



Speech by

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MEMBER FOR TABLELANDS

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PREMIER'S OVERSEAS TRIP

Mr NELSON (Tablelands—ONP) (11.50 a.m.): I will address that issue later with the people outside.

At a time when Australia needs to be seen as strong and united, standing hard against the tide of economic collapse in Asia, our Premier jettied off to stamp out the bushfires that had been fanned by his tactics during the election campaign. He has seen and now feels the effects of his consistently fraudulent attacks on One Nation. He and his ilk will be responsible for any damage done to Queensland through the line of deceit that was used to attain his current office. While the Premier may be seeing and feeling the negative effects of that damage on our great State—to which he himself so overwhelmingly contributed—his job is secure; his pay packet is secure; his family is secure; and his future is secure—at least for the next three years. The title of Graham Richardson's book, *Whatever It Takes*, may perhaps best describe Labor's attitude in its pursuit of power. Inflaming Asia by using the slur of racism in an attempt to defeat One Nation shows clearly that the Labor Party's only concern is power—regardless of the price that may be paid by Queenslanders.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the other factors surrounding this all-expenses-paid junket through the Orient. Let us start with what a country such as Indonesia, which was left out of our Premier's tour, would think of what is happening here. What would Indonesians think of relatively unlimited immigration, the breakdown of social structure, the annihilation of culture, unemployment that continues to be unaddressed, globalisation and the takeover of Indonesia's industries?

Mr Mickel interjected.

Mr NELSON: I remind honourable members that they should interject only from their correct seat.

I suggest that most Indonesians would be outraged and strongly opposed to such occurrences in their country. Yet, when Australians speak out about what is happening to them in their country, there are those whose political motivations cause them to portray these genuine concerns as racism and Australia's shame.

Mr Reeves: What about the indigenous people?

Mr NELSON: I am getting to that.

Perhaps if the Asian press had access to the truth or if the ALP stopped its dishonest smear campaign, there would have been no need for this flagrant waste of taxpayers' money. Using the tag of "racist" to try to negate the rise of One Nation is a disgraceful tactic. We are a party that represents the real concerns of our constituents. I know that some members may not wish to believe this but—and honourable members should listen well—the people of Tablelands do not want Australia to continue with its current level of immigration. They do not want political correctness to take away one of the prime fundamentals of Australian culture: the ability to say things as one sees them and as they are. Tablelanders do not want this country sold down the drain for a pittance. Again, honourable members may find this hard to believe, but there are some people—around 438,000 in Queensland alone—who think globalisation is an absolute disaster.

I am not a racist. In this so-called democracy, it is a travesty that I have to stand up here and say that. What happened to the fundamental belief in innocent until proven guilty? Every day people approach me to offer their support. The second thing they say is: I am not a racist; I have many friends

who are Aboriginal. What sort of society do we live in when a simple offer of support has to be qualified by a statement establishing one's credentials? We are in a politically correct nightmare. There are many people in north Queensland who were brought up like Australians. They were taught to speak their mind and to not bow down to tyranny. They are the types who launched attack after attack at Quinn's Post and Shaggy Ridge or who worked farms through drought after drought. Now, in the ever-wonderful nineties, we have eroded the right to freedom of speech by simplistic attacks and a series of labels that are used to negate the message delivered. All this from a party that bristles at being called "socialist"!

The Premier's trip to the north left out the most important part: north Queensland, an area in much more need of his expertise than Asia, an area where the public interest might have better been served. What do I say to the fourth generation Australian of Chinese descent who comes to me and says, "I am Australian; I'm not Chinese. How can I embrace a culture that is completely foreign to me, and why would I want to?" What do I say to the Aboriginal who asks me, "Why does white man wish to bury us with money? Do they think to pay us off and never address the real problem? When will I be an Australian like you?" What do I say to the immigrant from the UK who tells me of the "destruction of British culture at the hands of multiculturalism"? What do I say when hundreds of Tablelanders ring me and ask how much it cost to hose down the inferno in Asia that the ALP caused and then fed? Should I say, "Don't worry; you only had to pay with your culture, freedoms, credibility as a nation and the hard-earned taxpayers' dollars you contributed—a small price to pay to help the people of Asia calm the false concerns raised by the treacherous acts of the ALP"?
