

**AC PAPER NO. 18****8 Questions to those seeking to change our Constitution – which require an answer.**

Called “The Late Colonel Ted Love’s Questions”

These questions were first published on 27 June 2006. AIDC cannot locate any answers but in the interests of an **informed** electorate, asks anyone who **has**, to send them to us and we will publish them.

AIDC will ask ARM in the meanwhile, by sending an email to < [chair@republic.org.au](mailto:chair@republic.org.au) > for answers and report back.

**AIDC asks: How can we know whether to vote Yes or No if we don’t know the answers?**

<p>1: <i>What are the benefits to the Australian People of a Republic over our existing constitution?</i></p> <p><b>Why is change so imperative in the mind of Mr Rudd and ARM?</b></p>	<p>5. <i>Magna Carta established the Principles of the separation of powers, as an example the judiciary would be kept separate from the legislature and the King would surrender powers to the Barons. The Crown would be the Protector of the people. Developments in the Westminster System over 800 years see us now with a Monarch who reigns but does not rule and denies ultimate power to politicians, and a judicial system that is independent of politicians.</i></p> <p><b>How will an Australian Republic protect these hard won rights? What replaces the Crown?</b></p>
<p>2: <i>Changing to a republic will entail a complete rewrite of our existing constitution and system of government. Does the ARM have a draft of the new constitution to show Australians on the Internet. Now? If not -</i></p> <p><b>When will the draft be completed?</b></p>	<p>6. <i>It was evident during the last referendum that Australians did not like the proposal that a president be elected by the Parliament. Australians wanted the right to elect a president, if this became necessary, and that all Australians should be able to nominate for the presidency.</i></p> <p><b>What are the ARM criteria for applicants aspiring to this office? And does ARM agree that any Australian should be able to stand for president?</b></p>
<p>3. <i>East Timor is the world’s newest Republic, structured on a President and a Prime Minister. This arrangement had caused severe tensions in that country. Does the ARM vision of an Australian republic envisage a structure containing a president and a Prime Minister?, and if so –</i></p> <p><b>What are to be the powers of the President and the Prime Minister?</b></p>	<p>7. <i>The complete restructuring of the constitution and the federal, state, legal and court systems resulting in a ‘yes’ vote would cost a huge sum of money.</i></p> <p><b>What is the ARM estimate of the cost of a complete change of the constitution?</b></p>
<p>4. <i>Little discussion by ARM is evident of the effect of a republic on the Sovereign States within our Federation. For example will each State remain with its own Government elected by the people? Or will each state be headed by a president? What happens if a ‘yes’ answer to a republic occurs in four states and two states say ‘no’ and also elect to remain in the present system of Constitutional Monarchy and Westminster, therefore electing out of the Australian Republic? What are the ARM views on this real possibility?</i></p> <p><b>And how would they prevent States seceding from the new Republic?</b></p>	<p>8. <i>If a ‘yes’ vote were to be successful:</i></p> <p><b>What is the ARM estimate of the time frame envisaged to complete this very complex exercise?</b></p>

**Note** It is significant to record that a respected and leading corporate and community leader (and republican) R.H. Allert AO FCA when acknowledging receipt of the 8 questions for the first time wrote “I ... agree that satisfactory answers are needed before any change should be put to the people.” – *Letter* dated 12 December 2011.

Also in June 2007 *Quadrant*, a letter headed “The Secret Republic” by a S. O’Leary wrote “If a political party refused to answer questions about its platform and beliefs, would anyone vote for it? I think not.”