



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
MATTERS OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Political Parties

SPEECH

Thursday, 2 July 1998

BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Date Thursday, 2 July 1998
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Questioner
Speaker Andrews, Kevin, MP

Source House
Proof No
Responder
Question No.

Mr ANDREWS (Menzies) (4.44 pm)—Over past days and weeks and months the One Nation Party of the member for Oxley (Ms Hanson) has projected itself throughout this land as a new, democratic grassroots force in Australian politics. It has represented itself from one coast to the other, from north to south, as the saviour of the people, as a party that will enable ordinary Australians to have a say in their future.

From the revelations that have come out over the past few days and weeks from inside the One Party Nation itself, we can see that this is a gross misrepresentation and that the party is nothing but a sham. As the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (Mr Ruddock) pointed out today, even when policies are released by the One Nation Party, those policies are based on incorrect and unfactual statements which in a sense are saying to the Australian people, 'Believe one set of things; do not look too much into the detail.'

Leaving aside the fact that the policies espoused by this party will create not one nation but two, leaving aside that these policies seem to be motivated by an intolerance of some sections of the Australian community, leaving aside that, if allowed to govern with these policies, it would wreak economic havoc on this country and the many ordinary Australians who have rushed to support One Nation—leaving aside all of these very important matters, there is one issue that goes to the heart of One Nation at the present time, and that issue is this: who controls this political party? How is it funded? Or has it become the captive of one or two individuals for their own selfish financial and personal motives?

These are questions which ordinary Australians deserve to have answered for them, and they deserve to have answered for them here and now today. Because the questions have been addressed in this place over the last few days and the last few weeks, and there is essentially one person who can answer these questions. They cannot be answered, for example, by the honourable member for Kalgoorlie (Mr Campbell) or by any other Independent member or by a member of the Labor Party. Indeed, they cannot be answered on this side of the chamber. There is one indisputable, unavoidable fact about this matter, that is, one person and one person only can answer these questions, and they deserve to be answered.

This week a One Nation insider revealed that One Nation is not what many decent and ordinary Australians think it is. As we have read in the media over the last few weeks, Barbara Hazelton was a confidante, a friend and a personal secretary of the member for Oxley, yet she is only the latest in a long line of supporters and candidates of One Nation to walk away from this movement or, in many other cases, to be pushed out for failing to toe the line in the increasingly autocratic way in which it is done. In the *Herald-Sun* yesterday under the heading 'Betrayal' pictures appeared of a few of those who have been disenchanted by One Nation or those who have been sacked. Barbara Hazelton, a confidante of the member for Oxley, resigned; Morrie Marsden, who has things to say about the member, was sacked; Bruce Whiteside, who started a supporters group, has been banished, told that he was no longer wanted, yet he was one of these people supporting the member for Oxley; David Thomas was sacked; even the biographer, Helen Dodd, was sacked and told to get out, presumably because something that she wanted to say did not fit into the scheme of those who are controlling One Nation. That is the central issue. And we all know about Mr Pasquarelli.

One Nation is being exposed increasingly around this nation as something of a puppet show, a particularly violent and undesirable episode of Punch and Judy. Let us remember that Mrs Hazelton is not an operative of the Liberal Party or the Labor Party or the National Party; Mrs Hazelton was a close confidante and personal friend of the member for Oxley.

Mr Martin Ferguson—She used to work for some of your mates.

Mr ANDREWS—This is not someone, as the member at the table, the member for Batman (Mr Martin Ferguson), knows, who started out taking a view that she is opposed to what One Nation stands for. I presume

by the comments and the interjection made by the honourable member at the table that he is not defending the policies of One Nation either.

Let us hear what Mrs Hazelton herself said in this week's *Australian*. These words ought to be heard not just by all honourable members in this chamber and in the other place but also by all decent ordinary Australians. She said this:

What needs to be exposed is David Oldfield's One Nation. I dislike using harsh language about people—both to avoid seeming vengeful and because most people deserve the benefit of the doubt. But the danger facing One Nation is too serious to mince words. Oldfield is a manipulative, hypnotic, hugely narcissistic individual who has taken almost complete control of Pauline's life whether she realises it or not.

We have seen examples of that. Who can forget the memorable episode on television on the weekend where you had not simply the member for Oxley answering questions but also Mr Oldfield sitting beside her, crossing over and saying, 'No, this is what we really think. Let us get it right.'

Could you imagine the situation in this country if the Leader of the Opposition or the Prime Minister or any minister or shadow minister—or any of us for that matter—went to a press conference and had a staff member sitting beside us saying, 'No, that is the way in which you answer the question'? What would the media say if the Prime Minister of this country went to a media conference with his senior adviser and the answers were given not by the Prime Minister but by the senior adviser? What would we say about that? Yet that is precisely what happened.

Mr Hockey—A ventriloquist.

Mr ANDREWS—A ventriloquist; I fully accept that interjection. We saw in yesterday's media a press conference held in a highly manipulated fashion called at 1.30 in the afternoon. Everybody around here knows that there is question time at 2 o'clock and that the ladies and gentlemen of the media have to cover question time and that members themselves are expected to go to question time. We had a 15- or 20-minute speech allowing little time for any questioning about the policies that had been put forward.

But that was not the end of it. The honourable member for Oxley said to the ladies and gentlemen of the media—and I wonder what treatment we would get if any of us did this—'I am not going to answer questions that may be of some public importance that are taxing the minds of Australians at the present time. I am simply not going to answer any questions that have been raised about the corporate structure, the financing or any other arrangements so far as One Nation is concerned. Do not bother asking me about that. In fact, I will get angry if you ask me some questions which are legitimate questions about the democratic or otherwise nature of the party which bears my name.' These are examples showing that what Mrs Hazelton said in the *Australian* this week was true.

