



Speech by

**HARRY BLACK**

**MEMBER FOR WHITSUNDAY**

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Hansard 30 July 1998 1998

**MOTION OF CONFIDENCE**

**Mr BLACK** (Whitsunday—ONP) (1.28 a.m.): I congratulate the Speaker on his election to his office. Winston Churchill once told Parliament about his experience with the boneless wonder at the carnival. His mother refused to allow him to see that carnival exhibit because it was so disgusting and abhorrent. Upon entering Parliament, he was astonished to see all about him politicians whom he could describe only as "boneless wonders". Why boneless wonders? He described them in that way because they were the politicians of the lost years: politicians whose policies were stuck squarely in the past, politicians who refused to address the problems and the storm clouds of the future. I am not about to suggest that the survivors from the past Parliament are boneless wonders, but as assuredly as the sun will rise tomorrow they are guilty of the same sin: a stubborn refusal to address the problems and threatening storm clouds of the future.

One Nation members in this House, elected to support one nation, one Queensland, are gravely concerned for the future of Queensland. We are like Churchill of old—astonished that the members in the last Parliament had stubbornly refused to address the problems of the future.

The electors of Whitsunday have bestowed on me their confidence. I am humbled by the honour and most certainly I challenge all members in this House to confront the problems of the future—confront unemployment, which will cause huge social problems in the future; confront the policies of globalism, which will destroy our sovereignty and is now in the process of doing just that; confront family turmoil, which is creating problems ranging from crime to poverty; and confront Government level playing fields and "get big or get out" fantasies, which are destroying jobs and sending Australian companies and jobs offshore.

My electorate of Whitsunday has been hard hit by all of these Government policies of destruction—these stupid policies, these policies that hurt Australians. That is why my Whitsunday electors sent me into this House: to confront and deliver on the problems of the future. I thank the electors of Whitsunday for their confidence and I thank the hardworking band of loyal and dedicated men and women who worked long hours for One Nation and contributed greatly to my election. I would also like to thank my wife, Veronica, and our three grown-up children, David, Dianne and Sandra.

The people of Whitsunday will always be first in my representations in this House, first in my desire to address the problems of the future, which are now causing so much suffering in the Whitsundays. Whitsunday is a diverse community—canefarmers who are now threatened by the sugarcane fungus, graziers who are troubled by markets and closure of abattoirs, small crop farmers who are disturbed by foreign imports, miners who are frustrated by Government and divisive laws, retail and small business long forgotten by big Government, professionals and tradesmen who find opportunities declining and the skilled and unskilled who fear unemployment and insecurity. Everybody fears for their future.

People work hard but Government has betrayed their expectations. Government has failed to solve the impact of technology. Its destructive globalism policy has destroyed decades of investment and hard work. People expect democratic, responsible and honest Government but are getting distant, unaccountable and devious Government. We are getting disastrous and inept Government that administers policies in a witless and chaotic fashion. The confusion in Queensland's northern meat processing industry is a case in point. Six out of nine abattoirs that once serviced the huge cattle-raising

region north of Mackay have closed. In such an environment, there was a certain inevitability about the decision to close the Borthwicks abattoirs in Bowen last year—a plant which had served this major community for more than a century.

The Labor and Liberals in Canberra dismissed this as a necessary result of change. But they live in an unreal world. The result in human terms is 400 lost jobs—400 futures destroyed and 400 families disgusted at both the failed national and State leadership. Labor is in big trouble in the Whitsundays. It has been usurped by the wagging tongues of the lawyers. They have no clue how to relate to the electors—the grassroots, the workers. Labor has shown a callous contempt for the basic rights of Queenslanders. They are a party of backroom boys, of discordant factions. By their remoteness and daily deceit, they follow a path of destruction for democracy. Labor has lost sight of its traditional support base—the workers who have since flocked to One Nation.

