

359 Pigdon St.,
North Carlton Vic 3054
27 June 1985

Mr Phillip Adams,
Monahan Dayman Adams (Vic) Pty Ltd,
578 St Kilda Rd.,
Melbourne

Dear Phillip,

May I congratulate you on your Australian article on cultural independence in Australia. It seems to fit in exactly with your brief for the tax summit and also with your work on the Commission on the Future (if you make that plural does it become something to do with a commodities market?) I take the liberty of enclosing the script of a column I am publishing in the next ABR - it consorts with some of your ideas and was stimulated by others.

I enjoyed your chat with Barry Jones on 3LO - much better than the usual drivel broadcast at that time, but that sounds like damning with faint praise, which is not my intent. The issues you raised were the kind that should be given more attention than they usually are on such programs. I would however take issue with you both on the question of a decline in reading as the result of the use of new technology. The new technology certainly can, if it is planned like the telephone service rather than television - and the prospects are encouraging - extend the range of media through which the individual can participate in the world around him. I would suggest though that for many users - not the buffs - this will extend their interest in reading as well. That is certainly my experience with the students at FIT, who are better literature and Australian studies students because they arrive better informed than their predecessors.

However, that is for the future - I hope to get the time to write a submission for your Commission. That seems to be the main sort of writing I do these days - perhaps we should foresee a time when the whole community has given up material production in favour of exchanging submissions with each other by teleprinter.

Best wishes, and remember, when you speak at the Summit you speak for Australia. Which is more than this government is doing.

John McLaren