




Speech By
Tom Smith

MEMBER FOR BUNDABERG

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MOTION

Crime, Media Reporting

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (5.14 pm): Given that the member for Burnett is a constituent in my electorate, I wonder if he doorknocked his own door for that one. There are few things better in life than being disliked by that lot, let me tell you.

Sometimes you get a little bit of a gift, and I would like to thank the member for Currumbin and the member for Burnett for giving me this gift of being able to write to the Speaker about misleading the House. The member for Currumbin said that my column was about youth crime. I am sure my colleagues sitting here to my right will notice that my column does not say 'youth crime' at all. It does not even talk about youth crime. In fact my column talked about the headlines in relation to the reporting of the Queensland parliament. Sometimes you get a little gift and I look forward to being able to write to the Speaker about the member for Currumbin.

What did I say? Even that has been an act of misleading of the parliament, because the LNP in their motion have actually deliberately changed a word from my column that they directly quoted. In my column I said 'to distort the realities'. However, the LNP in their motion have said 'to distort the truth'. That is already a deliberate misleading. We talk about the words that we cannot say in parliament, and I reckon they are in trouble. I reckon they are in a little bit of hurt.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! All members will cease their quarrelling across the chamber or I will start warning people.

Mr SMITH: It is important to note the difference between truth and reality. As great philosophers have told us over centuries, a truth can actually be false and something false can be a truth. One of the greatest examples of this is a very famous paradox. I am sorry to take everyone down the philosophical wormhole, but it is important to make sure that we have the difference between truth and reality. The famous paradox is 'This sentence is false.' Therefore, if the sentence is false, it must of course be true. However, if it is true, how can be it be false? This is a great paradox and the reason we make sure we have a reality. I know that members over there are trying to work it out. They cannot quite understand what is the difference between a truth and a paradox so I will go through that a little bit. A very famous philosopher said—

... a philosophical paradox normally starts off with some very, very commonsensical assumption or belief which we just think is obviously true. And then we do a little bit of reasoning, which seems so incredibly simple, so incredibly straightforward, that that can't be going wrong, and yet then we reach a conclusion which is against all commonsense belief.

Mr Mander: Was that Socrates or Aristotle?

Mr SMITH: No, that is wrong. That was Peter Cave.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Everton, you are warned.

Mr SMITH: I wonder how much they love Socrates and Aristotle over there. In fact I think some of them were there at the time. I am not talking about the member for Mermaid Beach, but he might have been there at the time. The philosopher also said—

And so why philosophical paradoxes are very, very deep I think, often, is because when we examine the premises, when we examine the reasoning, when we look at the conclusion, we just can't sort out exactly where something has gone wrong.

It is very important that we talk about the difference between truth and reality, and that is why I spoke about reality. The reality is that, as a member of parliament, I think it is fair to have a say as to whether or not I believe headlines are distorting the realities.

Mr Hart interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Burleigh, you are warned.

Mr SMITH: I am actually going to come to the defence a bit here of the LNP. I saw a headline recently that claimed there was proof that Miles and Crisafulli care only about themselves and the election. I am sure that the Leader of the Opposition would think that is a part of hyperbole. I am sure he cares about more than just himself. I will let others decide, but I am sure of that. What are some other ones we have got? We have headlines that say that savage barbs have been traded in the parliament. I do not believe savage barbs have been traded in the parliament.

If I do not think those headlines are accurate, I am well entitled to speak about it. We have, 'Battlelines are being drawn.' Of course battlelines are not being drawn. We hear that 'ministers have been grilled in the parliament'. Of course no-one is actually grilled. What I call for is headlines to reflect the actual reality. The reality—

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am so enthralled, I move—

That the honourable member for Bundaberg be further heard.

Division: Question put—That the member for Bundaberg be further heard.

In division—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members, we will maintain a level of decorum and dignity that this chamber deserves in future.

AYES, 33:

LNP, 33—Bates, Bennett, Blejje, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Head, Janetzki, Krause, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir, Zanow.

NOES, 48:

ALP, 48—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Kelly, A. King, S. King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Rourke, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

Pair: McMillan, Molhoek.

Mr SPEAKER: Will the Clerk please report the votes of other parties and members.

The DEPUTY CLERK: No other votes, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Sorry, I could not hear you. No other votes?

The DEPUTY CLERK: No other votes, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you. To the point that I could not hear the Deputy Clerk then, members, please, let's reset this. We are going out of the division now. The result of the division is ayes 33, noes 48. The question is resolved in the negative.

Resolved in the negative.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Bundaberg, you have four seconds remaining.

Mr SMITH: I just want to say, everyone, thanks for coming.