

KERRY O'BRIEN: And now for John Clarke and Bryan Dawe on politicians and apologies.

BRYAN DAWE: Kevin Rudd, thanks for your time

JOHN CLARKE: Good evening Bryan, it's very good to be with you.

BRYAN DAWE: The apology went well this week.

JOHN CLARKE: It did go well, it went very well Bryan. These things are very important, I mean obviously they're important for the people to whom an apology is made.

BRYAN DAWE: And they've waited a long time haven't they?

JOHN CLARKE: They have, they've waited a very long time in some cases.

BRYAN DAWE: This sort of thing I think helps to define the sort of society we are.

JOHN CLARKE: That's the other point, Bryan, and that's a very, very good point. If we are, as we claim to be, a caring society then we need to express that.

BRYAN DAWE: Mmm, mmm, mmm.

JOHN CLARKE: We need to express that concern.

BRYAN DAWE: A lot of bad things have happened.

JOHN CLARKE: And a lot of very bad things have happened.

BRYAN DAWE: And I think it's important to acknowledge these things, would you agree?

JOHN CLARKE: It is, it's very important to acknowledge them Bryan and I'll tell you something else that's important. These things are bipartisan.

BRYAN DAWE: Yes, Mr Turnbull spoke very well didn't he?

JOHN CLARKE: Didn't Mr Turnbull speak well? A great credit to Mr Turnbull he spoke very movingly and very...

BRYAN DAWE: As did Brendan Nelson during the first apology....

JOHN CLARKE: As did Brendan Nelson on the other occasion, yes indeed! Of course these are issues, Bryan, that with any luck supervene party affiliations.

BRYAN DAWE: Yes, they are above party politics.

JOHN CLARKE: Yes, they are above politics, exactly, well put. They're above politics.

BRYAN DAWE: So, Mr Rudd, will there be others?

JOHN CLARKE: Other apologies?

BRYAN DAWE: Yes.

JOHN CLARKE: Well, there may be I suppose other apologies over time.

BRYAN DAWE: Oh really, who else would get an apology?

JOHN CLARKE: Well, Bryan, what I mean by that is there are many groups and many individuals who have suffered pain.

BRYAN DAWE: Victims, yeah.

JOHN CLARKE: Who have suffered...

BRYAN DAWE: Yeah, like who?

JOHN CLARKE: Well Bryan, we would look at any group who had been so disadvantaged.

BRYAN DAWE: Telstra shareholders.

JOHN CLARKE: Telstra shareholders?

BRYAN DAWE: Yeah, well they were victims of terrible decisions, they had.. they're uncaring decision, and caused a lot of pain and suffering.

JOHN CLARKE: I suppose in the case of Telstra shareholders, Bryan, they did believe they were doing the right thing, didn't they? They...

BRYAN DAWE: Well, they probably thought they were helping.

JOHN CLARKE: Probably thought they were helping, opportunity of a lifetime.

BRYAN DAWE: Well, they were told that by the Prime Minister at the time.

JOHN CLARKE: They were, they were indeed. That's ah...

BRYAN DAWE: Now, what about Collingwood supporters, would that fit in to the...

JOHN CLARKE: Collingwood supporters... I don't know, Bryan, that Collingwood supporters fulfil the criteria for a national apology.

BRYAN DAWE: Well they've suffered losses, emotional pain, humiliation.

JOHN CLARKE: There has been some social dislocation in some cases.

BRYAN DAWE: They're often laughed at.

JOHN CLARKE: They are laughed at, yes, often with good reason. Bryan the point I'm making is that they got themselves into it perhaps, and I don't know that they fulfil the requirements for a national apology.

BRYAN DAWE: What about the people who pay land tax?

JOHN CLARKE: That's a very good point. That is a very good point, the suffering those people go through is astonishing Bryan.

BRYAN DAWE: I know, it's incredible.

JOHN CLARKE: I acknowledge that suffering.

BRYAN DAWE: Well, what are they getting for their money.

JOHN CLARKE: Well, what are they getting?

BRYAN DAWE: Absolutely nothing.

JOHN CLARKE: They're getting minus nothing Bryan, they're paying through the snorer for a service that doesn't exist.

BRYAN DAWE: Mmm. People who don't like The Bill.

JOHN CLARKE: People who don't like The Bill? On television?

BRYAN DAWE: Yes.

JOHN CLARKE: That'd be an internal matter surely Bryan.

BRYAN DAWE: Well their lives are ruined.

JOHN CLARKE: I acknowledge the hurt, Bryan, and the pain.

BRYAN DAWE: Yes, but every week...

JOHN CLARKE: I acknowledge the hurt...

BRYAN DAWE: Every week. It happened to me once [sobbing].

JOHN CLARKE: Pardon, it happened to you? Do you want to talk about it? Can we stop the cameras please [raising voice] just stop the cameras! Just a minute Bryan, I'll talk to you in a minute. I acknowledge your pain.

BRYAN DAWE: [sobbing] Thank you.

KERRY O'BRIEN: That's the program for tonight and the week.