

Questions on Notice from Senator Patrick Dodson to Mr John Moriarty AM

1. Could you provide the committee with:

a. What topics of concerns were discussed by the Aboriginal Progress Association either at its own internal meetings or in meetings with FCAATSI? *It was to get Aboriginal people together to push for our rights. The APA in Adelaide was one of those organisations involved in the successful vote of the Referendum, which we pushed for not only on a local basis, but we joined with FCAATSI nationally to support the outcome. At our meetings we discussed education, land rights, sport – we brought Aboriginal footy (AFL) teams together to play each other from different parts of the State, also I hired a bus and took a footy team to Melbourne, played an exhibition game at the MCG.*

b. Was the need for a flag discussed? Can you recall who raised it? *As I recall it, Malcolm Cooper and I raised the need for a flag, and members discussed it. Laurie Bryant, who was part of the APA as secretary, a white bloke, helped us fight for these rights.*

c. Were ideas put up as to what a flag might look like? Why was it considered needed? What would it need to represent people from all Aboriginal groups all over Australia or if any examples were produced? Do you have any records of this? Would you be prepared to share them with the Committee? *No, not at first, as I recall, a little later. To fight under, and bring Aboriginal people throughout the country together. It was logical that a flag could help achieve that. No examples produced, as I recall. Only the piece of paper I have kept, and provided to the Committee. Provided.*

d. Was Mr Thomas part of these discussions? Or was he informed in subsequent discussions or meetings? *Harold wasn't active in the rights fight at the time. I don't recall when he came into the discussions, but the APA recognised him as the designer of the flag.*

e. Did Mr Thomas request to use this information (from your discussions) to design the flag? Did the group ask Mr Thomas to go away and bring back a design for a Flag? What were the purposes of your discussions with Mr Thomas? *We had meetings with him, not many though, and I don't recall the detailed discussions. No, the APA recognised him as the designer. To design the flag.*

f. In your view was the intellectual property for the flag provided. *No, the APA recognised Harold as the designer.*

i. Out of the common discussions of participants of the Aboriginal Peoples Association only or in collaboration with FCAATSI? Was it a collective effort between you all and Mr

Thomas? *I don't recall FCAATSI being involved in the flag discussion, it was in Adelaide not a national discussion, and the APA recognised Harold as the designer.*

ii. Was it Mr Thomas who independently applied his intellect to design the flag? *I don't recall the sequence, and the APA recognised him as the designer. Did he sew the materials together to make the flag?* *I don't recall. Who did?* *I don't recall.*

iii. What specific tasks or contribution did Mr Foley make to the flag design or concept? *I don't have any recollection of Gary's involvement in the flag design, he was involved in FCAATSI with Bruce McGuinness.*

iv. Was the flag first flown in Adelaide? *This is my recollection. Who carried it?* *I don't recall.*

v. Who was it that flew the flag at the Tent Embassy in Canberra? Was this the same one made in Adelaide. *I don't have knowledge of that.*

John Moriarty
7 October 2020