



Speech by

SHAUN NELSON

MEMBER FOR TABLELANDS

Hansard 16 September 1998

FREEDOM OF SPEECH

Mr NELSON (Tablelands—ONP) (10.25 a.m.): I wish to read the following statement—

"I have fought against white domination, and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die."

I wonder whether anyone in the Chamber can tell me who said that.

Mr Lucas: Was that Pauline Hanson's video?

Mr NELSON: No, it was not the member for Oxley; it was made in 1964 by Nelson Mandela from the dock during the Rivonia treason trial. I must say that that statement rings true here today. In Australia today we see anti-democratic forces of division rallying against One Nation to stop our fight against the destruction of freedom of speech. I have had enough of the "racist" tag. It is not true. None of the 11 MPs in One Nation could be accused of being racist. I say to this House: it is a damning indictment on the assumption of innocence until proven guilty—that fundamental of democracy—that I have to stand here and say this.

On another point—in one breath the ALP accuses One Nation of not having any policies. Yesterday we heard the Deputy Premier bleat about One Nation's policies and his perception of them. I repeat my challenge of yesterday: if One Nation has a policy of racism, table it. I certainly am not aware of one and I would never support it if there were one. I can safely say the same for all the 11 members from One Nation. Finally, I say to members: suffocate, label and deride One Nation at your peril.

I would like to add to the Premier's statements yesterday: the people of Queensland have had enough of not being heard. Some 438,000 Queenslanders asked to be heard at the State election and I ask to be heard here today. With reference to equality and democracy, I repeat the words of Nelson Mandela: it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die.

Time expired.
