

QUEEN VICTORIA MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

CHS 112

**THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST M.P.'S SUPER
RIP-OFF COLLECTION**

Members of Parliament, Tasmania

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INTRODUCTION

The Action Committee Against M.P.'s Super Rip-Off, known as the Anti Super Rip-Off Group, was formed by cousins Richard and Carl Sherriff in 1983. They believed that the Tasmanian Parliamentary Superannuation Scheme was over-generous and a burden on Tasmanian taxpayers. As a result of the initial meeting, a petition was produced and circulated. It soon became apparent that there was widespread enthusiastic support from the community, leading them to form a committee to assist with their campaign in mid-1984. Its objective was to obtain a public inquiry into the Tasmanian Parliamentary Superannuation Scheme.

The campaign received extensive media support and generated a great deal of coverage from television, radio and particularly the press. Richard Sherriff was spokesman for the committee and Carl Sherriff the secretary.

It was probably due to pressure from the group that the Liberal Government ordered an inquiry into the Tasmanian Parliamentary Superannuation Scheme by former Cadbury chief Sir Peter Lloyd, who discredited the old scheme and recommended a new one. The Lloyd Committee of Inquiry handed down its recommendations in March 1985.

The petition containing 23,000 signatures was presented to Parliament in October 1985.

Because the government was slow to introduce legislation, the Anti-Super Rip-Off Group registered as a political party. However towards the end of the last parliamentary session of 1985 legislation was introduced to give MPs elected during and after the February 1986 poll an automatic lump-sum benefit when they resigned or lost their seats.

The parliamentary pension scheme emerged as an issue in the 8 February 1986 election, when the group called on all candidates to make public their views on superannuation payouts – acceptance of a full lump sum superannuation offer or a “rip-off” indexed pension scheme. Nearly all Members of the House of Assembly publicly declared themselves in favor of lump sum superannuation for retired politicians and Mr Sherriff said the campaign had largely achieved its purpose. A record number of 14 Members of Parliament lost their seats in the election, with those who did not formally commit themselves to take lump sum benefits among those who lost their seats.

Mr Sherriff, who had a high profile, virtually gave up three years of his life to the campaign.

The collection was donated to the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery in October 2007, with an additional item (5/6) added in 2009.

1.Submission

- 1/1 Action Committee Against M.P.'s Super Rip-Off Submission to the Government Enquiry on Superannuation 1984

2.Correspondence

- 2/1 Correspondence to and from Richard Sherriff and Carlyle Sherriff, 27 March 1984-30 January 1985 1984-1985
- 2/2 Correspondence to and from C L Sherriff, secretary of Action Committee Against M P.s Super Rip-Off, 5 July 1984-12 January 1986 (includes registration of political party, the Anti Super Rip-Off Group, 9 October 1985 and related newspaper cutting c21 August 1985; survey form sent to MHAs in January 1986) 1984-1986
- 2/3 Correspondence from Ian M Garwood, 17 May 1984-8 October 1984, 20 January 1986-11 March 1986 and nd 1984,1986, nd
- 2/4 Correspondence to and from Richard Sherriff, 6 August 1984-10 January1994 1984-1994
- 2/5 Correspondence from members of the Tasmanian public supporting the Action Committee 1984-1985, nd
- 2/6 Letters concerning the Parliamentary Superannuation Scheme: Max Bushby to A J Bushby, 21/6/1984; Max Bushby to Editor, Examiner, 9/7/1984; Michael Polley to G J George, 13/8/1984; Robin Gray to Arthur Haywood, 3/5/1985; P T Williams to Bob Brown, 9/5/1986 1984-1986

3.Press Releases

- 3/1 Press releases re Parliamentary Superannuation by Richard Sherriff, 1984-1985, 1990-1991, nd; Carl and Richard Sherriff, nd 1984-1991, nd

4.Newspaper Cuttings

- 4/1 Newspaper cuttings from various Tasmanian newspapers 1984
- 4/2 Newspaper cuttings from various Tasmanian newspapers 1985
- 4/3 Newspaper cuttings from various Tasmanian newspapers 1986

4/4	Newspaper cuttings from various Tasmanian newspapers	1988-1989
4/5	Newspaper cuttings from various Tasmanian newspapers	1990-1991
4/6	Newspaper cuttings from various Tasmanian newspapers	1992-1993
4/7	Newspaper cuttings from various unsourced Tasmanian newspapers	nd
4/8	<i>Examiner</i> poster, '\$16 mill. MP Super Payout' <i>Oversize item</i>	nd

5. Miscellaneous Items

5/1	Richard Sherriff, speech given on the Parliamentary Superannuation Scheme to Launceston Rotary Club, July 1984, eight typed pages	1984
5/2	Richard Sherriff, 'Parliamentary Superannuation', two pages typed notes	nd
5/3	'The Parliamentary Superannuation Scheme', seven typed pages, marked confidential	nd
5/4	'General comparison of parliamentary superannuation schemes', two typed pages	nd
5/5	<i>Parliamentary Superannuation Act 1973; Parliamentary Superannuation, no.67 of 1974; Parliamentary Superannuation Amendment Act, no.15, no.92 of 1982; Parliamentary Superannuation Trust, reports for 1980, 1981, 1982</i>	1973-1982
5/6	CD of Parliamentary Superannuation Campaign media clips	nd

6. Ephemera

6/1	Petition form requesting enquiry into the 1973 Parliamentary Superannuation Act	c1984
6/2	'Stop M.P.'s Super Rip-Off', car stickers; 'Enquiry into Tasmanian M.P.'s Superannuation Rip-Off A Must. Support Campaign Now', car stickers	c1984
6/3	Richard Sherriff's business card	[1985]

OTHER SOURCES

QVMAG, Community History, 2008.OH.04