

**Transcript of extract of interview between Thomas Sewell and Blair Cottrell – 20 March 2023
(Supplementary Part C, Tab 929)**

Parties: Thomas Sewell (TC); Blair Cottrell (BC)

Extract: [26:26]-[39:50]

5 BC: ...But what was your motivation for the date? What were your motivations? Did you achieve your goal?

TS: I think we definitely achieved our goal and – and some more. The goal was simply to go down there and – and do a real-world activism event. It's very easy to sit on the internet and talk and – and post and, you know, every now and then you gotta dust the boots off and get out there and our goal was to form – at the time it was – it was merely, sorry I'm just turning my phone on silent. At the time it was merely to form an ideological barrier, I didn't think this would happen physically. But the goal was to form an ideological barrier between these sort of conservatives, freedom rally people, there was even TERFs there, there was like a – I don't know what it's called trans-exclusionary radical feminist, something. So, like Lefties that hate trannies. So, there's all these different hodgepodge of groups there, and then you've got just this like organised front – organised chaos in the sense like this chaotic ravel of just the great unwashed, of all the freaks and scum of society like Gotham City type stuff. It was – it's like the stuff of memes. It's the stuff of memes. And our goal was to go down there and represent a symbolic ideological barrier between these two forces to say, 'well here is the evil, here is the absolute chaos, here are all the freaks and scum of society', and then 'here are these people that have genuine concerns about child grooming, about safe schools, about what's going on', and they're not really organised, they're not disciplined, there's no real strength and – and character to them. They're kind of lost in the wilderness and we wanna represent like a vanguard, a spearhead and become a separating force. Like parting the sea between the two. And it was interesting because when we got there, we actually initially weren't allowed into the rally. I don't know if that's because the Police thought we were Antifa which, again, I'm sure I'm gonna cop criticism for with the optics with the black block, but that's just how we're doing things, I can explain that next question. But they initially didn't let us in, even though we had a big banner that said destroy paedos and we had the Aussie flags and then when, there was actually two groups of Antifa that came down. The first group were mostly just homosexuals waving trannie flags and they were there really early. But the Socialist Alternative and those organisers and all their trannies and all their uni kids and freaks, they actually organised a way up at Carlton Gardens and he came down about an hour later. And they came down as a big group, and they came running as well to try to like, scare the TERFs and the conservatives and the freedom rally people off and just, you know, force and terror and intimidation. They were running, I'm telling you, Blair, they were sprinting. As much as they can for their, you know, non-ableist bodies. And they were actually, when they saw us, when they came running down there and, of course, as usual as you remember, how they used to do it back in the day, the Police would escort them down. The Police would come down with them. They wouldn't block them off a kilometre away, they'd let them come all the way down and then try and block 'em, off there. But as they're running down, they suddenly grinded to a halt like Scooby-Doo. Like their feet couldn't move further backwards and the front rank, a couple of them were falling over, and the flags were flying and skimming along the ground because they realised that there was 20 solid white dudes standing in front of them that weren't running away and weren't backing down, and there was no Police between us and them. And so, they stopped about 50 metres out and waited for the Police to all catch up to them and form a half line, they got a half of the width of the road, but the other half are still completely open for about probably two minutes. And then eventually the Police line formed fully, and then they started their chants, and 'we're gonna bash the fash', and 'let's punch Nazis' and everything else. And what that looked like, I took a big step back from the boys, I told to hold formation and after everything settled down and the Police formed a line, and it wasn't looking like it was gonna be a punch up anymore. I took a big step off to the side and had a look and what I saw was the great, the great rabble of Communists, the thin line of us, and then all these mums and dads and grandmas and people brought their kids and some TERFs and middle-aged women that have, you know, second rate, what's it called, second wave feminist views. And it's really interesting because to see that, it was like most of them didn't even know what was coming for them. They - they're just completely blissfully unaware. And then when we started, we did all our salutes and we got all footage that we wanted to get. And then the inspector came up to me. He introduced himself and actually tried to shake my hand. His name is Inspector Ashley, and he came up to me and he said, oh you

60 know, "are you Thomas Sewell? Are you in charge here?" And I said, "yeah, this is our group." And he said, "I'm Inspector Ashley", and he went in to shake my hand and I said, whoa, whoa, watch it there big guy. Like, no, not gonna happen. And he's, oh yeah yeah, I understand. Like looks bad for the cameras. And I was like, no, like I'm - you're a dog like---

BC: Well, you'd think it'd be more dangerous for him to be seen shaking your hand really, like for, you know, like whatever. TS: But yeah, so then he said – he said, oh can you guys go – go in
65 with the group now because we want to move these Police officers to the other side of you and bolster the line against these Commies here. And I said, you just booted us out, we tried to get in when we got here and you told – and, you know, they – they got the horses and they pushed us away and stopped us from coming through and he's like, "oh well you know, now we know what's going on, can you guys go behind the line?" And I said, "look, we're gonna take some footage
70 and then later on we're going to go to the steps because we're gonna make a speech." And he was like, "okay, well let me know and---

<News footage begins but is paused>

TS: All good? You're muted.

BC: Sorry, sorry to interrupt you. But I think we're about to play...

75 TS: That's alright.

BC: Is that right? I think we'll have to play, yeah. We're about to play the Channel 9 report. The exact copy of the Channel 9 report. So, I tried to do this earlier, but I've just got it working now. So, we'll play that now and then we'll react to that and see how we take it.

