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DEATH OF SIR WILFRID KENT HUGHES

Tribute by the Prime Minister, Mr. John Gorton

The death of Sir Wilfrid Kent Hughes has robbed Australia of one of its most distinguished citizens.

He had devoted his life to service to his country... as a scholar, soldier, politician and statesman. He also made a significant contribution to Australian sport, both as an Olympic Games representative in his own right and in later years as President of the Victorian Olympic Council and Chairman of the Organising Committee of the Melbourne Olympic Games.

In 43 years as a Parliamentarian he served as a Minister in the Victorian and Federal Parliaments, and was an outstanding soldier in both world wars. His fortitude and qualities of leadership were further demonstrated during the three-and-a-half years he spent in Japanese prisoner-of-war camps.

Sir Wilfrid Kent Hughes was a fine Australian... a man of integrity and great strength of character. His death is a loss to me personally, to the Liberal Party, to the Federal Parliament and to the nation.

I extend my deepest sympathy to his family.

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CANBERRA  
31 July 1970