and
- The presence of an Australian tertiary institution overseas would promote good relations with the host country.
We should create an Australian Peace Corps and make INDONESIA the first country where we pilot the scheme.
We should initiate a SOUTHERN PACIFIC AUSTRALIAN combined defence force to include New Zealand and other regional neighbours.
We favour an extension of the Defence Forces to facilitate a permanent, streamlined coast guard which will decentralise air and sea rescue operations.

Freedoms and Choices:
We champion the right of choice for all individuals. We are concerned about the heightening Orwellian tendencies of public authorities and these trends should be reversed.
We oppose liberal non-censorship for over 18's.
We support full adult rights (and corresponding responsibilities) at age 18.
We believe the optimal retiring age — for men and women — can be age 50.
We assert that all Australian citizens are entitled to the living working wage (determined by tribunal e.g. a retained but restructured Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission).

Australianisation:
No foreign combines may own Australian land — we would permit 99 year leases and/or rentals.
No foreign shareholding should exceed 49%.
There should be tax incentives for those Australian businesses (large or small) to convert their overseas-named businesses to native Australian names (over a 2 year period).

The Nuclear Question:
We stand for the maximum practical effort in reducing the threat of nuclear war and in trying to influence the nuclear powers to reduce and dismantle their nuclear armaments stockpiles.

Constitutional and Legislative Reform
Donald Jefferis in a CURRENT AFFAIRS BULLETIN (December 1981) article entitled "REMAKING THE AUSTRALIAN CONSTITUTION" spoke of: a new constitution will be above government, parliament and people but must not be out of the reach of the people and a policy undergoes change and evolution, so should the constitution.
We contend the following:
1. Referendas should be carried into reform of the constitution if a simple majority of Australians vote in favour.
2. A new governmental system — 2 tier unicameral - to rationalise the whole duplicated mess we now must endure.
Pledges:

1. Never to support retrospective legislation of any kind.
2. Never to vote to block a Government's supply-money bills.
3. Never to support a tax on the dissemination of knowledge (i.e. sales tax on books, learning and educational aids, etc.).
4. To support Federal funding of all schools on an indirect basis — the education of our children to the optimum extent, is vital to Australia's long term growth!!!
5. Our contract with the NSW voter, in the first instance, will be to conscientiously propound the Philosopho-Rational Platform and general socio-economic policies of the Republican Party of Australia, as outlined herein, should we be elected to serve this state at the 1st December Senate election.

Biographies:

PETER CONSOLINE, 41, unmarried, born Burwood, N.S.W. Resident (32 years) of Strathfield; 3rd generation Australian of Greco-Anglo-Irish heritage. National Convenor, Republican Party of Australia. Bachelor of Arts degree (Politics and Economics major); Diplomas of Communications and Urban Studies.
Self-employed, freelance Communications and Entertainment Consultant. Overseas work experience 3 years, widely travelled (35 countries and territories).

MEMBER OF: Australian Small Business Association, Social Education Association; General Studies teachers' Association; Australian Conservation Foundation; Public Relations Institute of Australia; Associate Status of Actors and Announcers Equity Association of Australia (22 years); Association of Theatrical and Employers; Greenspace.

QUASI-GOVERNMENTAL EXPERIENCE:

BRIAN BUCKLEY, 41, married with one son, born Oberon, N.S.W. Resident (17 years) North Shore of Sydney; 4th generation Australian of Anglo-Irish heritage. National Secretary, Republican Party of Australia. Accountant's Certificate. Self-employed Company Director and small business proprietor. Fairly widely travelled (10 countries).

MEMBER OF: Australian Small Business Association; Institute of Public Affairs; (Treasurer) North Shore Sydney Deaf Children's Association.

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