



Speech by

DAVID DALGLEISH

MEMBER FOR HERVEY BAY

Hansard 25 May 1999

WEAPONS AMENDMENT BILL

Mr DALGLEISH (Hervey Bay—ONP) (10.15 p.m.): This Bill clearly promotes a prohibited user's register. This has never been done before. I do not know where the other members get off by saying that this Bill removes gun licensing. We will still have licences. People will have to pass a test to get a licence, just like people have to pass a test to drive a car or to become a plumber. So maybe the member opposite should read the Bill before he starts shooting his mouth off.

Mr Schwarten: I have read it.

Mr DALGLEISH: The member should read it again. That is what he said to us: read it again.

Unlike some of the propaganda that has been circulated, this Bill does not give people the right to have military-style weapons at home. A person has to be a member of a suitably registered military-style rifle club to have those particular weapons.

It is the same old story: guns do not kill people; people kill people. That is right. If we take the guns away, then we are left with the knives. If people stick knives in others, then we will take the knives away. Then people will stick syringes into others. We are not supporting the drug people. In a shopping centre, how many people could a person kill with a syringe before anyone even knew what was happening?

Mr Schwarten: They killed eight in one hit with a shotgun in Sydney.

Mr DALGLEISH: If people could not hear the shotgun going off, they must have had a problem, too.

Mr SCHWARTEN: The statement that was just made about the people who lost their lives at a gun incident in New South Wales is offensive to this Parliament. I ask the honourable member to pay a bit more respect to this place.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are you asking that this statement be withdrawn?

Mr SCHWARTEN: No, I am just asking the member to have a bit of decency.

Mr DALGLEISH: I withdraw the statement for the member. After all, I cannot see my speech being any worse or any more discrediting to this House than his performance.

Mr Schwarten: At least mine was from the heart.

Mr DALGLEISH: Have you finished? You had your turn.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member will please address his comments through the chair.

Mr DALGLEISH: We have heard very different statistics from both sides. I do not know from where Government members got their statistics, but they seem to be so different from the statistics with which we have been provided. Obviously, what they do not know, they make up.

Just as other members have told stories tonight, I would like to tell a story. Recently, a law-abiding citizen in the Maryborough electorate, a solicitor—

Mr Lucas: You would know about law-abiding citizens, wouldn't you.

Mr DALGLEISH: Shut your mouth.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I ask the member to withdraw that comment. It is very unparliamentary.

Mr DALGLEISH: I withdraw. A solicitor who was at home with his wife on a 300-acre property heard a car pull up, heard the farm dog bark, and then heard a gunshot. When he walked out of his home, he found a police officer hanging on to his firearm. He had just shot the family dog that was supposed to look after the man's house and his wife while he was at work. What are we going to do? We have taken away people's right to have a firearm. The farmer in a remote area has lost his right to have a firearm, so he has a dog to protect his wife. A police officer is confronted by the dog and shoots the dog because he fears for his safety. If the farmer had a firearm on the premises, the dog would not have charged at the police officer because it would not have been running around the yard trying to defend the place.

Mr Schwarten: What's the point of this? What point are you making?

Mr DALGLEISH: If people are able to have firearms in their home for their own self-defence, they would not have to have savage dogs running around their yards for protection. It may have been a fully automatic dog, but I am not aware of the qualifications of the dog. Why should law abiding citizens pay the price for unruly and vicious attacks that are carried out by criminals?

Ms Bligh: Or dogs.

Mr DALGLEISH: Or dingos. Do not leave the dingos out because they are savage, too. I will read a section of a letter from a member for the former electorate of Carnarvon, which states—

"I am doing my best to fight the State Government's proposal, by voicing my opinion through the media, and also circulating petitions in my Electorate of Carnarvon."

That gives a clear indication of the members on the Opposition side of the House who are prepared to stand up and fight for the same things that the five One Nation members and other colleagues on this side have clearly stated we will fight for. Yet when it comes to the time to vote on the issue, who will have the guts to do what their constituents are asking them to do? Who will be gutless and follow party lines? If one looks at the House today, there are about 14 real votes out of a possible 89. There is one from the Government side of the House, because everybody on that side of the House will do as they are told, there is one vote from the coalition, because they will do as they are told and there is a small group of people who are prepared to stand up and do what their electors have asked them to do. We do not have to toe the party line.

Only the honest people handed in their firearms. The criminals did not hand them in. Now we have created a whole new problem because I hear that there is a CJC investigation into the buyback scheme.

Mr Schwarten: Do you own a gun?

Mr DALGLEISH: No, I do not own a gun and I do not have a firearm licence. I do not need to.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member does not have to address the interjections. He will speak through the Chair.

Mr DALGLEISH: Where will it all end? If the Government takes firearms away from us today, what will it be tomorrow?

A Government member: Dogs.

Mr DALGLEISH: It probably will be dogs. They are banning all sorts of dogs now. I believe in sensible firearm regulation and control guidelines.

Mr Barton: They will take all the Corvettes next.

Mr DALGLEISH: Just try your luck. A small group of us are not gutless. We will stand up and say what we want to say. We are not too gutless to stand in this place and cop the criticism, because that is what people are asking us to do and it is what we are here to do. We are here to represent people. Unfortunately, some members of this House do not have the guts to represent the people of their electorates. I commend this Bill to the House and I commend the member for Caboolture on his stance. I am proud to be a part of this group of people. It is pleasing to see that tonight members of this House have so greatly recognised One Nation. I commend the Bill to the House.
