



PRIME MINISTER

TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW WITH SIMON CLARKE, TODAY SHOW,
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CLARKE: Well Prime Minister, I guess the thing that people will be asking, the mood was so positive before and after that presentation. What went wrong?

PM: We didn't get the votes. But you put your finger on it, Simon. What in a sense really sticks in the craw is, you know, the general rush we had to us of people after our presentation congratulating Australia on its presentation and it occurred again tonight when I went in to the Great Assembly before it was announced. One - and I mean very, very prominent in the Olympic movement - went out of his way to come up to me - and he's a tough sort of fellow - he said I want to tell you that in my whole history of association with the international Olympic movement there have been two great presentations, and he said Chirac and the French and Hawke with Australia and that was unsolicited and that was, as you know, I mean it was all around the place. I think Australians, you know, have cause to be a little bit worried when you know that your bid was so good, the presentation was well done and it's not reflected in the votes. I think that's a bit worrying.

CLARKE: Are you suggesting there may have been some other motives -

PM: I'm not questioning anyone's integrity. Let me make that quite clear. But one has to wonder whether financial considerations do come into it in terms of TV rights and what people are able to offer in those circumstances. It's very difficult, I think, to understand - and I do want your viewers to know that this is not sour grapes, I mean I really hope we're all able to lose graciously and I hope we are. But I'm seriously concerned about the future position where North America has it in 1984 and then again in '96, Toronto polling very well ahead of us, North America. Are decisions, to some extent, being affected by what sort of distribution there may be able to be from ... television rights in a particular region rather than another? I mean if that is part of what these people - because they think there's going to be more to be distributed - I say it not in a venal sense but it ought to be distributed. Well what

does that do for the concept of the universality of Olympism?

CLARKE: So are you saying there's some kind of barrier in the minds of IOC members to allowing the Games to come to the Southern Hemisphere?

PM: Well all one can say is that we were all staggered by the way in which, after our presentation, quite gratuitously delegates and officials went out of their way to praise the bid and the presentation. I mean one senior official saying the best presentation in memory. Now we're not saying those things. We think we did pretty well in the presentation but others are saying it. Now if you've got the facts, you've got the facilities, you've got the environment, you've got the sports fanatic population and you've done an historically good presentation then what are people going to say?

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