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Attitude to Aborigine 'impertinent'

The assumption by white Australians that Aborigines must be integrated was impertinence, a Labor Party frontbencher said yesterday.

The Opposition's spokesman on education and defence, Mr. Kim Beazley (WA) said Australians had treated Aborigines as if they were a conquered people.

"We have assumed that they ought to be our subjects or our citizens," he said during debate on the Address-in-Reply in the House of Representatives.

But, he said, Aborigines were a distinctive nation, and had never asked to be absorbed into our system.

The situation involving Aborigines at Aurukun in Queensland was no different from the way we had always treated Aborigines.

Mr. Beazley, who was Minister for Education in the Labor Government, said his first ministerial decision had been to acknowledge the right of Aborigines to be educated in their own language.

"If you deny the right of people to education in their own language . . . you are quite patently acting on the assumption that they are a conquered people."

Referring to the Aboriginal embassy, a tent erected for some time on the lawn opposite Parliament House, Mr. Beazley said it stood for something about which Aborigines had a valid and genuine belief. Aborigines had the right to approach us from their own assumptions and values, instead of those we had imposed on them.

Earlier, referring to nuclear missiles and threats of nuclear attack, Mr. Beazley questioned the commonly held view that the United States would automatically come to Australia's rescue if we were threatened.

All that existed between the two countries was an undertaking that both States would consider their own constitutional processes if a threat developed, he said.

"It becomes part of the mythology in this country that we have an automatic guarantee that if the Soviet Union dropped one (a bomb) on the North West Cape, the United States would drop one on them on our behalf."

But, he said, this was unlikely because the United States would be jeopardising the lives of millions of its own citizens by doing so.

He also questioned the suggestion, put forward by the West Australian Premier, Sir Charles Court, that the navy should be "patrolling up and down the West Australian coast".

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Mr Beazley: a man of integrity and a political loner

By a Special Correspondent

IN resigning from the executive of the Parliamentary Labor Party Mr Kim Beazley has acted in a role which he has cultivated during his long parliamentary service; that of the self-styled conscience of the ALP.

During his term he has earned the respect of both colleagues and opponents as a man of high integrity. His pursuit of high standards in relation to political activities has, however, as on this occasion, caused conflicts with a number of his political colleagues.

During the three years of Labor Government from December, 1972, Mr Beazley served very capably and effectively as the Minister for Education.

He successfully implemented the ALP's radical education program in the face of considerable opposition and criticism.

Despite his success and good reputation Mr Beazley failed in an attempt to be elected to the position of Deputy Leader of the party when he contested the position in January. In the subsequent elections for the party executive, however, he topped the poll and was the most senior

member on the executive after the House and Senate leaders.

Mr Beazley showed disquiet about the Iraqi money affair last week when he declared that he would be a candidate for the party leadership should the position be declared vacant or should the Leader, Mr Whitlam, resign. He was careful then to add that he had no reason to believe that an election for the job was likely.

Youngest

His move was a clear indication to colleagues, and particularly to Mr Whitlam, that he was less than happy with the events leading up to the meeting of the ALP Federal Executive last month which censured Mr Whitlam for his role in the affair.

In resigning from the front bench Mr Beazley, who was Opposition spokesman on both education and defence, appears to have disregarded a call by the ALP National Executive to members to close ranks.

Mr Beazley, 58, is the longest-serving Member of the House of

Representatives, having won the seat of Fremantle at a by-election in 1945 after the death of the wartime Labor Prime Minister, Mr John Curtin.

When he took his place in Parliament he was then, at 27, the youngest Member, though this distinction soon passed to the Tasmanian Liberal, Mr Bill Falkinder, who entered the House at 25 after a highly distinguished wartime career in the RAAF.

During his early years in Parliament he was known as "the student prince".

A school-teacher and university tutor before entering Parliament, Mr Beazley is considered by many to be one of the best orators in the House.

He is regarded as being on the right wing of the party and his deeply held religious beliefs (he has been associated with the Moral Re-Armament movement for more than 20 years) added to a certain scholarly aloofness have tended to invest him with the mantle of a "loner".

