



from politics prematurely, after a tumultuous career. Although I do not appreciate the way she was elevated to the position of P.M. by ambitious individuals (My guess is that they have got what they wanted) she was someone who deserved a better deal. Once acclaimed as the best performer on debates, he had all the qualities to make an exemplary leader, but power-hungry ALP members were in a hurry to get rid of Kevin Rudd and pulled her out to be put on an uncomfortable seat, rather prematurely. Those very people had no hesitation to pull her down when it suited their purpose. As a result the country lost a use-

ful leader.. leaving that aside, one has to look at the validictory speech by Kevin Rudd and the responses to his decision from his colleagues on both sides of the House. As far as I remember, Rudd mentioned the Apology given to the Australian Aboriginal people about the 'Stolen Generation' as his highest achievement. No one would forget the scene that day, around and away from the Canberra Legislature where both Black and white men and women shed tears of joy. Surprisingly even the new champion of Aboriginal men, in the person of Tony Abbott did not seem to notice it.



He simply could not have forgotten it as his own Guru and mentor, John Howard made a special display of arrogance and die-hard anti-Aboriginal attitude by boycotting the ceremony attended by all other

KEVIN RUDD BOWS OUT

Missed opportunities and lost talent

It was an interesting and also a moving scene. He had to go. Not like Sri Lankan politicians who cannot be driven away even with the traditional resin treatment, Australians are aware of their departure time..

Having had the benefit of listening to the parliamentary proceedings on the day, my mind raced up and down between my motherland and this country. Kevin Rudd had reached his end politically with no more contribution to make. And he did realize that his use-by-date is past.. How about Sri Lanka's more-or-less

permanent leader of the opposition? Ranil Wickramasinghe has already gone into the Guinness Book of World Records as the politician to have led his party to eight or nine successive defeats.

It is heartening to see politicians of this land behaving in an exemplary manner in a world dominated by self-seeking opportunists. At the same time, I feel rather sad that we have lost some talents that could have done much more for country. One such person is Julia Gillard, who retired

Another man who went with her was Greg Combe, one of the more sedate and able men in politics. He would have done a lot for the country as well as the working class, by continuing in Parliament. Though not hunted by anyone, he was a victim of that ugly scene in which the first woman P. M. of the land was ousted. There may have been some others too.

living ex - P.M.s. True that even Abbott referred to Rudd's colourful and wonderful campaign to oust John Howard, but not as effectively as Michael Turnbull did.

Turnbull made one of the finest speeches one could hear at the place. Watching that polished performance, I wondered whether we had lost another potential Prime Minister for good. It is my earnest hope that he will one day be there in style. Let us wait and see.

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Registered Tax Agent

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Anne Heenatimulla LL.M (Monash)
Principal
Barrister & Solicitor