

Transcript – 30 October 2023 – Interview with Andrew Doyle (Tab 938)

Parties: Moira Deeming (MD), Andrew Doyle (AD)

AD: She's come all the way from Australia. It's the MP Moira Deeming.

Crowd: [Cheers]

5 AD: Thank you for coming. Now Moira a lot of people over here won't have heard of what happened to you in Australia but it is quite shocking. Do you want to start at the beginning?

MD: I decided to attend a rally that Kellie-Jay Keen was running in my home state of Victoria and I was very excited that she was coming and so I attended on the day. I helped with a little bit of organisation and on the day I read out a speech from one of my Muslim constituents and then the event ended. We all went and had champagne together. It was a great night. It was actually one of the funnest nights of my whole life. I did karaoke for the first time and then---

10

AD: What song did you do?

MD: All of them.

AD: All of the songs.

15 MD: And you know but then I got called into, you know HQ with the four party leaders and I was asked a very odd question, you know do you know any Nazis. No, not that I'm aware of and you know, it was a repeated question and then it turned into you know, why are you advocating for fringe issues? If you're advocating for fringe issues you need to be an independent MP and I said you know, with all due respect I disagree. I was pre-selected and elected into this party on those very issues. I don't think I do need to be an independent and I was told that I could advocate for these issues if I did so respectfully and in 20 years no one's ever been able to find a single actual quote in context where I have been disrespectful and then you know, I thought they were actually aligning me with the actual Nazis 'cause there were some actual Nazis that turned up on the steps pretty far away from us and, but I eventually realised through the course of the conversation that they were accusing Kellie-Jay Keen and a Jewish woman and another Liberal Party member of being Nazis and the moment that I realised that that was what they were talking about was when they said that you know, you went out drinking champagne with Nazis. You know, this was our celebration night and I thought oh you know, you're not actually talking about the Nazis you're talking about these three women who along with me you know, there's this correlation between the fact that we advocate for sex-based rights.

20
25
30

AD: Unbelievable. Karaoke with Nazis. It's absolutely despicable.

MD: And champagne.

AD: And champagne.

MD: So insensitive.

35 AD: That's appalling. So this is utterly bizarre. So I suppose we should clarify, your party is the Liberal Party.

MD: That's right, the centre right party.

AD: Centre right. So sort of the equivalent of the Conservatives if you like on some issues.

MD: Some people in the party would you know, vomit at that word but yes.

40 AD: Yeah. Okay, fine. And the event was let women speak and the idea is it's about women's rights. It's about hearing women and their stories and their concerns about single sex spaces and that kind of thing and at that event some Neo Nazis had turned up to cause trouble.

MD: Sorry, they were not part of our events.

AD: But they were not part of your event.

45 MD: They turned up on the street about 15, 20 metres away.

AD: Yes. And activists, rather opportunistically took the took the opportunity to say they're all one and the same which is unbelievable really because of course, as far as I, and I don't know any Neo Nazis either but I know that they're not that in favour of women's rights.

50 MD: Do you know Kellie-Jay Keen because I'm afraid to tell you that according to certain people in my state you do.

AD: According to some people. Well, that's it. I find this astonishing. We're used to, people being online are used to the word Nazi being thrown about all over the place, but this is so egregious and so ridiculous. What I wanna know is how is it the case that a major political party can fall for that online rhetoric you know?

55 MD: Apparently it's the fault of Wikipedia. So I was presented with a dossier because of course I asked for evidence too in that meeting. At first I thought oh no, how have I missed this? Perhaps I have associated with Nazis, oh my goodness, oh my goodness. I said well can I please see the evidence and the answer was no, it's very easy to find, it's online in 10 minutes you know, there's no way that they believed me that I wouldn't have known. And eventually when I was shown that dossier it was referencing Wikipedia which as a high school English teacher I found equal measures of hilarious and outrageous.

60 AD: But that's one of the activist tactic is to modify Wikipedia in according to how they would like the world to be rather than how it actually is.

65 MD: Yeah. Like for a long time my Wikipedia page said that I had, you know four children and five children and you know, a fleet of luxury cars and I don't know, they just got all these things wrong which was hilarious. They actually changed John Pesutto's web page to say that he was the equivalent of a Nazi associate because he has he had associated with me and then Kellie-Jay Keen. You know what he did to me was I was guilty by association, by association, by association, it was like three or four times removed.