However, he has given greatly

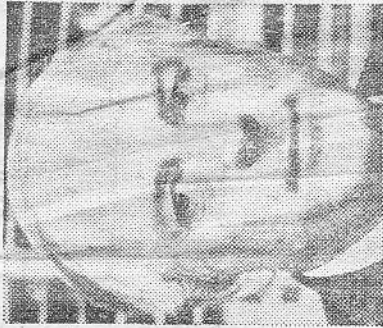
in service to the ALP and is respected as one of the party's thinkers. At the Adelaide ALP Conference in 1951 he wrote the preamble to the party's national platform and constitution. This preamble still stands today.

Precedent

He has served on the national executive of the party as well as the executive in his State of WA. From 1969 to 1971 he was senior vice-president of the ALP.

In 1955, the year of the ALP split which led ultimately to the formation of the Democratic Labor Party, Mr Beazley was one of a number of delegates who walked out of that year's Federal conference in Tasmania. The issue was one of principle, over the seating of rival delegations from Victoria.

Basing his view on a party precedent set in 1927, Mr Beazley held that both delegations should be excluded from the Conference until the matter was resolved instead of one delegation being seated to



Mr Beazley

pass judgment on the other. He felt this procedure was unjust.

Mr Beazley is married with two sons and a daughter. His eldest son, a WA Rhodes scholar, is married to a daughter of the late Senator Sir Shane Paltridge, a former Liberal Defence Minister.


His wife, whom he married in 1948, was the noted Australian athlete Betty Judge. She held the Australian 880 yd record from 1940 to 1951.

A teetotaler and non-smoker he lists his recreations as music, theatre, and reading.

He also has served as an official of the Australian Teachers Federation and on the Australian National University Council.

RON LALLAN
FILE

KIM BEAZLEY



A personal view

causes blindness and initially impairs eyesight.

The program was launched late in 1975 (Dr Douglas Everingham, Minister for Health in the Whitlam Government inducing Cabinet to finance travel, equipment and

the logistics of the action), and in its first two-and-a-half years 100,000 people were screened — 60,000 of them Aborigines. One thousand five hundred people were operated upon, and more than 8,000 pairs of spectacles were prescribed.

The ophthalmologists found that in some regions of Australia up to 80 per cent of Aboriginal children had the early stage of the disease — follicular trachoma.

Nearly 40 per cent of rural Aborigines were found to be its victims, with an incidence

as high as 70 per cent in some regions. High incidence of trachoma coincides with bad housing, inadequate or no water supplies, defective sewage and waste disposal methods, and some climate and dust factors.

Dr C. H. Gurd, Secretary for Health in the Northern Territory, has warned against putting faith in what he calls medical "magic bullets," such as antibiotics, in tackling Aboriginal ill health. Referring to other factors to restore health he wrote in a recent preface to a report:

"And so it is far too many Aborigines live in grinding poverty, with poor or non-existent water supplies and dangerous sanitary conditions. It is small wonder that babies brought up beneath the shelter of a piece of corrugated iron tend off the blazing sun of the day and the sometimes sub-zero temperatures of the night have a high infant mortality rate, that intestinal parasites abound, and infection is the commonest cause of morbidity and mortality."

In effect the ophthalmologists and Dr Gurd are alike calling for the services of engineers and architects to provide pure and potable water, hygienic conditions and adequate shelter.

There are Aboriginal settlements which would be regarded as towns and villages were they inhabited by whites. Perhaps the Commonwealth could finance the "medical engineering" which in Third World countries reduces the death rate more spectacularly than a corps of medical men

— pure water, hygienic sewage disposal, garbage removal.

The Aborigines in many areas constitute the Third World within this continent. With Commonwealth finance it is possible that engineers and architects could plan and supervise Aboriginal initiatives and self-help. If it were done on a voluntary basis, as in the case of the ophthalmologists, that would be an added bonus.

