

Australia needs to be embarrassed, Perkins says

Australia needs to be embarrassed, Perkins says (1975, May 28). The Canberra Times (ACT : 1926 - 1995), p. 9. At: <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article110639769> (accessed May 22, 2017).

"We deliberately set out to embarrass Australia overseas because it needs to be embarrassed", Aboriginal activist Mr Charles Perkins said on his arrival at Canberra from Alice Springs last night.

"In the next three months we will embarrass Australia beyond belief by an organised dynamic campaign at the United Nations in New York.

"I would suggest that every Australian, should take an aspirin the night that happens because they are going to be horribly embarrassed".

He denied he had been using Commonwealth Literary Fund money to travel overseas and attack Australia, saying his trip had been partly paid for by the Israeli Government and Jewish community in Australia, and the remaining \$1,200 had been met by him and his companion.

He said the Prime Minister, Mr Whitlam, should not be allowed to travel overseas and say Australia was not racist. The Government's special adviser on community relations, Mr Grassby, "should not be allowed to leave Canberra".

He attacked the administration of the Aboriginal Affairs Department, from which he is on leave without pay; and said the Labor Administration was crippling the independence of Aboriginals at (illegible).

The organisations had to beg the department for money every three months, and were being threatened "that if they did not behave, they would not get any."

He said Senator Cavanagh had threatened two Victorian groups recently with having their funds cut off if they continued to venture into politics and in particular, attack the Minister and the department, He declined to name them, saying neither had received its quarterly grant.

He indicated he had received an offer of National Country Party pre-selection, put said he had not made up his mind yet.

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Mr Perkins at Canberra Airport yesterday.

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