



Speech by

SHAUN NELSON

MEMBER FOR TABLELANDS

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TARIFF PROTECTION, SUGAR INDUSTRY

Mr NELSON (Tablelands—ONP) (6.43 p.m.): I had a speech written, but I am going to deviate from it because I have to address some of the absolute lies and rubbish being——

Mr REYNOLDS: I rise to a point of order. Those words are unparliamentary.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! They have to be addressed personally to a member for him to take a point of order on them.

Mr MICKEL: I rise to a point of order. Surely the language of "lies" is unparliamentary. I ask for a ruling on that.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The word "lies" of course is unparliamentary.

Mr REYNOLDS: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr NELSON: I withdraw for my sensitive friends on the other side.

Mr MICKEL: I rise to a point of order. The member is reflecting on the Chair in a most unconscionable way. Mr Speaker, on your behalf, I think he should withdraw that impugning of you.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! It was a reflection on the Chair and I do ask that you withdraw.

Mr NELSON: I will withdraw. I am really a little astounded. This House voted unanimously that it did not like NCP. The simple fact is that this is all relevant to the whole concept of the National Competition Policy.

Mr Lucas interjected.

Mr NELSON: It is very, very embarrassing. I have to tolerate the honourable member's existence and it is democratic that I do so. Anyway, the simple fact here is that we are talking about tariff protection. I did not want to, but let me refer to the seat of Mulgrave for a minute. I will edify a few people on the other side of the House. There are actually a lot of sugarcane farms in the electorate of Mulgrave. The member for Hinchinbrook might correct me if I am wrong, but I would say that at least 80% of Mulgrave is made up of sugarcane. The simple fact is that, when I drove around that electorate and talked to a few people, as I did for the previous member for Mulgrave, every single sugarcane farmer whom I spoke to—I am not talking about groups or representatives; I am talking about individual sugarcane farmers—certainly said to me——

Mr Lucas: Do you honestly think we believe the rubbish you spout?

Mr NELSON: That is very, very sad. Every sugarcane farmer I spoke to said to me that they believed in the concept of tariff protection. I assure members that there are sugarcane farmers on the tablelands, too. I am sure that, if they ask the Premier or the Honourable Minister on the other side of the Chamber, they will confirm my statements. The sugarcane farmers say to me that tariff protection is very, very important and they are very, very angry that it was ever taken away from them in the first place under the concept of economic rationalism.

Mr Lucas: Tell us who you spoke to.

Mr NELSON: Would the honourable member like me to name every individual farmer I have ever spoken to? That is absolutely ridiculous! Maryann Salvetti, an Australian Rural Woman of the Year and head of the Canegrowers Association on the Atherton Tableland. Would that do?

Mr Lucas: Was that in Mulgrave?

Mr NELSON: No, this is on the Atherton Tableland, in my own electorate. Fools!

Economic rationalism has gutted this nation and at the heart of it is the cut to tariff protections. We were once a giant. This country was once a powerful nation that was a force to be reckoned with in this world. We are now a mob of lackeys who hang around and whinge and sook while other nations defend themselves with tariff protection—while we stand around and let our heart be pecked out by countries that look after their agricultural strengths no matter what. I would like to be a member of a Government—and one day I will be when One Nation takes power in this House—that reintroduces tariff protection and defends——

Mr MICKEL: I rise to a point of order under Standing Order 330.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! State your point of order.

Mr MICKEL: Gross exaggeration.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! There is no point of order.

Mr NELSON: And this is cleaning up Parliament! The people of Mulgrave will vote on 5 December. I give a guarantee to the member opposite that, when I circulate what has happened in this House tonight in that electorate, those people will vote accordingly.