Perhaps engineers and architects could tackle the conscience of Federal Cabinet as Fred Hollows and the Royal

'TOO MANY ABORIGINES ARE LIVING IN DISASTER... WE HAVE NO EXCUSE OF FEAR'

Australian Co-ologists did It ought to the Commonwealth the nation. Whitlam for fund for action of Aboriginal Kimberleys. Too many living in dis minority people excuse of fear it. We can take action. Until v mats, politicians and should keep d Africa. We dealing with 150,000; not million deal of 23 million Our perform

Hydney Evening Herald 14 April 1980

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Whitlam's Iraqi connection 'degraded party'

Beazley out in protest

Prelude to attack in Caucus

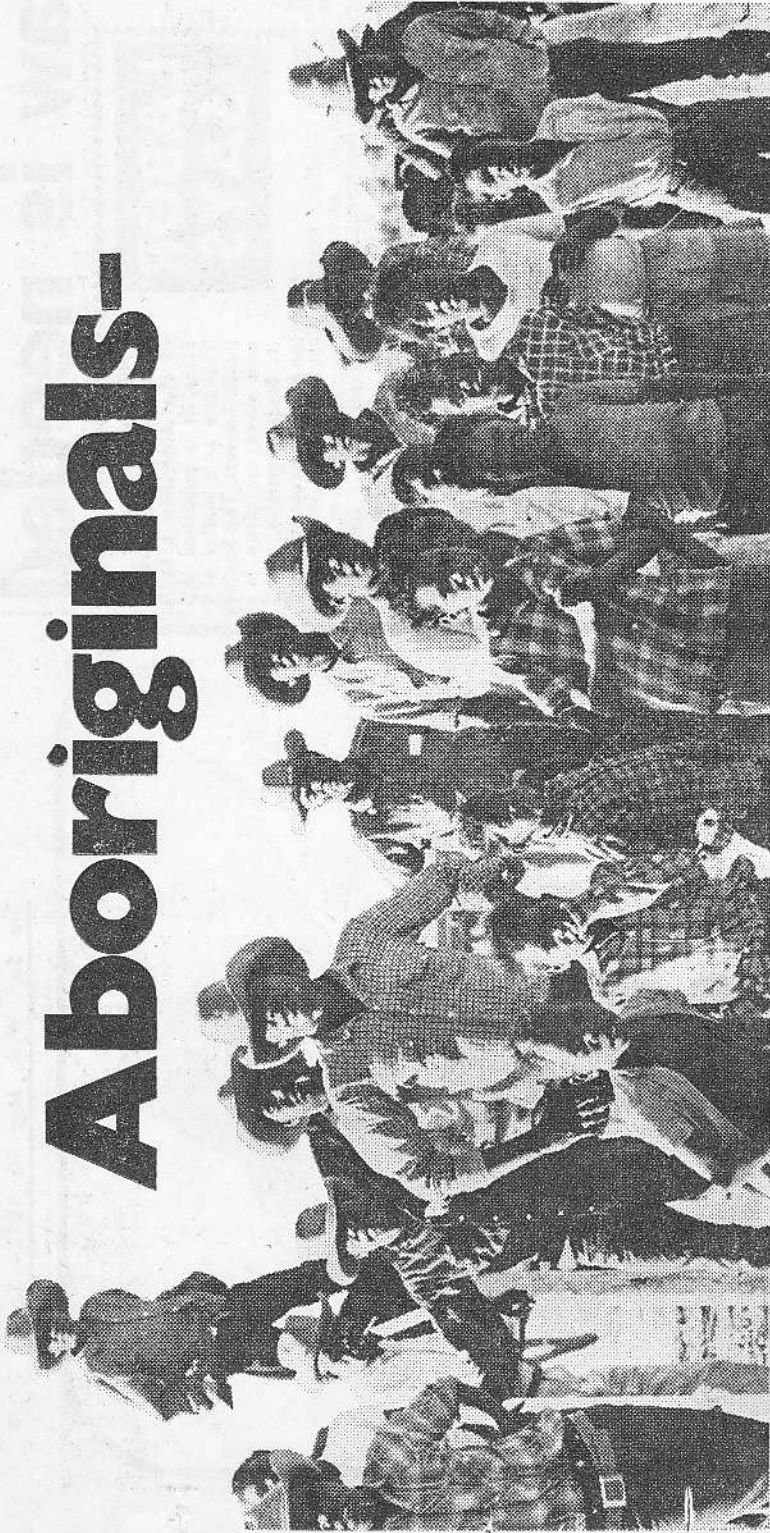
From our Canberra Bureau

CANBERRA.—Mr. Kim Beazley has resigned from Labor's shadow Cabinet in protest against Mr. Whitlam's involvement in the Iraqi election funds affair.

Mr. Beazley has accused Mr. Whitlam of infringing the independence of Australia and destroying the credibility of the Labor Party.

He said Mr. Whitlam had degraded the party.

Aboriginals-



AUSTRALIAN HISTORY AND SOCIAL STUDIES SYLLABUS

By KIM E. BEAZLEY, MHR,
Federal Opposition spokesman
for Education and Science.

A new policy?

ASSIMILATION or integration . . . an aboriginal confronted with this question might well ask by what moral authority do we undertake to determine his fate.

If we say that we have the right to determine the destiny of aboriginal people then we need to have the simplicity and honesty to admit that our right to do so, like our power to do so, is by right of conquest, an admission most would flinch from. Australia was explored and founded at a time

when the Crown in the United Kingdom was entering into treaties with the Red Indians in Canada.

These treaties, still in force, extend in a series from 1763 to 1921, governing Red Indian land rights, fishing rights, trapping and hunting rights, laying down Red Indian entitlements to schooling, granting assistance in farming and finance for farm implements, and financial assistance generally.

The secret instructions to James Cook seemed to envisage an extension to Australia of a similar policy. Cook was to show the aboriginals: "every kind of civility and regard and . . . with their consent to take possession of convenient situa-

tion. Reserve for the development of bauxite fields, though there was not much doubt that the land was theirs within the concepts of clan and tribal custom - customs annihilated as far as the right of possession was concerned by Phillip's proclamation.

