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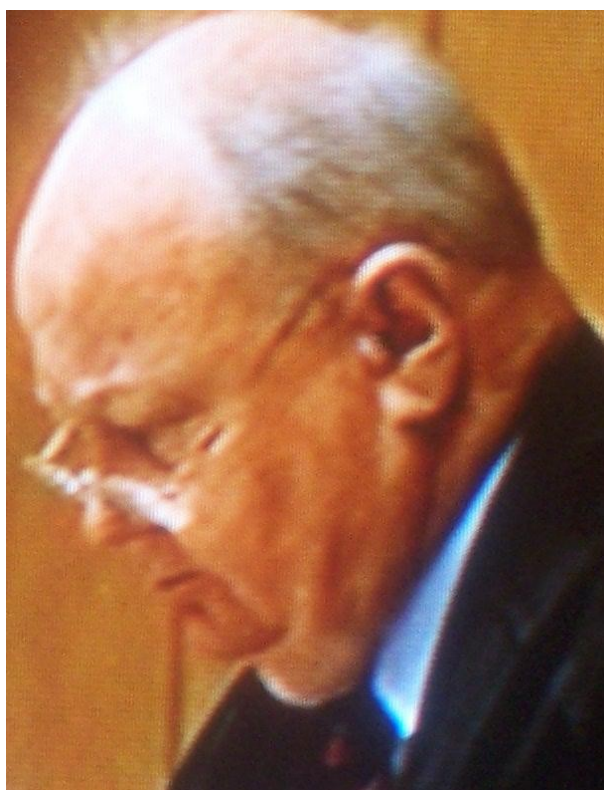
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keywords:Allstralian Universities; Spender's personal quagmire of cheating and defrauding the disabled; Spender loose cannon; QUT + all academics and universities caught in his tangled web;indicated pontificate on Universities; ulterior purpose; using decision of case for personal agenda; will Spender try to hang on;



Secret Spender Agenda: DANGER to Academics

by Alex Gordon LLB

Spender: Well, I am saying this because I want to convey to all the parties that ***I regard this as a very, very important case dealing with the nature of a***

university and what a university is - or ought to be - all about, and that there seems to me to be a terrible inherent tension between the claim that Noonan and his

supervisors are entitled - consistently with the idea of a university - to embark upon a thesis of this kind and of this nature and that that task is not in breach of one of the five cardinal ethical principles that is to be derived from the Public Affairs Act, or whatever it is in section eight of the university's code of conduct - respect for persons. [emphasis added]

These were the comments of Spender J. [Jeffrey Ernest John Spender], in the Federal Court of Australia on 12 July, 2007 in a directions hearing in the case of two QUT academics, Hookham and MacLennan, appealing their six month suspension by QUT. This is known as the “Laughing at/with the Disabled” case See our treatment in the [QUT Alumni Journal #200701 of 13 August, 2007](http://AustLawPublish.com/20070813QUTAissue200701.pdf) archived at <http://AustLawPublish.com/20070813QUTAissue200701.pdf> /. Spender used the Federal Court as a Forum in which to respond to our allegations against him in our May, 2007 Edition [Australian Judiciary Law Journal \[AJLJ\] ISSN 1321-4497, Issue #200701, published 21 May, 2007](http://austlawpublish.com/20070521AustralianJudiciaryLawJournalissue200701.pdf) and archived at [http://austlawpublish.com/20070521 Australian Judiciary Law Journal issue200701.pdf](http://austlawpublish.com/20070521AustralianJudiciaryLawJournalissue200701.pdf) /. Those journals give hyperlinks to our other treatments of Spender and Mellifont.

Depending upon precisely the nature of Spender's pontifications during the hearing and in his decisions in this case, Spender's comments could have a huge impact on the future of Allstralian Universities and Academics. What is particularly worrying is that Spender is going off half-cocked, and has an ulterior purpose. Spender is attempting to give himself “street creds” regarding the mistreatment of the disabled, in his attempt to discount his actions as a barrister 33 years ago. On that occasion, in 1974, Spender conspired with others including the now recognized criminal solicitor Terence Joseph Mellifont [Terry Mellifont of TJ Mellifont 'fame' or infamy] who was permanently struck off the roll of solicitors in 1980 [at which case he was represented by Spender, too] for other separate criminal conduct. The 1974 conspiracy was to cheat and defraud a disabled young fellow, called Haig, who just happens to be now our part-time photographer, Haig.

In Spender's attempt to bring media attention to his “views”, we believe Spender is likely to be “extreme”. He is likely to be extreme also to distance himself as far as possible from his conduct of cheating and

defrauding the disabled fellow in 1974. Sofronoff QC, for QUT has already experienced this extreme “expression” .

What can be done?

Since Spender has already indicated on the record that his 'pontifications' in this case are likely to have profound affects upon Academic and Universities in Allstralia, we believe all Universities and academics and representative bodies of universities and Academics in Allstralia, should consider seeking joinder in this case.

Since Spender would be required to rule on such application for joinder, one could precede that with an application for Spender to disqualify himself for apprehended bias. While our Editor Russell Mathews, who is an “academic”, and has an “interest” in the outcome, may make such application for joinder and disqualification of Spender, and calling on Haig to supply evidence, we suggest that such applications should be open to so many, Universities and Academics. Haig has agreed to provide his evidence to the court should anyone request it, and has advised us that we may make this known by our journals.

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