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Aborigine says he was harassed at CRA meeting

Aboriginal activist Mr. Gary Foley claims an attempt was made to prevent him entering the annual meeting of CRA Ltd.

Mr. Foley a tutor at Swinburne College, Hawthorn, held a proxy form entitling him to enter the meeting, held at the Southern Cross Hotel yesterday.

CRA holds permits to search for diamonds on Aboriginal land in Western Australia.

Mr. Foley said yesterday that

a deliberate and carefully pre-arranged attempt had been made to prevent him entering.

A man approached him at the bottom of the stairs leading to the meeting in the hotel's ballroom, and asked him if he had an invitation to the meeting.

None of the other shareholders moving up the stairs were being questioned, Mr. Foley said.

"I showed him my proxy form and he still refused to allow me by."

Mr. Foley and a member of the Campaign Against Racial Exploitation ran up the stairs, chased by the questioner, and presented their proxies, watched by their pursuer. The proxies were declared valid.

Mr. Carnegie said company staff were not vetting people before they arrived in the two rooms rented for the meeting.

"If anything happened in such a way I'm sorry for it. Certainly we'll take the matter up with the hotel."

The general manager of the hotel, Mr. M. Cairns, denied that hotel staff vetted people entering the meeting. "We'd be out of line to do it," he said.

Mr. Foley said the company appeared to have a lot of information about him. He asked Mr. Carnegie if it operated an internal intelligence unit.

Mr. Carnegie emphatically denied that CRA operated an intelligence unit.