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LEGAL, CONSTITUTIONAL AND
ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW
COMMITTEE

indgmpsl

18/07/2003

The Secretary
The Legal, Constitutional and
Administrative Review Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE.

On Channel 2, State Line Programme tonight Mr Eric Deeral, a former Indigenous MP, was interviewed.

Mr Deeral opposes a separate Indigenous Party being formed because he says we are one people and a separate group of Indigenous People would indicate a division in the community. Or words to that effect.

He also stated times are changed and there are ample opportunities for educated indigenous people to study politics, then become members of established Political Parties. A principle I suggested in the copy of my letter to The Courier Mail.

I stand corrected by him by that for in the last paragraph of my letter of 7/05/2003 to The Editor, The Courier Mail I advocated such a course.

I enclose a copy of my letter to The Courier Mail should it not have referred the contents to you.

Yours sincerely,



R.L. CARR
F.A.I.E.H.O'S. Life Ret.
CERT RSH (Lon), JP Qual.

7/05/2003

The Editor
The Courier Mail
GPO Box 130
Brisbane 4001

A Parliamentary Committee has suggested that there should be four seats set aside for Indigenous persons in The Queensland Parliament (CM April 5). According to the Queensland Electoral Office there is a total of 2,369, 259 Queensland people entitled to vote in Queensland elections. And there are 89 members of Parliament. I know that all seats do not have the same number of electors but for this purpose that would average out at 26620 electors per electorate.

According to The Australian Bureau of Statistics there is only a total of 112,772 Indigenous persons in Queensland. A generous assessment of 2/5ths would be entitled to vote and that would equate to only 45,108 Indigenous electors. Which is less than 2 % of the total electors in Queensland. Which relating to the 26620 above would be less than two. So four permanent members would be a disproportionate representation and all said and done, as proposed, it would only be a sinecure seat and what real voice would they have in the overall governance of the state.

It is not that they are without voice now for there are Aboriginal Local Authorities with direct link to The Minister for Local Government, Aboriginal Land Councils with direct links to the appropriate Minister, a special programs for Aboriginal Health with direct link to the Appropriate minister and a Minister with portfolio for Aboriginal Affairs and surely ATSIC Queensland members would have the ear of various Ministers and Heads of Departments.

The Liberals put forward Neville Bonner, the Nationals Eric Deerral and the Democrats Adrian Ridgway, all worthy representatives. If the Government and other parties are so determined to have Indigenous Representatives in Parliament let all those parties nominate an Indigenous person in a safe seat. Apart from that there is nothing to stop the Indigenous population forming their own party and contesting the polls. That way they may do even better.
Fair is fair.

R.L. CARR

