

**Theme:** Australia - Quo Vadis?

**Text:** Tim Costello, Bob Brown and Kerry Jones debate G-G crisis

**Source:** The World Today - Friday, 9 May, 2003, www.abc.net.au

ELEANOR HALL: Bob Brown, what do you think? Does this latest twist in the controversy, the rape allegation, complicate any move by Dr Hollingworth to resign?

BOB BROWN: I think it puts almost unthinkable pressure on the Governor-General and if he is innocent one can only think of what a terrible trial it is for him. However I maintain the position of a  
5 week ago, which is that he should have stepped down in light of the report from Queensland, and I think the Prime Minister has got to step in to make that decision now. To either ask the Governor-General to resign in the interest of the nation, hard as that decision may be, or to declare that he is going to stand by him through thick and thin. The Prime Minister appointed the Governor-General. The nation is hurting greatly, not least the Governor-General himself, but the whole nation is hurting greatly here and an end  
10 needs to come to this turmoil and to the attack, effectively, that is occurring here on the office of the leader of this nation.

ELEANOR HALL: But Bob Brown what about ...

BOB BROWN: So I think the Prime Minister has a big responsibility there.

ELEANOR HALL: But what about this point being made by Tim Costello? That if the Governor-  
15 General resigns or is in some way induced to resign that that will make it look like, at least in the public eye, that he is admitting guilt to rape?

BOB BROWN: [...] I think Australians can make a separation between that and the situation [...] three days ago, [when] the rape allegations hadn't come forward [yet]. It makes it very much more complicated but it doesn't change the circumstances of three days ago. I think the Governor-General  
20 should have gone earlier. He's obviously going to, I think, tough it out, but the damage there to the nation is huge.

### **Annotations:**

Vocabulary for listening comprehension: Reporter: Eleanor Hall; interviewee: Kerry Jones; frenzy - hysterical or emotional behaviour; be fuelled by - made worse by (a fire is fuelled by ...); (to demonstrate) compassion - kindness to people in need; the underprivileged - poor or uneducated people; frenzied days - hectic days; (quiet) reflection - time to think; bring sth into the public arena - make sth. public; charge - accusation, to raise an allegation - to bring forth an allegation; Geoff Clark - the aboriginal head of ATSIC [The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission] who has been accused of rape; backbencher - derogative term for a junior politician sitting on the rear benches in parliament; suppression order - order to keep the accusations against the G-G secret during the legal process

Vocabulary print text: 5 report from Queensland - *Inquiry into Past Handling of Complaints of Sexual Abuse*; 10 turmoil - chaos; 14 Tim Costello - Reverend and outspoken human rights campaigner; 20 tough it out - (slang) to stand firm

### Assignments:

1. Outline Kerry Jones' position regarding the Governor-General. [Listening comprehension]
2. Compare the position of Kerry Jones (assignment 1) to that of Bob Brown. [Analysis/Comparison]
3. What role do the current events surrounding the Governor-General play for the future of Australia? [Background Comment]

Interview (listening comprehension):

ELEANOR HALL: Kerry Jones, how do you see this rape allegation affecting the controversy surrounding the Governor-General?

KERRY JONES: In my view it doesn't affect it at all. We'd reached such a hysterical frenzy, if you like, fuelled by not only the media but of course the politicians coming in one by one in a case that they should have left well alone.

And of course Peter Hollingworth is in the job of Governor-General because he stood on a very proud Australian record. He was Australian of the Year. He was a man who had demonstrated great compassion and support for the underprivileged. A great Australian and he has not been left any time at all for the last few frenzied days to be allowed the quiet reflection that you would expect to allow a leader at a time obviously of personal crisis.

ELEANOR HALL: But he's himself brought this into the public arena. I mean, he made that public statement yesterday bringing the very charges of rape right before the public eye.

KERRY JONES: Well of course he had to answer allegations that now had been raised by another politician. I don't believe they should have ever been raised, that they should have been allowed their due course as would obviously have otherwise occurred.

ELEANOR HALL: We're not talking about a politician here, though, we're talking about a court case and there are other instances where other people who have been accused, I mean the obvious one just at the moment is Geoff Clark, the head of ATSIC [The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission – an Aborigine accused of rape in four cases], the Government's asking him to stand aside while allegations against him of rape are being examined. Is it not sensible that the Governor-General should consider something similar?

KERRY JONES: Well who knows what the Governor-General would have done if the case had actually gone to the legal process that may have occurred if we hadn't this frenzy raised by a Labor backbencher to raise a suppression order that was obviously part of the due course of that legal process.

There is so much hysteria around now. Our ideal of an Australian as giving people a fair go and tolerance has gone out the window on this issue. We are talking about the highest position in the land, our Australian head of state, and I would urge all Australians now to allow a process of quietness and reflection while the other due processes keep going.