

Who said we wanted split citizens?

THE Minister for Immigration said in May that he would consider calls for dual citizenship but would seek community consultation. Six weeks later, he announces (4/5/8) that Australians acquiring another nationality will no longer lose their citizenship.

What community did he consult? What advertisements called for submissions from the public?

Australian citizenship is for those who pledge their loyalty to Australia and its people and accept the responsibility to defend Australia should need arise. Where does this leave

those who pledge loyalty elsewhere? If this change is so good for business, will triple citizenship be next?

This fundamental change has been treated as if it were a mere administrative adjustment, like increasing a road speed limit.

Sadly, the ALP supports it. Their predecessors in the parliament of 1948 would be disgusted with the devaluation of the citizenship that it so splendidly created. Perhaps the pledge itself will be the next to go — I mean, why bother?

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NOW that Australia will accept dual citizenship, the bulk of the wind has been taken out of republican sails. Republican hype about a foreign Queen will be left lying in the dust for the foreseeable future. The only thing republicans can do is to try to convince Australians that we should give more powers to our politicians and, therefore, the political parties whose collective membership wouldn't fill the last train out of town.

That's going to be an enormous task and waste of money; my bet is that it'll never happen.

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