Australian policy has rarely been based on sensitivity to aboriginal wishes - least of all on the question of land - for European settlers were, by definition, land-takers.

Ownership

Yet in Australia a concept of land ownership existed before George III was proclaimed sovereign. Not

perhaps a little water to account for its reputation. Yet Ljalaluma for the Aranda or Ipilpa for the Gumu has the same emotional value as London for an Englishman or Paris for a Frenchman.

Human beings born or conceived in an area were identified with the supernatural beings who created the landscape. Aboriginal religion was transcendent.

It sought to explain the origin of all things and man's identity with these things. The relationship with land was as mystical as the idea of George III by the Grace of God owning it all, and just as practical in governing the behavior of men.

Australia's policy has

nor "integration" as concepts put the day-to-day administration of aboriginal affairs under the discipline of practical achievement. "What have you done to assimilate aboriginals today?" would not require precise answers from an administrator of aboriginal affairs, nor would a similar question in relation to integration.

Urgent practical needs are the reduction to the general Australian level of neo-natal, infant, maternal and child mortality among aboriginals; the elimination of tuberculosis, now almost exclusively an aboriginal disease; the elimination of yaws, leprosy, trachoma, hookworm and gastro enteritis; the establishment of educational

eracy schemes) tailored to meet aboriginal needs; vocational training, acknowledgment of tribal land rights where they are still clearly definable, and acknowledgment of the right to live in the traditional way in areas where this is still practicable.

If "integration" as distinct from "assimilation" is the desired policy, then distinctive aboriginal representation in the Legislative Council of the Northern Territory, in some State Legislatures, and possibly by the Commonwealth Parliament (the latter presenting some Constitutional difficulties) should be provided, and an extension should be made of the South Australian acknowledgment

Term

The bloodletting is over at last

The Catholic Bishops and Kim Beazley have ceased firing. GRAHAM WILLIAMS

WHILE Kim Beazley lay in hospital last week recovering from exhaustion, key men in the Catholic Church were busy rushing to his defence.

