

'Don't Tax Books' campaign

The LAA is concerned that proposals by the Federal Government for a broadbased consumption tax on goods and services will affect books and other educational materials.

The Association fought a successful campaign against the imposition of sales tax on books and newspapers in 1981 and will oppose any moves by the current government to introduce similar measures.

The LAA has sent a submission to the Economic Planning and Advisory Council on the review of the taxation system in which it outlines its opposition to the imposition of tax on books and other educational materials. Copies of this submission are available on request from Head Office.

The Executive Director has also written to all Senate and Federal Members of Parliament, expressing the LAA's concern about reports that the Government is considering the introduction of a consumption tax.

The replies received to these letters have generally been non-committal, although some members and senators have expressed support for the LAA's viewpoint.

Replies to date have been received from the following Members and Senators:

Non-Committal

R. Katter MP, NP (Qld)
H. Mayer MP, ALP (Vic)
W. Tuckey MP, LP (WA)
R. Price MP, ALP (NSW)
S. West MP, ALP (NSW)
S. Martin MP, ALP (NSW)
J. Child MP, ALP (Vic)
K. Wright MP, ALP (Qld)
P. Ruddock MP, LP (NSW)
P. Everingham MP, LP (NT)
B. Lloyd MP, NP (Vic)
Senator S. Ryan ALP (ACT)
L. Keogh MP, ALP (Qld)
P. C. Millar MP, NP (Qld)
Senator M. Reynolds, ALP (Qld)
Senator J. Carrick, LP (NSW)
C. Blunt MP, NP (NSW)
Senator D. Grimes, ALP (Tas)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Would members please notify Head Office of any change of address immediately to avoid missing any copies of InCite and Australian Library Journal.

Senator F. Chaney, LP (WA)
J. Porter MP, LP (SA)
Senator D. Brounhill, NP (NSW)
Senator D. McClelland, ALP (NSW)
M. Mackellar MP, LP (NSW)
M. Young MP, ALP (SA)
J. Dawkins MP, ALP (WA)
D. Cameron MP, LP (Qld)
Senator D. Chipp, AD (Vic)
W. Hayden MP, ALP (Qld)
J. Sharp MP, LP (NSW)
R. Hunt MP, NP (NSW)
Senator J. Short, LP (Vic)
Senator B. Harradine, Indep (Tas)
Senator G. Evans, ALP (Vic)
I. Sinclair MP, NP (NSW)
G. Scholes MP, ALP (Vic)
B. Howe MP, ALP (Vic)
R. Braithwaite MP, NP (Qld)
Senator G. Georges, ALP (Qld)
R. J. Hawke PM, ALP (Vic)
E. J. Lindsay MP, ALP (Qld)
W. Fife MP, LP (NSW)
C. Hollis MP, ALP (NSW)
I. Macphee MP, Lib (NSW)

Expressing support for the LAA's Views

D. Jull MP, LP (Qld)
Senator C. Puplick, LP (NSW)
T. Fisher MP, NP (NSW)
Senator O. Zakharov, ALP (Vic)
P. Duncan MP, ALP (SA)
T. McVeigh MP, NP (Qld)
J. Hodges MP, LP (Qld)
Senator M. Macklin, AD (Qld)

The story in Britain

The Library Association in Britain has been waging a similar campaign to stop the government from imposing a Value Added Tax on books and other forms of literature.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced on Budget Day 1985 that there would be no extension of VAT to books and other publications in the lifetime of the Parliament — that is until at least 1987.

The Library Association distributed leaflets through public and academic libraries which invited readers to add their signatures to a petition opposing the tax. A petition containing 810,000 signatures was eventually delivered to 10 Downing Street.

The fight is not yet over however as most EEC countries apply VAT to books. The Library Association is now attempting to persuade these countries that this should be removed.

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