Barbara Hazelton says that there is widespread concern in One Nation about this manipulation of Pauline Hanson by David Oldfield, her adviser, and by the National Director of One Nation, David Ettridge. It would be easy to say in these circumstances that Mrs Hazelton is somebody who is just disaffected. She has left and we could simply say that this is what you would expect her to say in these circumstances. The member for Oxley might say, 'It is sour grapes. She has left me. We have fallen out. You do not have to take any notice of Mrs Hazelton at all.'

But let us go to the actual charges that Mrs Hazelton makes. You cannot simply dismiss what this woman has said, having been a confidante of the member for Oxley and having been one of the key people in the One Nation Party, without directly answering the allegations and the charges that she has made. Unless those allegations and charges in their specific detail are answered, then those questions remain unanswered; they remain questions which ought to burn large in the minds of Australians.

Mrs Hazelton charges that Pauline Hanson has so little control of One Nation that she is unable to obtain a membership list from David Ettridge. Imagine the Prime Minister of Australia not being able to obtain a membership list of the Liberal Party. Imagine the Deputy Prime Minister not being able to obtain a membership list of the National Party. Imagine Mr Beazley, the Leader of the Opposition, not being able to obtain a membership list of the National Party. Sometimes they fall off trucks and even we find them.

Mr Leo McLeay—It will be a bit hard to get a list for the National Party.

Mr ANDREWS—Even in your case sometimes they fall off trucks and we get them. But membership lists exist.

Mr Melham—How do you get into the 500 Club?

Mr ANDREWS—Even those membership lists, because people are proud to be members of the 500 Club, they really are. And more and more are joining, so don't worry. Those membership lists are available.

Imagine if it were said that the leader of a political party, even a member in a particular area, could not obtain a membership list. We even know that branches cannot speak to each other within One Nation. She charges that hundreds of people have contacted One Nation complaining about mismanagement by the head office in Manly. She gave an example of people who have joined their so-called 500 Club and have not received receipts some months later. She charges that Pauline Hanson has no control over the endorsement of candidates. She recounts how two South Australian One Nation candidates came all the way from South Australia to Canberra to seek assurance that they would not be disendorsed. Ms Hanson assured them that they would not be disendorsed; and less than two hours later they had been, by Mr Ettridge. Who has control?

Mrs Hazelton charges that there is widespread concern among One Nation members about the quality of One Nation candidates for the federal election. She says the Queensland state director and others wanted to declare all positions vacant, readvertise and start again. One candidate, for example, sent a drawing of how Jesus looked when he appeared to him in 1969. She says this is not atypical of some of the people involved with this party. When Mrs Hazelton approached Ettridge to complain about this lack of quality of candidates, she received the comment, 'Don't discourage them. We need the \$250 registration fee from each one of them.'

She further charges that David Oldfield treats ordinary One Nation members with total contempt. He is dismissive of their policy ideas and, Mrs Hazelton says, he 'can barely conceal his revulsion for the type of people who make up One Nation'. This is Mr Oldfield, the so-called adviser. She concluded her article saying:

It is painful to write these words and it is one of the saddest days of my life but people need to know that One Nation has been hijacked and that people are being hoodwinked if they think Hanson is in control.

People are being hoodwinked if they think that the member for Oxley is in control. These revelations have lifted the lid on the paranoid little secret society that is One Nation—David Oldfield's and David Ettridge's One Nation.

The assassination video that we would like to forget but remember from late last year in which the member for Oxley was recording her thoughts for the Australian people in the event that she was assassinated was the work of Mr Oldfield. It is something that you would associate with some wacky cult, not a democratic political party in Australia. But a democratic political party is not what it is. In this party, supposedly representing the grassroots of Australian society, branches of the party are forbidden to communicate with each other. David Ettridge 'guards the membership list with his life', according to Mrs Hazelton, and uses expressions constantly such as, 'He's not our friend.' This is truly paranoid stuff.

There is an issue of the funding which has been raised by my honourable colleague, the member for Warringah (Mr Abbott)—the \$500,000 paid by way of public funding for the Queensland election. Where has it gone? Who controls it? Can it simply be spent by the directors of One Nation Limited? Because One Nation is not structured like a normal political party; it is set up as a corporation with three directors: Mrs Hanson, Mr Ettridge and Mr Oldfield. All the other members of the party, unlike in any other political parties, are only affiliate members with no rights at all.

As I said, we know that last week the biographer, Mrs Dodd, was escorted away by security guards on the orders of David Oldfield. She said:

What we are seeing is a power play in One Nation. Anyone who queries or questions any aspect of administration or the running of One Nation is told by Pauline's minders that it is none of their business. I had been warned by David Oldfield the previous week not to investigate the circumstance around a disendorsed candidate, as it was none of my business. I replied that, as an author, I must be free to talk to any person that I choose to, and probably David didn't like my stand.

If time allowed I could go on for another 15 or 20 minutes because the material on the record and the questions that are unanswered remain there. As I said, they can only be answered by one person.

We have Mr Oldfield talking about the honourable member for Oxley as 'the product', and we have no doubt that when that product passes her use-by date she will be discarded. What we are looking at here is a sham. Ordinary Australians, people who are looking for answers in the problem times that we have in Australia, are being sadly deceived by One Nation. The truth is that One Nation is a sham and we ought to have an explanation from the member herself as to why these questions have not been answered. (*Time expired*)