It is a startling change of face. Catholics who a few months ago talked as if they didn't want Mr Beazley's Karmel Report at any price are now soft-peddalling.

"The bloodletting is over at last," a senior Melbourne priest said last week. "Even the most avid DLP Catholics are being forced now to abandon their paranoid, irrational hostility to the Karmel Report."

"They're being forced to face the fact that more than 95 per cent of pupils in Catholic schools will have more than three times as much Federal aid as ever before."

The groundswell is now so strong that the Sydney Catholic Weekly last week reported a backlash among Catholics in favor of the Karmel Report. And this groundswell may well work strongly against the Federal Opposition, which has moved several key amendments to the bill establishing the Australian Schools Commission.

The amendments — designed to water down the

granting of aid on a needs basis and remove the right of the minister to select the 15-man commission himself — are due to be debated tomorrow.

Mr Malcolm Fraser, Education Minister in the old Liberal-Country days, is now privately claiming that the Opposition has the numbers to force the amendments through. If this happens, the Government will withdraw the bill. And this would mean a lower grade schools committee would be entrusted with the job of ascertaining future school needs.

Unhappy

Many Catholic bishops are in fact reported to be unhappy about the proposed amendments. They don't want the Government pushed around for petty political motives over such a key issue. For at stake is about \$191 million for independent Catholic — most of them grants alone in the next two years.

"The Federal Opposition is toying with the lives of hundreds of thousands of Catholics and, if it's pushed too far, the Government might well react," the principal of one Sydney Catholic school told me.

The Catholic Weekly put it another way. It quoted a senator for Catholic education authority who warned of the dangers of continued unfair or intemperate criticism of the Government: "If this continues the Government might decide not to implement fully the many good features of the Karmel recommendations. There is always room for criticism — but it must be well reasoned and constructive."

As if sensing the threat to the schools, Catholic associations and bishops have come out strongly in support of Mr Beazley and the Karmel Report.

Archbishop Guilford Young of Hobart, a political conservative, last week put forward the Catholic case for a flat grant to all independent pupils, with added grants for disadvantaged pupils. But he also said, significantly: "I think we as a people have, on the whole, moved from the crash and roar of the arena to the platform of reasoned debate and that a fundamental consensus has emerged."

"Now all major parties agree that Australian parents choosing to use non-government schools have their rights and should get some share of the education budget."

A tribute should be paid — "not a nigardly, unapprecia-

tive reaction — to the importance, value and many excellences of the Karmel Report and the Labor Government's decision."

And he added that Mr Beazley "has personally done and is doing a very fine job."

The Federation of Catholic Parents and Friends in Sydney went even further. The largest Catholic parent organisation in Australia, it dissociated itself from "some of the intemperate statements made over the past few days by some spokesmen for the independent school sector, particularly any remarks that reflected on the integrity of Mr Beazley."

Flat grants

The Catholic Bishops are, as a body, an unknown quantity. They all support the principle of a flat grant to every child, with a needs-tested grant added.

But most would now back off from the suggestions by Bishop Carroll of Wagga & few months back that Catholics would be prepared to give some of their funds to other schools to ensure that all got grants. Apart from being unconstitutional, this idea is politically absurd anyway.

One thing is certain: that, whereas several bishops a few months back were very hostile

to the Karmel Report, now most are moving to the middle ground, or even endorsing the report.

As the Melbourne Catholic Worker has pointed out, the most vehement Catholic opponents of the Karmel Report don't seem to know what life is like on the other side of the tracks.

By attacking the report, they appear nothing but defenders of the very vocal rich schools. They seem to ignore the report's implications for the majority of Catholics in very poor schools.

And church leaders are becoming highly sensitive to the charge that by taking up arms against the Karmel Report they are in fact neglecting the poor and protecting the rich.

Mr Beazley raised this point in a vigorous debate on the aid issue with Father G. F. Jordan, headmaster of the Jesuits' St Ignatius College in Sydney 10 days ago. He remarked that Father Jordan — who had strongly criticised the Karmel Report — should remember that the world head of the Jesuits on his recent visit to Sydney had said the Jesuits were too rich and were not reaching out enough to the poor.

