

DT021 - Iniquities of Sir William Macpherson

Sir William Macpherson (interview 21 February 2000) will long be execrated for his iniquitous proposal that people should be punished as racist for what they say in their own home. Even though a Scot, he should know that an Englishman's home is his castle.

Also iniquitous is Macpherson's proposal to destroy a jewel of the common law, the double jeopardy rule. No one should be put on trial again for a crime of which a jury has acquitted him.

Macpherson fails to understand that every human being is full of likes, dislikes, prejudices and presumptions. That is the nature of being human. You can't change it, even though we must all resist harmful discrimination of any kind.

Macpherson talks of stereotyping: 'looking at a young black man with a baseball cap the wrong way round and immediately thinking the worst against him'. My own dislike of youngsters with a baseball cap the wrong way round springs simply from the fact that it is silly. The young (white) Australian tennis prodigy Layton Hewitt always plays like that, which spoils my enjoyment when watching him.

Note: Final paragraph omitted from published letter.