

SPEECH TO CENTRAL HIGHLANDS PRE-SELECTION

CONVENTION - MAY 18TH 1991

FILE

WHEN I WAS A BOY I WAS VERY CLOSE TO BOTH MY GRANDFATHERS.

ONE WAS DESCENDED FROM THE SCOTTISH GENTRY AND HE WAS VERY, / VERY PROPER.

AT HIS KNEE I LEARNED GOOD TABLE MANNERS, / HOW TO FISH, / AND TO ALWAYS VOTE CONSERVATIVE.

MY OTHER GRANDFATHER WAS IRISH, AND HAD A TERRIBLE TEMPER.

HE STARTED WITH ABSOLUTELY NO MONEY, SHORE SHEEP WITH JACKY HOWE, HAD 7 CHILDREN, AND FOUNDED A SMALL RURAL EMPIRE.

AT HIS KNEE I LEARNED TO WORK HARD, / SWEAR, / AND BECAUSE OF THE GREAT SHEARER'S STRIKE - "YOU ALWAYS VOTE LABOR, MY BOY".

NOW LOOK DON'T WORRY! I DIDN'T TAKE HIS ADVICE, AND HE CHANGED HIS VOTE ANYWAY.

SOFT

I JUST TOLD YOU THAT STORY / BECAUSE SOMETIMES WHEN THE WAY FORWARD IS UNCLEAR (AS IT IS HERE IN VICTORIA), WE SHOULD GLANCE BACK TO FIND THE REASONS WHY.

IN TODAY'S TERMS / 2.

OUR FORBEARS DIDN'T EARN A LOT, / BUT THEY GOT TO KEEP
WHAT THEY EARNED.

THESE DAYS, NO MATTER HOW HARD PEOPLE WORK, THE MONEY
GOES, JUST TO KEEP AFLOAT.

IT IS NOW ^{ALMOST} IMPOSSIBLE TO PUT ANYTHING TOGETHER, / ESPECIALLY
IN BUSINESS, OR ON THE LAND.

THE BLAME CAN BE LAID RIGHT AT THE DOOR OF SUCCESSIVE
SOCIALIST GOVERNMENTS WHICH HAVE CREATED AN ATTITUDE /
AND HAND OUT MENTALITY WHICH HAS SAPPED OUR STATE AND OUR
NATION OF ITS INITIATIVE.

THEY HAVE SAPPED US OF OUR CONFIDENCE AND THAT IS WHY
THE WAY AHEAD IN VICTORIA IS UNCLEAR.

— THERE IS A PROVISIO TO MY 'HAND OUT MENTALITY' COMMENTS.

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT / THAT WE DO ASSIST THOSE IN GENUINE
NEED, AND / STRESS HERE GENUINE NEED, /

FASTER
ONE OF MY SPECIAL INTERESTS IS DISABLED CHILDREN.

YOU WILL NOT FIND ANYWHERE, A BETTER EXAMPLE OF SELF
RELIANCE THAN THE AUTISTIC OR SPASTIC SOCIETIES
ORGANISATIONS, / BUT THEY MUST HAVE
SOME GOVERNMENT HELP. (OF COURSE)

AND WHAT IS HAPPENING TO THEM?

THE GOVERNMENT IS GRADUALLY WITHDRAWING ITS SUPPORT FOR INSTITUTIONS FOR THE DISABLED, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME REDUCING FUNDING FOR SCHOOL INTEGRATION.

THE RESULT? PARENTS ARE LEFT TO COPE ALONE.

SO MUCH FOR THIS GOVERNMENT'S SOCIAL JUSTICE.

HELEN AND I LIVE IN A SMALL TOWN.

TOGETHER, WITH OUR FAMILY, WE RUN A FARM, HAVE A SHARE IN TWO BUSINESSES, AND RUN A SUCCESSFUL ALPINE TOUR COMPANY.

IN TOWN,
EVERYONE [^]HAS HEARD THAT GRAEME STONEY WANTS TO BE A POLITICIAN.

PEOPLE ARE ASKING, WHY ON EARTH DO YOU WANT TO BE "ONE OF THOSE"?

LET ME TELL YOU WHY.

OUR FAMILY HAS LIVED IN CENTRAL HIGHLANDS FOR FIVE GENERATIONS.

WE HAVE WORKED HARD, AND THE LAND,

- AND THE MOUNTAINS, HAVE BEEN GOOD TO US,
AND WE HAVE PROSPERED.

I HAVE THE ABILITY AND ENTHUSIASM TO GIVE YOU, THE PEOPLE OF CENTRAL HIGHLANDS, STRONG REPRESENTATION FOR THE LIBERAL PARTY IN STATE PARLIAMENT.

TODAY, / YOU HAVE THE ABILITY TO GIVE ME THAT OPPORTUNITY.

FOR MANY YEARS I HAVE BEEN THE ELECTED SPOKESMAN FOR THE MOUNTAIN CATTLEMEN, AND HAVE LEARNED MANY POLITICAL AND NEGOTIATING SKILLS.

I HAVE TOUGHED IT OUT WITH THE WALLY CURRANS OF THE GREEN MOVEMENT, AND HELPED HOLD THE SENSIBLE CONSERVATION LINE.

IF I AM CHOSEN TODAY, ^{AS SOON AS PRACTICAL} I WILL RESIGN FROM THE EXECUTIVE OF THE CATTLEMEN AND OTHER COMMITTEES AND TAKE NO FURTHER PART IN THEIR DECISIONS.

MY CHILDREN CANT WAIT TO GET DAD OUT OF OUR BUSINESS INTERESTS / AND STOP TELLING THEM WHAT TO DO.

I WILL BE TOTALLY FREE TO START A NEW CAREER.

THREE OF THE BIGGEST ISSUES IN VICTORIA ARE THE ECONOMY, EDUCATION, AND THE ENVIRONMENT.

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5 MIN
BELL

THOSE / PLUS ^{OTHER} ~~SPECIAL INTERESTS OF MINE~~ INCLUDE THE RURAL DECLINE,
BUSINESS ^{BREAKDOWNS} THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF
RENEWABLE RESOURCES AND OUTER SUBURBAN PLANNING.

I WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN ISSUES IN CENTRAL HIGHLANDS,
INCLUDING REOPENING THE SEYMOUR ABBATOIRS, THE LOOMING
GREEN CAMPAIGN TO STOP THE '39 REGROWTH LOGGING,
AND TOURIST PROMOTION FOR VICTORIA.

I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT I WILL TAKE A TOUGH BUT REALISTIC
APPROACH TO ALL ISSUES, AND MY CONTRIBUTION WILL COME
FROM A PRACTICAL GRASS ROOTS BASE.

(I ENJOY HARD WORK - I BELIEVE IN DECISIONS BASED ON)
COMMON SENSE.

ABOVE ALL, WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH (WHICH IT WILL),
I WILL NOT BE AFRAID TO STAND, ON BEHALF OF ALL OF YOU,
AND DEFEND WHAT WE ALL BELIEVE, ~~IN~~.

Gregory Jones
18/5/1991.