

ATT: NEWS EDITOR/CHIEF OF STAFF
NEWS RELEASE THURSDAY 20TH AUGUST 1987

WHY IS CLDE HOLDING SO SILENT????

ABORIGINAL ACTIVIST GARY FOLEY TODAY POSED THE QUESTION, 'WHY IS FORMER MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS CLYDE HOLDING NOW SO SILENT ON ALL THE ABORIGINAL ISSUES CURRENTLY BEING EXPOSED IN THE AUSTRALIAN MEDIA?'

MR FOLEY SAID THAT FOR THE PAST FOUR YEARS HOLDING HAD CONSTANTLY REASSURED AUSTRALIANS THAT ABORIGINAL PEOPLE WERE HAPPY WITH THE HAWKE GOVT, AND THAT THE LABOR GOVT POLICIES WERE IMPROVING THE LOT OF ABORIGINES. FURTHERMORE, IT WAS HOLDING WHO FOR SO LONG RESISTED CALLS FOR A ROYAL COMMISSION INTO BLACK DEATHS IN CUSTODY.

IT WAS ALSO HOLDING WHO MADE VICIOUS PERSONAL ATTACKS ON ANY ABORIGINAL PEOPLE WHO TRIED TO SUGGEST THAT THE TRUTH WAS THAT BLACK AUSTRALIA STILL SUFFERED EXTREME DEPRIVATION.

'A LOT OF PEOPLE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT HOLDING WOULD NOW HAVE US BELIEVE AFTER TOOMELAH AND BREWARRINA HAVE EXPOSED HIS HYPOCRISY AND LIES TO THE AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC', MR FOLEY SAID.

IN CONCLUSION MR FOLEY SAID THAT HOLDING SHOULD BE ASKED HOW HE COULD POSSIBLY JUSTIFY HIS APPROVAL OF THE EXPENDITURE OF \$800,000 ON GOVT PROPAGANDA ABOUT THE HANDOVER OF AYERS ROCK (ULURU), WHEN ABORIGINAL PEOPLE IN TOOMELAH AND MANY OTHER PLACES DO NOT EVEN HAVE PROPER WATER, SEWERAGE OR SANITATION SERVICES.

'HOLDING STANDS EXPOSED AS AN INGORANT, ARROGANT, INSENSITIVE LIAR AND HYPOCRITE.' SAID MR FOLEY, THE FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE ABORIGINAL ARTS BOARD.

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