

Gordon Grant

REDACTED

1st. December 2000

The Secretary
Senate Community Affairs Reference Committee
Suite SI 59 Parliament House:
Canberra. ACT > 2600

SUBMISSIONS: SENATE INQUIRY INTO CHILD MIGRANTS

A CULTURE OF CRUELTY; (Inflicted in the guise of Corporal Punishment)

Enclosures; Feature Items:

- (i) Edmund Rice Deserves The Accolades.
- (ii) Straight From The Top. Circular Letters from Brother Superior Generals. IRELAND.
- (iii) Regulations re Corporal Punishment. 19-22 Regs. Applicable to Western Australia.
- (iv) Strapmaker by Appointment. Bill Brennan, an Ex Clontarf Orphanage Boy. W.A.
- (v) Faulkner's Flogging Fifties, at the four Christian Brothers Institutions. W.A.
- (vi) Archbishop told Buttocks too Tender. A statement by a Catholic Priest. Perth. W.A.

Dear Sir,

I had the personal misfortune at the tender age of three years, to be placed in a Boys Orphanage in Swansea, South Wales. UK, in 1936 and where I stayed for ten years. We boys endured a harsh regime of discipline, by the Nuns who owned and staffed this Institution. In August 1947 I was sent to a Boys Institution, at Bindoon, W.A., which was staffed by a Religious Order of Monks, known as the Christian Brothers. I had accepted the fact, that the use of corporal punishment, would also be the normal routine of life, at this Institution. However, I would soon realise and be shocked, as to the extent of the brutality which was regularly inflicted on the inmates, by certain Monks, and which was given in the guise of justifiable corporal punishment.

Sir, the facts being this; that there were at this Institution, several Christian Brothers who were quite deviant. There is no doubt, that they did derive voyeuristic pleasure, when they resorted to selecting a victim and in which was their manner, they would apply corporal punishment to the bare buttocks, with their multi layered leather, reinforced straps, and with such brutal force. The worse of the perpetrators, was the Superior, Brother Paul Keaney. His fellow cohorts were, Brothers. C. O' Neil, M. Dawe, G. Moore, D. Boulter, F. Marques, *C. Angus and F. Wise*, ~~Two~~, were actually Australian born former Brothers Institution boys.

I know that the attached five enclosures, will not make pleasant reading. However, I do believe that it is necessary, that the Senate Committee Members be made aware of the terrible degradation, humiliation and painful sufferings that British Child Migrants were subjected to at the four Christian Brothers, W.A. Institutions. This Culture of Cruelty, was to cause permanent adverse emotional and psychological injury to many Ex-Residents of the Brothers Institutions.

Yours Faithfully,

Signed,.....*Gordon Grant*

GORDON GRANT.