



Speech by

DAVID DALGLEISH

MEMBER FOR HERVEY BAY

Hansard 5 August 1998

ADDRESS IN REPLY

Mr DALGLEISH (Hervey Bay—ONP) (2.53 p.m.): In making my maiden speech, I would first like to state how proud I am to be here as the member for Hervey Bay and as a member of Pauline Hanson's One Nation. I congratulate the Speaker on his new appointment. I am not a polished politician but a sole parent and the owner of a towing and transport business. My views on all issues are based on commonsense taken from my life's experiences. My life's experiences have given me the opportunity to deal personally with all levels of our community from a wide variety of viewpoints. I am proud to call myself an Australian and equally proud to be placed in this position by the community through the democratic system. This is a truly valuable tool in our society: democracy. I feel that Australians are grateful that we have this system, because it gives everyone the opportunity to have a say in our future. To fail to defend democracy is inexcusable.

In my electorate it is important for me to work closely with our community and our local council. The people of Hervey Bay elected me to State Parliament as their representative. In return, I have asked the community not to remain silent any longer. I welcome their words, their thoughts, their desires and assistance to help shape new ideas. I will be grateful for their input. I want to reflect it in the right way and not presume to know better than they do, as I am and will remain one of them—a citizen; no more, no less.

We are resourceful people in a resource-rich country. I will not consent to the sale of our future generations or to the slavery of a new world order. Let history, memory, reason and, most of all, what appears to be lacking in front of me, commonsense, lead us in the right direction of one nation. Unity should be our watchword. United we stand; divided we fall.

I find myself surrounded by 10 totally committed, dedicated people who have come forward just as I have to speak out and truly represent the people of our electorates, mine being the electorate of Hervey Bay and, might I add, what a wonderful place it is to live. It is a truly magnificent piece of this great State, Queensland, with Fraser Island, the Great Sandy Straits, the long sweeping coasts of the Wide Bay and so much more. I have lived in Hervey Bay for 10 years now along with four generations of my family. Over that time, I have worked in a range of occupations. For the past five years, I have run my own small transport business in and around my electorate. It has been over that period that I have seen the day-to-day decay of small businesses that our past Governments has allowed to happen. Why? Why has it been made so difficult for real, everyday people to have a go at doing something positive in their working lives? I wonder how successive Governments have failed.

We should never give up. We should look forward, be positive and be strong as it is those qualities that I and the other 10 Pauline Hanson's One Nation members have demonstrated in our electorates. I have become disenchanted over the past decade with irresponsible policies of successive Governments. I, too, have been subject to hardship, frustration, red tape and the lack of communication that our Government has given us in the past. I say: no more. One Nation is here and we are here to stay. This is one of the most important steps in the reconstruction of the greatest State in Australia. It is a step that will help bring the major parties back down to earth and put Australia back on the right path. The sooner our esteemed leaders learn to represent the people of Australia and not weaken to foreign powers, the sooner Australia can take its place as a nation in its own right.

My concerns start with the family unit. Over the past years, this country of ours has suffered an unbelievable amount of family breakdown. I live with my son, Matthew Dalgleish. Although there are only two of us, we are a family. To me a family means a happy and loving environment. The number of people making up that family unit is irrelevant. It is my belief that a happy, caring and loving family influence reflects through ourselves, our children and into society itself. Every day I come across people who are depressed, angry, frustrated or just hurting. That reflects strongly on the people in our community and, in my opinion, leads to social breakdown and, in turn, breaks down the family unit. I can relate only to the situation in Hervey Bay as I am a member of that community, but it is clear to me that the majority of the family unit breakdown is related to unemployment. That is an area on which the Government must focus attention. With the improvement of employment prospects, automatically each individual's self-esteem will be improved, creating a happier and more content environment within the family itself. With harmony in the family unit comes less family breakdown and less social decay.

Whilst prosperity depends on good wages and fewer working hours, the opposite is happening—lower part-time wages and longer hours to meet the basic needs of the family. The social costs will be staggering. Already we are seeing the damage and to let it continue would be tragic. I am disappointed that our young people have gone without for one reason for another, whether it has been due to a lack of funds or just the lack of opportunity. Their needs for healthy, social community involvement must be addressed. Together with help from our State Government, the local council and the people in my community, we can build facilities that will cater for all and help rebuild self-esteem.

So much depends upon increasing the level of morale within society so that young and old can pull themselves out of their ruts, do something to make jobs for themselves and raise themselves up so that they can master their own future. People must be made accountable for their own actions. Often politicians think that they can solve the problems simply by throwing around taxpayers' money.

Our senior citizens should also be treated with the dignity and respect that they so richly deserve. We must never forget that these are the people who helped build our country. If it were not for our senior citizens and those who were senior citizens before them, we would not be here today. So it is my belief that we of One Nation have climbed onto the national stage to continue the struggle of our senior citizens to ensure that our nation remains strong and vibrant. We are here to protect the gains made by those who went before us, to keep them for generations to come and to continue the long, hard battle to protect and serve our community and country.

The safety of our community is also important. We need to constantly expand and improve the quality of our emergency services. If expansion in population and tourism comes before the improvement of our emergency services, it could prove to be a recipe for disaster. I will be actively pursuing the expansion and improvements needed in my electorate. Members should bear in mind that Fraser Island is part of my electorate and that the whale watching industry is a prominent industry in my electorate. I feel certain that people could understand the problems that may arise should innocent people find themselves in difficulties in this remote location. Therefore, my electorate of Hervey Bay needs an emergency service with the ability to provide prompt response to a call for assistance anywhere in the electorate.

On this historic occasion, I express my opposition to the club and to the "your turn, my turn" scenario of Governments in the past. We of One Nation have a strong message to send out to the members of that club: the party is over. In Canberra we have a body of experts who claim to believe in a free market. However, the market they believe in is far from free. It is a market dominated by cartels, monopolies and even bigger banks. These cartels have little use for little people, small business and genuine competition—a free market. To them, big is beautiful; small is ugly. However, Australia was built on exactly the opposite principle. I joined One Nation because it represented a breath of fresh air; a chance to help save our country; a chance in a lifetime; an opportunity to regain our sovereignty and to bring down our foreign debt; a chance to introduce low interest loans for farms, businesses and home buyers; and a national savings policy to generate Australian capital and break Governments' addiction to foreign borrowing. The rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer. People are awake to what is happening. That private club made up of politicians of past and present Governments is screaming and panicking because it lacks the loyalty that we, One Nation, display. If that is their reaction to One Nation, then I can promise them this: the worst is yet to come. We of One Nation are here to bring honesty and sincerity to our Parliament. We look forward to a day when all members of this House will enjoy an independence of spirit that puts away the hatreds and bigotries of party politics, a day when members genuinely put their electors first.

I would like to make a short comment regarding firearms. I believe that it is not whether one is for or against firearms, it is that the people should have had the right to a referendum to make this decision to ban firearms and not leave it up to a bunch of politicians.

I have listened to the comments that have been made in Parliament regarding who won and who lost. The one thing that all members must remember is that Pauline Hanson's One Nation won six Labor seats and five coalition seats and lost none.