Queensland has lost its momentum because of the greediness and hypocrisy of all the old political parties. They pretend to fight each other but they are more like a club of bedfellows leeching off the taxpayer. As the new member for Whitsunday, I am prepared to work with anybody who is prepared to work for Australia—for one Australia, for all Australia—working for Australians. I follow in the wake of a host of great Queenslanders who have represented Whitsunday—men such as Ron Camm, who spent long years in this House.

Such men would have been horrified at the reports this week that the feared sugar cane fungus has got past quarantine and gained a foothold in Australia. The entire sugar industry in Queensland and in every community from the New South Wales border to Cape York could be devastated by this fungus. Billions of dollars of investment and sales are at risk. The jobs of thousands could vanish—all because the Federal Government has sat on its hands on so many issues affecting Australia. For far too long the Government has underfunded research for the industry and has gone slow on the development of value-added products for the industry. Drastic action is now required to stem the threat of this destructive fungus and to save jobs, farms and industry. Quarantine must be tightened, poaching must be wiped out, illegal immigration confronted and all steps taken to prevent a spread of this fungus from Western Australia to Queensland.

What is more worrying is that media reports are suggesting that this fungus is here already. If that is so, then every effort must be made to fund the sugar industry in its battle to remove this scourge. This is not a time for the faint hearted, for a slow response by Government or for a mumbo jumbo attitude that pledges action but does very little. This must be a priority challenge for Government for immediate action. Anything less than total support and action will be viewed as just another failure by Government—a Government that is distant, non-accountable and confused as to where its true loyalties lie.

Another industry vital to Whitsunday is tourism. It is also in trouble, not because of Pauline Hanson and One Nation but because of the weakness and failings of Government, because of the Asian crisis and blinkered elements within the industry itself. Both Labor and Liberals in Canberra have been badmouthing Australia for years. Now they are taking to touring Asia to badmouth Pauline Hanson for their own failures and betrayals of Australia and Australians. This is not only the height of bad manners but also stupidity gone mad. They are trying to kill tourism and blame it on Pauline Hanson. They are deliberately stirring up hatred and racism and, as such, they are the greatest racists of all time who are badmouthing their own country and people.

Many of the hierarchy of the publicly funded statutory bodies set up by the Labor Party during its decade in Government have swung into vilification mode to badmouth Australia, Australians and One Nation. They are doing exactly what they were set up to do—conduct hate tours of Queensland to badmouth Queensland and Queenslanders, especially country people. They serve no useful purpose except to push a Labor Party agenda and squander huge sums of tax money. They must be abolished, the squandered tax money recovered and, where crimes of a serious nature are found, prosecutions launched to fit the crimes.

Tourism will survive despite the professional name callers and vilifiers. Tourism is big in Whitsunday because it has beautiful natural resources and unlimited attractions for tourists. Tourism is a major employer and we must keep it as a major employer. But how do we do this when taxes and other influences continually force up costs and globalisation policies cripple the Asian economies and prevent spending and travel?

People who visit Whitsunday always go away with friendly memories of a great holiday in an exotic environment. This is hard to beat anywhere in the world. Whitsunday is, by Brisbane standards, an electorate of moderately small communities, but communities with the vigour and resourcefulness of the bigger towns and cities in Queensland. They may be smaller, but they need the same facilities and services as the big city. Unfortunately, they have suffered at the hands of globalisation and the withdrawal of services. This must stop. It will stop when One Nation forms Government in Queensland

and in Canberra. If the old parties and the elite little club in Canberra do not come up with some quick answers to the problems facing Australia, that time will not be long coming.

The Liberals, Nationals and Labor are tied together like Siamese twins on policies that are destroying Australia. They cannot even oppose each other when it comes to the election of a Speaker because of their deals behind the scenes. This is one reason I am here today representing Whitsunday. The electors of Whitsunday are sick and tired of deals between faceless men. They want change—change for the better for Australia and Queensland, not a continuation of the same old fumbling and stumbling that has characterised policy makers for the past two decades in this country and not a continuation of the tight old style of Government that refused to act on outlandish corruption such as the Heiner affair, with the destruction of documents. It is endemic corruption. The electors of Whitsunday want change and One Nation is here to get change or to learn the reason why.

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