



Speech by

**SHAUN NELSON**

**MEMBER FOR TABLELANDS**

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Hansard 5 August 1998

**IPSWICH CITY COUNCIL**

**Mr NELSON** (Tablelands—ONP) (10.25 a.m.): Last night in the City of Ipswich we saw another hammer blow to the rights of individuals to freedom of speech in this great democracy. I am, as all members of this House should be, greatly disturbed at the actions taken by the Ipswich City Council. Attempting to ban citizens from the use of a public facility because of their political belief is an assault on freedom that cannot go unanswered.

I ask: when will this stop? Will the Ipswich City Council, because of some ridiculous perceived threat, be banning ethnic groups next? If it did, would this House speak out? I support all Australians in their rights to freedom of assembly and freedom of association. I would never even think of questioning their rights to freedom of speech, yet here we see a State and ultimately a nation gone mad—a continuous process of angry and meaningless protests damaging our public standing domestically and abroad.

**Mr Fouras** interjected.

**Mr NELSON:** Will this Parliament accept the death of our democracy without so much as a whimper? I am sure every member of this House will join with me when I say: never.

**Mr Fouras** interjected.

**Mr NELSON:** To the member for Ashgrove, I say: we can step outside right now in front of a camera——

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr NELSON:** Mr Speaker, I would like to say to the member for Ashgrove that we can step——

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! That is unparliamentary and I ask the member for Tablelands to withdraw that statement immediately. If the member makes any further similar remarks, I will warn him under Standing Order 124.

**Mr NELSON:** Mr Speaker, I withdraw that statement. It was unparliamentary. However, I would like to say that One Nation would accept any chance to publicly debate its stand. I personally accept the challenge.

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