<Channel 9 report>:

80 *Anchor: Good evening, the Victorian government will consider banning the Nazi salute after white supremacists hijacked a far-right protest on the steps of State Parliament. There's also been sharp criticism of the role the Victoria Police, the Force refusing to elaborate on why the neo-Nazis were not arrested. Lana Murphy has the story.*

85 *Lana Murphy: They brought one of history's darkest chapters to Melbourne's streets. Performing symbols of hate, Spring Street with their stage. Police and warring demonstrators their audience. The neo-Nazis arrived in support of an anti-trans right speaker. That group met with a counter-protest. As trans supporters became the target.*

90 *Female protester: There are literal fucking Nazis.*

Natalie Felix: There was a sign facing us like calling me a paedophile, calling for my murder.

Lana Murphy: Natalie Felix says Police failed her.

95 *Natalie Felix: They were very much protecting the Nazis, allowing them to like, you know perform their signals, calling for the mass murder of like an entire group of people like if it's not illegal in Australia, it should be.*

Lana Murphy: Displaying the swastika is outlawed in Victoria, but the Nazi salute is legal.

Dvir Abramovich: It's hard to believe that these hardcore white supremacists would like nothing more than to push people like myself into the gas chambers, have the law on their side. Premier, you need to act now.

100 *Lana Murphy: Daniel Andrews responded in a tweet: Nazis aren't welcome, not on Parliament steps, not anywhere. So to every trans-Victorian I say this, our government will always support you and will always respect you because your rights are not negotiable.*

105 *Jacinta Allen: The attorney and the Minister will be looking at what further action could be taken.*

Lana Murphy: The Liberal Party supporting a change to legislation as well as backing one of its own members who attended the anti-trans talk. Upper House MP Moira Deeming smiled in selfies with the controversial speaker.

110 *David Southwick: Her views are not my views and I don't think the views of the Liberal Party and most of mainstream Victoria, but she has a right to her views.*

Lana Murphy: As for the criticism of Police.

David Southwick: I think it was a failure that we don't have – we don't have a system that actually has the consequences.

115 *Lana Murphy: They do have the power to move on those who disturb the peace and can arrest for offensive behaviour or incitement, but the Force says its focus yesterday was to stop breaches of the peace and prevent any physical violence. But today Police wouldn't be drawn on the criticism its officers allowed the Nazi display to proceed. It says detectives will now analyse the vision to determine whether any criminal charges can be laid.*

120

Natalie Felix: I think the Police need to ask themselves some serious questions.

Lana Murphy: Lana Murphy, 9 News.

BC: Yeah. Like, look that – that transvestite character well and truly got a good say. He was given the opportunity to give their perspective and is that true? What that person accused you of, did you or any one of your guys call for the mass murder of an entire group of people? Any truth behind that?

125

TS: I do not recall.

BC: Right. And Daniel Andrews's response, the tweet. To be honest, it seemed kind of perfunctory, like it seemed kind of half-assed, like you know, going through the motions, I got that vibe from it. Like he kind of couldn't be bothered and he only posted it because someone told him that he had to. That's kind of the impression I got from the Daniel Andrews response. Yeah.

130

TS: Yeah. I think we rattled the cage. I think 20 white men on the bluestone of Parliament House, I think that they're not used to that. I don't think they've ever seen that, 20 white men throwing Romans on the bluestone. That's – that's a symbol. That's a message. And so, you know, it's, you know, a bit late – a bit late – a bit late now to say, oh you're not welcome, you're not welcome on the steps of Parliament House, but we were already there. We've already done it.

135

BC: Already been and gone.

TS: Yeah. And this idea that the Police let us do it, as I was just explaining before you – you published that. The Police, again, they have to make a decision. So, again, I'm not empathising with the Police, but they're in a situation where there's two groups of Communists. One to, I think that would technically be the south, and one to the, sorry, east and north I think of – of Parliament House. And – no, west and north. Not to be too dramatic. But there were two groups blocking the two roads, two of the three entrances to that square. Parliament House, being the – the other way, and you've got a group in the middle, that sort of hodgepodge of different ideologies and beliefs, but under a common banner that they don't like the trans agenda. They don't like the grooming kids agenda. They don't like the pronouns at schools. That's kind of what they were talking about. The TERFs were going on about the transgender bathrooms and all this sort of stuff as well and sooking about men beating up women in sports. And then you've got a group of people that show up and where do you put them? And so, they were very happy to just contain us in a little box between both groups. And when they realised that they were, the Police on the day were outnumbered and that's because they didn't expect, I think the Left to come with so many people, and they didn't expect that level of agitation. Because the Freedom Rally guys have been there every Saturday doing their little thing, so they sent a little contingent of protesters down there. They would have sent a bit more. Sorry, a contingent of Police down for those protesters. They sent a little bit more obviously because of the, this – this TERF rally. And then they would have sent a little bit more because they knew there's a counter rally by the Communists. But we're there in the middle, what do you do with us? And so, from their

140

145

150

155

perspective, it was logic – the logical conclusion they would have come to was that we're not going to bash the TERFs. We're not there for violence. I think it's really interesting, the media make us out like we're the, we're so evil. We're the most evil, horrible people that ever existed. And every time we just come into contact with anyone, we just gas them and, you know, we put them in gas chambers and we attack them for no reason. But the reality on the ground is we actually didn't aggress on anyone. We didn't aggress on the Communists, we didn't aggress on the TERFs. We're just there to have our banner out and have our say in the – in the so-called democracy. And so, I think that's why they just made the decision on the ground. It just makes sense, we can use more Police resources on this side if we don't, if we're not just containing these guys. Now obviously what the Left and Dan Andrews are pissed off about and why they're making the Police report back to them, is why did you not have enough cops on the ground to just completely stop these guys from doing anything? Just – just kettle them in and just stop them from doing anything. So that to me is where their frustration comes from is they are self-admitting that they don't want the so-called democracy. They don't want the – the free demonstration, they only want it for them, they don't want it for others.

[End of recording]