

Interview with Sunrise Transcript

EXHIBIT/MFI:

Description:

Return to:

(party/non-party, if produced on subpoena)

Associate's Spotlight the

*In studio*

BARR: Taxpayers could be looking at a compensation bill of up to Higgins rape allegation. It comes after Bruce Lehrmann revealed personal cost of what he believes was not a fair trial.

*Cutaway to Seven News Spotlight*

LEHRMANN: It'll have to be a multi-million claim because I need to consider the very real possibility that I may never work again. Not that I might have, um, forty years of economic loss, I will never ever be able to work again, so that needs to be factored in.

*In studio*

SHIRVINGTON: Spotlight also spoke with former Defence Minister Linda Reynolds who claims she was the victim of a political hit job driven by the Me-Too movement. Bruce Lehrmann joins us now, the, good morning to you Bruce, um.

LEHRMANN: Morning.

SHIRVINGTON: Let's start with this one, why do you think you received ahh, a fair trial, didn't receive a fair trial?

LEHRMANN: Well, the report was pretty clear it was incredibly damning, um, and it's an indictment on, um, the ACT justice system quite frankly, umm, and the ACT government doesn't seem to want to take any action so I will.

BARR: How's this affected your day-to-day life?

LEHRMANN: Ahh, completely shattered, um, I'm virtually unemployable, um, as I explained last night, um, ahh, and you know, there has to be some justice here, I mean, um, this was a prosecutor who, um, as Mr Sofronoff said, um, treated a criminal trial, trial like a poker game, um, and where in which, in which he, um, didn't reveal cards.

SHIRVINGTON: Mmm, ahh, you say Shane Drumgold who has resigned over this matter stuffed up your life. Why do you say he was the root cause of all of this?

LEHRMANN: Well, he, he commenced the prosecution, he maintained it, and then he gave that ridiculous speech when he dropped the charge as well where he effectively told the country that um, he's dropping the charge but he still could of won the case, I mean, that now, that's not, umm, (*stammering*) that is just abhorrent, umm, to, to even suggest that, particularly from a statutory office holder like himself.

BARR: If (*stammering*) if you haven't been proven guilty, you know, there, there's nothing, you know, against your name here, so why can't you go and hold your head high and live a normal life now.

LEHRMANN: And, well that's what I intend to do Nat, I mean, I have to get on with things, and Mr Drumgold, umm, took my opportunity for a non-guilty verdict away, umm, (*chuckles*) not only that, the report found so many other, umm, examples of misconduct and bad behaviour, ahh, and I think everything that been out there in the past few months really speaks for itself now.

BARR: There's so much out there, and the trouble is, everyone in the country has a view on this which you would know.

LEHRMANN: Yep

BARR: Everyone talks about it

LEHRMANN: Yep

BARR: Ahh, at every coffee shop, at every dinner party, at every barbeque.

LEHRMANN: Yep, I get all the looks, yep.

BARR: Do you?

LEHRMANN: Yep, yep.

BARR: What do you get?

LEHRMANN: Ohh you know, just side eyes and things like that but, at, by the same token, I get a lot of support as well, umm, I've been quite heartened to see a lot of people, umm, particularly, ahh, since the brilliant work the Spotlight team have done, ahh, in just the, Liam Bartlett has been like a dog with a bone with this stuff and I think it's changed a lot of people's views and I think they've got the courage now to come up.

BARR: You know, you (*Cut off by SHIRVINGTON*)

SHIRVINGTON: What do people say to you, what, when they come up?

LEHRMANN: Ohh, just, just that I've been hard done by, they don't express a view either way and I'm not expecting that, but everybody is entitled to the presumption of innocence, and everybody is entitled to a fair trial.

BARR (Bruce affirming throughout): You know a lot of people say to me, cause it's interesting as you say, everyone has a view, but a lot of people say to me, I don't get they went back to Parliament House, and you went and did, you explained it, we've all watched the Spotlight, and you went into your section, and she went up, up there, into her section, cause it was a complicated sort of, and then you left, why didn't you just say goodbye, why didn't you just yell in the general direction "Going now Britt, seeya later, bye", nothing?

LEHRMANN: Yeah and as I said to Liam in the first interview, in hindsight, umm, probably, but, umm, you know, she was a staffer in her own right as well, same security clearance, umm, I had no reason to suspect that I needed to check in on her, umm, you know, she's an adult, she's, ahh, you know, same level staffer as I was.

BARR: But isn't it, isn't that a bit weird you going back with someone in the middle of the night to do work and then you just take off?

LEHRMANN: Well, I mean I had no reason, reason to suspect that she was black out drunk or anything, umm, to that extent, so I, you know, I didn't, I didn't suspect that she needed to be checked on, she, she also had to go back to do work as she indicated.

BARR: But not even checking, like if, just a sort of "See you, bye". Just a natural human behaviour, wouldn't it be "see you later"?

LEHRMANN: Sure, and in hindsight, umm, probably, but, you know, I also had missed calls from my girlfriend when I turned around and saw my phone on my desk, so I thought, well, I better get out of here and get home.

SHIRVINGTON: Mmm, Spotlight spoke to former Defence Minister Linda Reynolds, umm, who claims she was a victim of a political hit job, umm, how do you feel about that?

LEHRMANN: Yeah, (*stammering*), it's quite sad seeing that last night, I, I didn't know a lot of the background there with, um, Senator Reynolds and umm, you know, how she's been treated, how Senator Cash has been treated, umm, yeah (*chuckles*) there's a lot of rabbit holes to this and, umm, there's been a lot of misbehaviour and a lot of misconduct that's (*stammering*) coming out, umm, as, it's alarming, it's shocking, it's sad as well, umm, and there's still a lot of questions people need to answer so.

BARR: There's a lot of people who'll believe you, but you know there's a lot of people who never will, don't you?

LEHRMANN: Mmm.

BARR: Would you take a lie detector test?

LEHRMANN: Ohh, absolutely, yeah, I mean that's, I get that this has divided the nation and that's just because of the high-profile nature of it and how this was advanced in the first place, it wasn't advanced through the normal means as it should have been through the Police. It was advanced on another network, umm, and you know, I think, ahh, that's unfortunate and you know, as my, as my barrister said last night, it's very triable now so, and it's just a fact of it.

BARR: Would you like another trial; how would you like to clear your name now?

LEHRMANN: Well, we've got, umm, we've got defamation proceedings at foot and Channel 10 are running a truth defence so in effect, it's a re-run of umm, the trial, ahh, but ahh absolutely, (*stammering*) I'm entirely confident that on the balance of the material we had and the defence team that I had, umm, I would of got a not guilty verdict.

BARR: The other thing that people say to me is why would she go to all this trouble, by all accounts this has almost broken her, why would she go to all this trouble and make it up?

LEHRMANN; Well, I'm not, I'm not in her mind and I think I expressed in my first interview with Liam that I have, umm, I have a lot of sympathy for her, I think she's been surrounded by people who don't have her interests at heart, umm, and I think, I think we're seeing that in some of the material that's been coming out in the last few months, it's been quite alarming.

SHIRVINGTON: Mm, ahh Bruce, thanks for joining us.

LEHRMANN: Thank you.

SHIRVINGTON: Appreciate it.