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23 JUNE 2005

**REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP PRESENTATION TO THE SENATE  
FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION REFERENCE  
COMMITTEE AT THE INQUIRY INTO THE REGIONAL  
PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM**

**QUOTES**

**1. REFERENCE TO ROS KELLY BY JOHN HEWSON IN A  
PRESS CONFERENCE 21 NOVEMBER 1993**

**“I KNOW THAT INTEGRITY IN THE KEATING  
GOVERNMENT HAS FALLEN TO AN ALL TIME LOW BUT  
SURELY NOT EVEN MR KEATING WOULD STAND FOR A  
SITUATION WHERE UP TO \$30 MILLION WAS ALLOCATED  
IN A BLATANT POLITICAL EXERCISE TO BUY VOTES”.**  
**“HER CONCEPT OF NEEDS AND THE PEOPLE’S CONCEPT  
OF NEED IS OBVIOUSLY VERY DIFFERENT. AND SHE SEEMS  
TO SEE NEEDS IN LINE WITH WHAT WAS NEEDED BY THE  
ALP TO GET BACK INTO GOVERNMENT.**

**2. ROS KELLY ON THE STATEMENT MADE BY THE  
AUDITOR GENERAL ON WEDNESDAY 17 NOVEMBER 1993  
REPORTED BY THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD ON 20  
NOVEMBER 2005.**

**“HE COULD NEITHER CLEAR NOR CONVICT THE MINISTER  
IN A REPORT THAT WAS SCATHING OF THE SCHEME’S  
LACK OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND HIGHLY CRITICAL OF  
THE EXTRAORDINARY DEGREE TO WHICH KELLY  
DIRECTLY INVOLVED HERSELF”.**

**“ROS KELLY, MAINTAINED HER INSISTENCE THAT ALL WAS  
FAIR ...SHE TOLD PARLIAMENT ON WEDNESDAY, “AT NO  
STAGE IN THIS REPORT DOES THE AUDITOR-GENERAL  
ACKNOWLEDGE THE REAL NEEDS OF (OUR)  
COMMUNITIES. THAT IS WHAT THOSE OPPOSITE LOSE  
SIGHT OF IN THIS DEBATE. IT IS ABOUT TIME WE PUT A  
FOCUS ON THE DEBATE.**

↙ ↗

**IT IS ABOUT TIME WE PUT FOCUS ON THE DEMANDS OF  
THE AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY, NO MATTER WHAT  
ELECTORATE THEY LIVE IN.**

**THAT IS THE POINT OF THIS MATTER. ”**

**IT ISN'T ANY SUCH THING.**

**THE POINT OF THE MATTER IS WHETHER OR NOT THE  
GOVERNMENT BLATANTLY CORRUPTED A PROGRAM,  
INVOLVING THE SPENDING OF \$30 MILLION OF PUBLIC  
MONEY, TO ADVANTAGE ITS OWN SITTING MEMBERS IN  
AN ELECTION....**

**THE MINISTER HAS BEEN CAUGHT WITH BOTH HANDS IN  
THE BALLOT BOX,.. THE REAL ATROCITY IS NOT WHAT  
THE GOVERNMENT DID BUT THAT IT SHOULD, IN THE  
FACE OF THE EVIDENCE, THINK PEOPLE ARE SILLY  
ENOUGH TO BELIEVE OTHERWISE. ”**

**3. MR COSTELLO MEMBER FOR HIGGINS ON MATTERS OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE: COMMUNITY GRANTS HOUSE HANSARD 17 NOVEMBER 1993.**

**“..UP TO \$30 MILLION OF TAXPAYER’S MONEY HAS BEEN SPENT ON A VOTE BUYING EXERCISE BY THE AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY. IT WAS NOT MOTIVATED BY PUBLIC INTEREST OR COMMUNITY NEED, BUT BY SELF-INTEREST AND POLITICAL NEED. IT WAS MOTIVATED BY THE DESIRE OF THIS MINISTER AND THIS GOVERNMENT TO USE TAXPAYERS’ FUNDS – THE FUNDS COLLECTED BY TAXPAYERS-TO BUY THEIR WAY BACK INTO OFFICE AT THE 13 MARCH 1993 ELECTION...”**

