



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

1 REDMAN ROAD,
DEE WHY, N.S.W.
TEL. 98 0287.

19th June, 1967.

CONFIDENTIAL



Dear Harold,

As you know, I am considerably interested in the Aboriginal question on its own merits. Could I draw your attention to its subsidiary Electoral importance.

In any group, Aborigines tend to vote in a block, and the way in which their vote will go is as yet undetermined in most cases. Many of them are as yet unenrolled, but I suppose most of them will enrol in the next couple of years.

As it happens, they form important groups in certain swing seats, which are unlikely to be much changed by the redistribution. In these seats the Aboriginal vote might be decisive.

Seats held by us with a Narrow Majority.

Kennedy
Herbert
Grey
Northern Territory

Seats held by Labour, which have at some
time been held by us.

Leichhardt
Capricornia
Kalgoorlie

I think you will agree with me that seven seats may be enough to determine Government. I suggest some such scheme as the following :

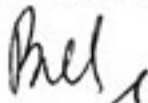
1. Include in the Budget a subvention to the States - say 25% of their annual expenditure on Aborigines.

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2. Include in the Budget a small amount - say \$100,000 - for subventions to major Aboriginal Associations, and a larger amount - say \$250,000 for subventions to Aboriginal Missions in the States.
3. When Parliament assembles, appoint a Minister in Charge of Aboriginal Affairs as a result of the Referendum. This need not, of course, be a new Minister: it could be attached perhaps to Education.
4. Let the Minister know privately that he has authority to spend a small sum on projects of his choice during 1967-68 - say \$750,000.
5. In Kennedy, Herbert, Gray and Northern Territory (and perhaps also such seats as Maranoa and Cowper) work through the local Federal Member. Let him visit key points, and then, after consultation with the Minister, announce that he will recommend to the Minister that this or that shall be done so that the Local Member gets the credit.
6. In Leichhardt, Capricornia, Kalgoorlie, and perhaps such electorates as Darling, build up a key figure who can play the part of the local Member.
7. When Parliament re-assembles, appoint a Select Committee to consider Federal policy regarding Aborigines.

You will probably think (not without reason) that I am pressing the Electoral angle as a means of getting more done for the Aborigines. Nevertheless, what I have said about the Electoral angle is valid.

Yours sincerely,



(W. C. Wentworth)

The Rt. Hon. H. E. Holt, C.H., M.P.,
Prime Minister,
Parliament House, CANBERRA. A.C.T.