



# Executive Council of Australian Jewry

הוועד הפועל של יהודי אוסטרליה  
The Representative Organisation of Australian Jewry

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1st July 1985

Mrs. Joyce Steele O.B.E.  
23 Caloroga Street,  
WATTLE PARK. S.A. 5066

Dear Mrs. Steele,

I am writing to you in my capacity as Chairman of the Anti-Defamation Committee of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, the official roof body of Australia's Jewish community, about a serious and disturbing matter which concerns yourself.

The back cover of the recently published 1985 edition of John Bennett's Your Rights 1985 contains an endorsement of this book by yourself, together with a number of other similar endorsements. I attach a photocopy of this back cover in case you are unaware of this fact.

Given your distinguished record of achievement on the South Australian and Australian political scene, you are probably unaware that by your endorsement of Bennett's booklet, you appear to lend the weight of your personal reputation, as well as that of the South Australian Liberal Party, to the approval of what the entire Australian Jewish community regards as one of the most vile and offensive pieces of anti-Semitic racism to be published in Australia in recent years.

Although Mr. Bennett's book may indeed contain civil liberties information of value, you may be aware that for some years John Bennett has continuously been publicising the outrageous and wholly untrue lie that the Nazi Holocaust involving six million Jews during the Second World War - the mass murder of six million Jewish men, women and children by Hitler and the Nazis - did not occur but was a lie invented after the war by lying Jews for financial and political ends. Since you have read Mr. Bennett's Your Rights 1984 you will be aware of the odious lie which he repeats on pages 77-78 of his book, photocopies of which are attached. In an effort to whitewash the Nazis, Bennett also states (page 72, also attached) that "Hate sessions in the media directed against Hitler and the Nazis are so pervasive that a visitor from Mars might think WW II is still in progress." Numerous other statements attacking the Jewish people are also to be found in this work.

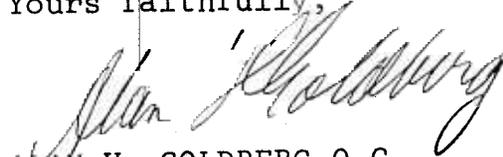
Internationally, such pro-Nazi and anti-Semitic statements have almost entirely been confined to obviously crank and extremist neo-Nazi groups in Europe and America while in Australia their main source

of propagation, apart from Mr. Bennett, is The League of Rights, the extreme right wing body known for its anti-Asian, anti-Aboriginal and anti-Semitic racist attitudes.

We find it both surprising and regrettable that a former public official of your distinction is seen to lend the weight of her reputation to a view which is an obvious and total distortion of history and an insult to the many millions of victims of Nazi oppression. Your endorsement of a book containing Bennett's extremist and racist views will, we believe, come as a considerable shock to your many admirers, both in South Australia and elsewhere and will tarnish your high reputation for fairminded public service. It also gives considerable distress to Australia's Jewish community, especially to the 10,000 or more Australian Jews who survived Hitler's concentration camps, while your endorsement may help to legitimise the use of Bennett's work in schools and universities. We are also sure that your endorsement would be greeted with both amazement and consternation by the South Australian Liberal Party and by the South Australian media, should it become known.

In all the circumstances it would seem desirable and appropriate that you should disassociate yourself from Bennett's anti-Semitic views and I would be most grateful if you could take some appropriate steps to this end.

Yours faithfully,



ALAN H. GOLDBERG Q.C.  
Chairman, Anti-Defamation  
Committee, E.C.A.J.