

Text of letter seeking change

Here is the text of the letter signed by the chairman of the Myer Emporium, Mr Kenneth Myer, and by well-known academics, writers and others, calling for a change of Government on December 2.

Details of the letter were reported exclusively in later editions of "The Sydney Morning Herald" yesterday. Later yesterday the letter, with two additional signatories, Mr David Campbell the poet and Mr Patrick White the author, was distributed for general publication.

It says:

We, the undersigned, who are not members of any political party, believe that Australia's interests will be best served by a change of government as a result of this election.

Our democratic system works properly only when each of the major parties has the chance to govern. Each benefits from the responsibilities of office. Each gains from the freedom of Opposition.

Some of us think the Liberal-Country Party coalition has had a productive, as well as long, period in office. Others of us are less enthusiastic about its record, especially in recent years.

But we all agree that today, after 23 years in office, it needs new ideas and has problems of long-term leadership which can best be worked out in Opposition.

Although we do not subscribe to all the Australian Labor Party's policies, we see no overriding reason for continuing to exclude it from office.

It is Australia's oldest and biggest party. It represents aspirations in our society which cannot be ignored. It has prepared itself for office and needs only a moderate swing in its favour at this election to take power.

If denied office any longer, the Labor Party is in danger of disintegrating as a force in Australia's political life.

We believe a change of Government will benefit both the major parties, on which the vitality of our