Mr Beazley was inundated with letters from Jesuits who pointed out that Father Jordan



LEY... defended at last.

Resigned Labor Cabinet in protest against Mr. Whitlam's involvement in the Iraki election funds affair.

Mr. Beazley has accused Mr. Whitlam of infringing the independence of Australia and destroying the credibility of the Labor Party.

He said Mr. Whitlam had degraded the party.

It is believed Mr. Beazley's resignation is his first step in a bid to topple Mr. Whitlam from Labor leadership.

Mr. Beazley, the longest-serving Labor member of the Federal Parliament, was the shadow Minister for defence and education.

He sent his letter of resignation from the parliamentary executive to the chairman of the party, Senator Brown, yesterday.

News of it leaked out late last night.

It is understood that in his letter Mr. Beazley claimed that Mr. Whitlam had withheld information about the Iraki affair from the parliamentary executive.

He also said he understood Mr. Whitlam had authorised requests for money for the ALP from the Prime Minister of Iraq and another Minister and to the head of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, Mr. Yasser Arafat.

However, informed Labor members refuted this second claim.

They said that a Victorian Socialist-Left delegate to the ALP National Executive, Mr. Bill Hartley, had admitted making certain approaches to Arab sources for election funds apart from the contact with a Sydney intermediary, Mr. Henry Fischer, which Mr. Whitlam and the national secretary of the ALP, Mr. David Combe, had approved.

Mr. Hartley is understood to have told the national executive meeting 10 days ago that he had not consulted Mr. Whitlam or Mr. Combe about certain letters, telex messages and telephone calls he had made to leading Arab figures.

Strong criticism

Mr. Beazley's resignation is seen as a prelude to strong criticism which he is expected to direct at Mr. Whitlam at tomorrow's Caucus meeting.

Other executive members, notably Senator Wheeldon, and Dr. Cass, are expected to join in this criticism.

But there is some feeling that the criticism could rebound because of the widespread support which Mr. Whitlam has rallied among rank-and-file members of the party around Australia.

Probably a majority of Caucus members are privately strongly critical of Mr. Whitlam over his involvement in the Iraki affair.

But most appear to have been persuaded by grass-roots reaction not to move against his leadership.

Mr. Beazley said in his letter of resignation:

"Information has been withheld from the executive of the parliamentary party which should not have been withheld, and that, in my view, prevents the executive from functioning as it should.

"Mr. Whitlam would not give information to the executive at its last meeting essential to its knowledge of the party's affairs and of his stewardship as party leader.

"When questioned, he effectively concealed the facts of the Irak campaign funds affair.

"Those not consulted or informed find what Mr. Whitlam has been doing when the people to whom he entrusts his entirely personal strategies (e.g.



Mr. Beazley

A man who will not silence his conscience

By MICHELLE GRATTAN

Kim Beazley's colleagues regard him with admiration laced with wonder and some doubt.

A brilliant debater, intense, rather aloof, he is known for his intellectual capacity, his support for Moral Rearmament and his commitment to political purity.

A former teacher and university tutor, Kim Beazley, 58, was elected for the West Australian seat of Fremantle in 1945 — making him the longest serving Labor man in the Parliament.

He took part in the famous Labor-split Federal conference — and was among those who walked out in protest against the decision to refuse to seat the representatives of the "old" Victorian executive. The stand led him into sharp conflict with West Australian "strong man" Joe Chamberlain.

A tall, impressive figure, Beazley always looked potential leadership material. But once he became involved in the Moral Rearmament cause his colleagues came to regard him as too "other worldly".

He contested the leadership when Arthur Calwell retired after the 1966 debate, but did not poll well.

His main political interests have been foreign affairs, education and aborigines.

And even in Parliament, he remained the active intellectual. He completed part time a two-volume MA on the Labor Party.

In party brawls Kim Beazley has usually been on Gough Whitlam's side.

But at some point in recent months Beazley obviously