Senator IAN MACDONALD (Queensland) (18:41): I have looked at this report. I do not think there is a great deal of merit in it. But what has attracted me to speak—and I am only going to speak very quickly because I know there is a lot of business to occur tonight, and there is not much time left—is that I just dislike the way that the previous speaker continuously attacks the Labor Party and the Liberal Party for accepting donations from miners and then suggests that that is why we come to certain conclusions here.

I just remind the Senate that the chairman of the committee was elected to this parliament on the money of Mr Clive Palmer, and that money of Mr Clive Palmer comes from the mining industry. It comes from the mining industry.

The ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Senator Williams): You have a point of order, Senator Lazarus?

Senator Lazarus: What has this got to do with the committee and—

The ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Do you have a point of order?

Senator Lazarus: Yes, relevance. What has Clive Palmer got to do with this—and the fact that I used to be a part of Palmer United?

The ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Just let me seek some advice, please.

Senator Gallacher: On a point of order, Mr Acting Deputy President: I clearly heard Senator Macdonald impugn the character of another senator in this chamber by alleging corruption, money, bribery.

Senator IAN MACDONALD: Just on the point of order, since we are discussing it—

The ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Yes, Senator Macdonald, on the point of order?

Senator IAN MACDONALD: The chairman, as part of his speech, said that the reason why Liberal and Labor people opposed his recommendations was that they accepted money from the mining industry. I am simply pointing out that the chairman—and, if this is impugning, I cannot understand this—was elected on the money of Mr Clive Palmer. That is an indisputable fact. Mr Palmer is an iron miner. He is a miner. And Senator Lazarus—

The ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order! Senator Macdonald, resume your seat.

Senator IAN MACDONALD: Yes, sorry.

The ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: There is no point of order; it is a debating point. Continue, Senator Macdonald.

Senator IAN MACDONALD: Thank you, Mr Acting Deputy President. For Senator Lazarus to accuse the Labor and Liberal parties of having a view on a report because they allegedly got donations from a mining company is the height of hypocrisy when the speaker himself was elected not only on the money of the iron ore industry, which Mr Palmer was involved in, but on the funds from the Queensland nickel industry workers in Townsville. If Senator Lazarus and Senator Lambie had any decency they would refund, to those workers, the money that was hived out of QNI into the Palmer United Party to get him and Senator Lambie elected.