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Sent: Tuesday, 19 February 2013 6:50 PM
To: aasnet-owner@anu.edu.au
Cc: Marcia Langton; Jon Altman; Lyndon Ormond-Parker; Ian Anderson
Subject: PLEASE POST MY RESPONSE TO YOUR POST TODAY RE BOYER LECTURES

DEAR AASNET MODERATOR

PLEASE POST MY RESPONSE TO THE POST TODAY BY JOHN HUGHES:

Dear readers of AASnet

It is important that I immediately respond in part to Frankel's published piece (posted on AAS) on my Boyer Lectures in the article entitled 'Opportunity Lost'. First, I will write a full response although it won't be published in Arena Magazine. I need to immediately respond with a few statements to correct the record. There are many outright lies and misunderstandings in his review and most of these will be dealt with later.

The assertion that I support and agree with the Aboriginal candidates for the Country Liberal Party candidates and their supporters is simply wrong. I was merely reporting on their success in the election and the reasons for their success. For instance, and I will give only one example here, I certainly do not support the cruelty to animals in the live cattle trade. Nor do I support the cruelty against asylum seekers that most policies have contributed to. Nor do I support a removal of alcohol restrictions that were agreed to by communities and those that have been legitimately implemented as legal public health measures. I do support environmental efforts that are supported by good science and Aboriginal ecological knowledge and have volunteered extensively for such projects, assisted in establishing them, and written and published about them. I do not agree with ignorant 'greenies' who damage the hard work of Aboriginal representative bodies and who bring unscientific and unfounded claims to their well-funded and misleading campaigns against projects that traditional owners have supported. A case in point is the gas hub project in the Kimberley. As for castigating me for various policies I do not support, Frankel's attack on me goes much further and snidely refers to my religious beliefs as if that is another crime against his kind. I utterly reject his

interpretation of my lectures. I also reject his personal attacks on me, including the attack on my religious beliefs. His snide attack on me in relation to my standing with my colleague Prof Ian Anderson is also disgraceful. Prof Anderson and I have a collaborative, collegial and productive working relationship and agree about a great deal, while also disagreeing about some things. I alerted him to Frankel's statement because of the damage to our professional reputations and to our university. This silly tactic is so typical of the 'leftists' who prefer their relationships with indigenous people to be of the 'Aboriginal handbag' variety; and the presumption that Prof Anderson and I would not have a mature adult-to-adult relationship after working in the same institution for 13 years and the same faculty for 4 years is so juvenile and typical of the 'leftist' view of us as incapable of mature relationships. Prof Anderson will not be discarding his collegial relationship with me because Frankel finds it offensive that two Aborigines might be able to work together despite having complicated and different views of the world.

I am astonished that because I report on something like the Northern Territory election, that this could be interpreted as fulsome support for candidates and a party. I vote for neither party as the Australian Electoral Commission could attest. I have had a number of fines for not voting. It was important to say something about the reasons I had observed for the very large swing against the Labor Party in the NT because of the very silly statements being made by various politicians such as Warren Snowden and Trish Crossin. Frankel and others like him (Josh Bernstein (whoever he is) who was extensively reported in the media by Stuart Rintoul) believe that it is immoral to report on the views of conservative Aboriginal people such as the NT CLP candidates. It seems that Frankel believes that it is only legitimate to report on the views of Aboriginal people that he agrees with. There is a huge diversity of Aboriginal views, and the fact is that the ALP lost the NT to the conservatives precisely because of this head-in-the-sand attitude towards Aboriginal people. I believed that it was important to put these views on the public record. In fact I believe that I am the only person to report on the widespread Aboriginal objection to the handling of the ban on live cattle trade and its impact on their cattle

businesses. This does not mean that I agree with cruelty to animals. It does mean that I believe these people have a right to have their views aired and viewed, especially when no one will report them because they are so 'politically incorrect.' To fail to understand them and their views and to repress and censor them not only denies them their rights in a media and information rich democracy, this also fails the democracy by pretending that all Aborigines support and vote for the ALP. Obviously, this is not the case, a matter that came as a great surprise to the 'leftists' like Frankel and to the left of the Labor Party. The removal of Trish Crossin from her safe Senate seat is a symptom of the ALP (including the left faction PM) seeing the light too late.

There is a great deal more to correct, to put on the public record and to deny in his attacks on me. I trust that reasonable people will take my word that Frankel's interpretations of my Boyer Lectures are simply wrong and in great part, malicious.

Further, my use of the term 'leftist' refers to the committed ideologues and organised activists and propagandists, such as Frankel himself, rather than the free-floating passive members of the 'Left', which would include a large proportion of the Labor Party membership. I have assisted many Labor politicians of the Left and the Right, but most recently Minister Jenny Macklin. It is a policy or a stance that wins my support. I have also offered to help Coalition politicians when I believe they are doing the right thing.

As for Frankel's assertion that my lectures are a shameful episode in the ABC's history, most of the ABC Board members have personally thanked and congratulated me for my lectures. History will judge Frankel's attack on me as dubious, questionable critique with no evidence to support his outrageous claims.

I think the problem is that I have become the pin-up girl for left wing haters. Frankel, like most of the AAS members, judging from the last spate of attacks on me on AAS, clearly has not read my published work, such as my work on indigenous conservation efforts.

Like some of you, Frankel believes that it is legitimate to say anything at all, even with no evidence, about me. The racism is obvious and, as I said, I will respond fully in due course.

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