

FOR PRESS

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RESPONSIBILITY FOR ABCRIGINES

The Prime Minister, Mr. John Gorton, today made the following comment on reported remarks by the Premier of Queensland about aborigines in that State :-

"The Commonwealth, and not the States, has the paramount responsibility for aborigines, as a result of a decision made by Australian electors at a referendum.

The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs has been working closely with State Governments and leaving the administration of policies to the States. But it still remains a Commonwealth duty and responsibility to ensure that discriminatory racial laws do not persist in Australia."

CANBERRA
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