

AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR THE DEFENCE OF GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

PRESS RELEASE 493#

CARDINAL PELL AND THE ISLAMIC VIEW OF RELIGION AND THE STATE

The Roman Catholic Church hierarchy (as distinct from the faithful adherents) have a habit of trimming the religious sails to suit the wellbeing of their political influence, property, and access to the public Treasury. Their behavior in the DOGS case in the years 1964-1981 proved this point.

Recent pronouncements of Cardinal Pell in Rome on a future with ‘a lasting alliance with Islam ‘ indicate an interesting shift, a trimming of the religious sails in world as well as Australian politics.

Why does Cardinal Pell want to share a future with Muslims?

According to Tess Livingstone in *The Australian* November 1, 2012, Pell was reported as telling the website Vatican Insider:

‘Even though Muslims don’t seem to believe in the separation of religion and state, church and state, I think we might have something to learn from them against those people who would want to completely remove religious influence from public life and public discourse.’ and

‘In many areas of morality, we share common teachings and, in the very long run, it’s possible to see some sort of alliance against the destructive secularism....’

DOGS are amused to find Pell being coy about the principle of separation of religion and the state. The Roman Catholic Church may not believe in sharia law, but it certainly holds to the principle of entanglement of religion with the State, especially when this involves billions of dollars in subsidies for their charitable, business and political enterprises.

Those who realize that the future of our democracy and its cornerstone – a healthy public education system – are waking up to the effects of the power of the religious/privatization lobby on our polity and public services. Pell labels them ‘destructive secularists’. Religious schools divide our children along class, ethnic, and religious lines. They pillar our society and create division, even violence. The history of Northern Ireland Yet Pell has the gall to propose a dialogue with Muslims about

‘harmony in society. We can talk about church and state and religion and state, the sociological conditions for human flourishing and wellbeing.’

DOGS sincerely wish that Pell would promote ‘harmony’ in society and support a public system open to all children rather than a divisive, sectarian system of education.

THE DOGS RADIO PROGRAM

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12.00 NOON SATURDAYS