

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

My congratulations (whatever they be worth) to Bret Walker SC for his insightful article on lawyers and politics. His comments about professional connexion and social attachment are rendered the more pointed by Walker's reference to politicians in the United States, naming as he has, Madison, Marshall, Hamilton and Lincoln, as well as US constitutional practices. In my opinion, as literate lawyers we should maintain close attachment to the United

States in both law and literature. The USA has produced some wonderful poetry, from Longfellow onwards, some of which is directly relevant to Australian politics and the way in which the electorate is treated. Take a few lines from the late Ogden Nash as an example:

I remember daddy's warning

That raping is a crime

Unless you rape the voters

A million at a time.

Perhaps a little less elegant than the Song of Hiawatha, but undeniably relevant to the present condition of both Australian and American politics. Indeed, with considerable prescience, Mr Nash in his verse focussed precisely on the present order of things. Perhaps Parliament could use more poets.

Ian Barker QC

NEWS

High Court welcome for the new silks

Newly appointed silks from every state and territory took their bows before the High Court in Canberra on Tuesday, 31 January 2017. For the occasion, Bar News had a special photographer - President Noel Hutley SC.