*Costello quotes*

**AN ARTICLE IN THIS MORNING’S SYDNEY MORNING HERALD STATES:**

**“ THERE IS A GROWING VIEW IN LABOR RANKS THAT THE ONLY WAY OF CUTTING THE GOVERNMENT FREE FROM THE SPORTS TANGLE IS TO CUT MRS KELLY FREE OF THE SPORTS PORTFOLIO.**

**THAT IS THE ONLY WAY THAT YOU WILL DISENTAGLE YOURSELVES FROM THIS MATTER. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE THE DECENCY TO ASSERT PROPER STANDARDS BECAUSE IT IS WARRANTED BY THE WESTMINISTER SYSTEM AND THE DOCTRINE OF ACCOUNTABILITY, YOU COULD AT LEAST HAVE THE DECENCY TO TRY TO SAVE YOURSELVES FROM THE ODIUM AND THE CONTEMPT OF A PUBLIC WHO NOW SEES THE PRIME MINISTER AS SOMONE WHO CANNOT SUSTAIN STANDARDS, WHO CANNOT HOLD ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE PUBLIC, AND WHO HAS GROWN IMPERIALAND ARROGANT IN OFFICE. IN RESPECT OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY AND ADMINISTRATION HE NEEDS TIO SEND THIS MINISTER OFF TO THE BACK BENCH WHERE SHE SHOULD HAVE BEEN A ND WHERE SHE SHOULD NOW BE. ”**

**4. THE AUDITOR-GENERAL AUDIT REPORT NO. 9 1993-94**  
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**“ON AVERAGE, THE TOTAL VALUE OF GRANTS TO A  
LABOUR HELD SEAT WAS \$257,000 AND TO A COALITION  
HELD SEAT \$141,000....”**

**ROS KELLY WAS STOOD DOWN AS A MINISTER. SHE WAS SUBSEQUENTLY FORCED TO RESIGN FROM PARLIAMENT. AS A LONG SERVING AND ULTIMATELY SENIOR MINISTER IN GOVERNMENT, LET ME STATE FOR THE RECORD THE PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA THROUGH THEIR DULY ELECTED PARLIAMENT ALLOCATED MONEYS FOR A PURPOSE, APPROPRIATION IS THE TECHNICAL "LEGAL" WORD.**

**IF THAT MONEY IS USED FOR SOME OTHER PURPOSE THAN THAT FOR WHICH IT IS APPROPRIATED THEN SUCH WRONGFUL USE IS A BREACHING OF THE CONSTITUTION AND THE LAWS IN A DEMOCRACY. THE CAPRICIOUS AND DISCRETIONARY USE OF MONEY BY THE CROWN IS THE MOST FLAGRANT BREACH OF LAWS UNDER WHICH A DEMOCRACY OPERATES.**

**THE REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM WAS MONEY ALLOCATED BY THE PARLIAMENT TO HELP REGIONAL COMMUNITIES. IF THE MONEY WAS USED FOR PRIMARILY POLITICAL PURPOSES THEN THE MOST SERIOUS OF QUESTIONS HANGS OVER THE MINISTERS HEAD.**

**THE WORST ASPECT OF THIS SORRY AFFAIR IS THAT SUCH SIMILAR QUESTIONS MAY NOT REALLY WORRY A PERSON WHO HAS LOST A QUARTER OF HIS REPRESENTATIVES IN THIS PARLIAMENT WHILST HIS LIBERAL COLLEAGUES HAVE GONE FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH.**

**AN HONOURABLE MAN WOULD HAVE FALLEN ON HIS SWORD BUT THEN AN HONOURABLE MAN WOULD NOT HAVE SO USED THIS FUND WOULD HE?**

**THAT IS THE QUESTION THAT IN FACT THE AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE HAVE CALLED UPON YOU TODAY TO ADJUDICATE.**