70 AD: So you're sort of Nazi adjacent and he's proxy Nazi adjacent.

MD: That's right.

AD: It's, yeah like it's contagion.

MD: Yes, that's right.

75 AD: So this is fascinating to me. So what happened then? So you're called in, they say we're concerned about you associating with people who we perceive to be Nazis or that activists have told us are Nazis. What happened to you and your status in the party at that point?

MD: Well the end of the meeting was, I said look, like what is the end of this meeting, you know, I'd like to go home, I'm exhausted. And they said well, we would like, if you don't denounce them you know, you've shown us that you can't be rehabilitated, that you've even challenged the idea.

80 Yeah. That you even challenged the idea of denouncing people, which by the way you know, they had said no to seeing the evidence and they said look we're going to put forward a motion to expel you or you can make it easier on us all and just quit and I said oh no thank you and I just got up and left.

AD: And then they expelled you.

85 MD: And then they moved a motion to expel me. It took them two tries to expel me. The first time I agreed to a suspension to save the leader if only he would exonerate me and the other women from all of these claims. My contention is that he agreed to that because there was one thing that I was never ever going to agree to which is not having my name exonerated because I have four children. I'm not having the slur of Nazism attached to my name, my family name and have my children be treated the way that I have now been treated and as far as from my perspective is that

90

you know, that was never, I did my part of the deal. I sat on the cross bench and I never got my other half of the deal and then they expelled me again when I said that I'd like to bring in a lawyer to redo the meeting to make sure that everything's written properly and have it done. So look I'm now in the position where I have to sue my leader for defamation.

95 AD: That's absolutely astonishing. People are gonna be very surprised hearing that because they associate these kind of tactics as in smearing people who are not Nazis as Nazis, they associate that with the left more often and we have a party here, a centre right party going along with it. How is it that this sort of ideology has infected the right as well as the left do you think?

100 MD: Well, so there's two things. There's an incredible lack of conviction. So I actually sometimes wonder whether the people inside the party actually believe the values that are written in our party's constitution and our parties platform. I actually came from the left and you know, have ended up on the right because I've been thinking these things through and so I found it very surprising when I'd be talking to people and they couldn't articulate our own set of values and what they were saying was actually I thought no, you belong in the other party. And the other thing is just cowardice. So I heard all the time, all the time you know yeah, I agree with you Moira, I agree with you in private. I know about Lia Thomas, I agree with you. I'm like I'm not grateful okay, and neither are all the women and the children and the and you know, the LGB community when they find out you threw me under the bus knowing full well that one, I have nothing to do with Nazis, two, neither did those women and three that you knew and disagreed with these laws the same as me and you let me be your human shield.

AD: Yeah, that's a major problem, isn't it? People are just not speaking out.

MD: Yeah.

AD: What were you there to speak about at the event? What is it, what was the message you were trying to get across?

115 MD: That you know, transgender ideology inserted into law is extreme and it's antidemocratic and it cannot be our answer to people who have this philosophy of transgenderism or they have gender dysphoria. We can have sympathy. We can make accommodations but you cannot remove child safeguards. You cannot remove sex based rights. The other mistake that they made was that they just didn't get to know me. So I have conviction. You know the reason why I'm against these things is not because I'm a bigot. It's because I am a survivor of rape. I am a mother of children, of four children. I have three daughters. I'm a teacher. I know what child safeguarding is. I know how important it is and you know, and I came from the left to the right. I really value reasonable freedom of speech, reasonable freedom of association, all those kinds of things and due process, that would have been nice. You know this cannot be our answer to this issue, it's too extreme. That's not fair. That's not balancing rights.

AD: So what will it take? Because to call someone a Nazi, I mean that strikes me as outright libellous. Has this been tested because it feels as though activists are able to do this with impunity?

130 MD: Well, I think there's something different about my case which is going to allow a testing of this. So this wasn't just some random person on the street calling me a Nazi. It wasn't some YouTuber, it wasn't even a journalist you know, 'cause you know our media companies have endless pockets and it's hard to sue them. This was four leaders of one half of the political power in Australia. They did a 15 page dossier. They all signed it with their names, they stamped it with the seal of the Liberal Party and then they distribute it to the media. So it gave weight and authority to these accusations that had not been even gone through any kind of investigation process and so I am going to challenge it 100%. The only legal avenue I have is defamation so that's what I'm going to use.

AD: Fantastic.

[End of recording]