

ADELAIDE INSTITUTE

PO Box 3300
Adelaide 5067
Australia

Online
ISSN 1440-9828

Mob: 61+401692057

Email: info@adelaideinstitute.org

Web: <http://www.adelaideinstitute.org>



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A helpful guide to free speech: don't be a dick

By Corinne Grant - Updated about 4 hours ago – 17 February 2016

Do we really have freedom of expression in this country? Look at immigration, and now marriage equality. Corinne Grant argues there's only one guiding principle: be a grown-up.

Australia's population has just hit 24 million, and for the past 10 years immigration has [grown faster than the birth rate](#).

As our country becomes more diverse, it's time we had a sensible debate about freedom of speech.

More than that, we need to have an honest, dispassionate discussion about who really has a voice when free speech is discussed, and who doesn't.

There is no absolute freedom of speech in Australia, and many of those who demand greater freedom are the very same people who ignore draconian laws that prevent others from speaking out.



[PHOTO: As Australia becomes more diverse, it's time we had a sensible debate about freedom of speech, says Corinne Grant. \(Flickr: Newtown Grafitti\)](#)

For example, [section 42](#) of the Australian Border Force Act contains one of the most draconian limits on free speech we've ever seen.

The effect of the clause is to render any information disclosed by employees, contractors and those engaged by the department in the course of their work an illegal act leading to up to two years in prison.

Not only that, but the effect of Australia's criminal law means that journalists could also be caught in the same net if they aid and abet or incite such a disclosure.

In this context, everyone from the farmer who provides vegetables to an offshore processing centre through to those who care for children who have been assaulted could be jailed for two years if they disclose that information to a journalist.

Second, any journalist who prints that a farmer supplied two tonnes of fresh lettuce to Christmas Island could also be jailed for two years. While this example is a little

facetious, it shows how ridiculous and far reaching this law is.

It says a great deal about the lack of maturity in this debate when those with power and influence demand the right to say whatever they like, but at the same time demand no-one should be able to answer back
Corinne Grant

In this context, the Australian Christian Lobby (ACL) is arguing for a [suspension of discrimination laws](#) in the lead up to the national plebiscite on same sex marriage. Never mind the fact that laws that criminalise incitement to hatred or ridicule against people because of their gender or sexuality do not exist at federal level, and do not exist in all states and territories; the ACL wants the laws put on hold.

It is more than a little hypocritical for a Christian organisation to demand the right to be free from prosecution for inciting hatred and ridicule of same-sex couples, while remaining completely silent on reports of the abuse of children and babies in offshore detention and the effects of section 42.

We see these same hypocrisies turn up time and time again. Not only is there no absolute freedom of speech in Australia, certain curtailments upon that freedom are actively supported by most Australians.

There are anti-terrorism laws, laws that make it unlawful to incite violence or breaches of the law, laws that make it illegal to disseminate child pornography — the list goes on.

Any debate on freedom of speech needs to be 'informed and reasoned'

There are arguments to be made that all of these existing laws are either too weak or too harsh. While most of us would agree that child pornography is abominable, for example, there is the real risk that [teenagers who engage in sexting](#) can be prosecuted for disseminating, producing or accessing child pornography under current laws.

In other words, issues surrounding freedom of speech are complex and any debate needs to be informed and reasoned. Sadly, that is not currently the case.

If we look to our newspapers and current affairs programs, we only talk about the need for freedom of speech when it turns to the 'right' to make unfettered comments about Muslims, asylum seekers, Indigenous people, women, transgender and same-sex attracted people.

We need to examine that. This is not really about freedom of speech — it's about a particular desire to say awful things about specific groups of people, while at the same time refusing to allow them to respond.



PHOTO: Andrew Bolt leaves the Federal Court in Melbourne on March 29, 2011 after facing racial vilification charges. (AAP: Julian Smith)

It says a great deal about the lack of maturity in this debate when those with power and influence demand the right to say whatever they like, but at the same time demand no-one should be able to answer back.

We need only look to Andrew Bolt and Mark Latham as two people with very large platforms who constantly complain they are the victims of free speech laws and political correctness.

The term 'political correctness' in this context should really be read as the right of those attacked to respond to Bolt and Latham.

While empathy is not a skill shared by all, learning to be considerate is far more achievable. Put simply, to be considerate only requires one thing: don't be a dick.

You don't have to imagine yourself in another person's shoes, you don't have to imagine what it would be like to be in a detention centre, or in love with a person of the same sex as you.

You just have to think, 'is there a way of putting my point across that doesn't involve severely insulting or hurting another person?' If there isn't, then don't say anything at all.

That is not a denial of your freedom of speech, it's called being a grown-up. And if we all grew up, maybe we'd make meaningful headway on becoming the country we want to become.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-02-17/a-helpful-guide-to-free-speech/7175442>

The psychology of conspiracy theories

Wednesday 17 February 2016 5:12PM

By Lynne Malcolm



IMAGE: THE ILLUMINATI ARE AN EXAMPLE OF A PARTICULARLY ROBUST CONSPIRACY THEORY. (STEVEN PUETZER/GETTY IMAGES)

There's a conspiracy theory for just about everything, from 9/11 to the Moon landing. It's not just the paranoid fringe who believe in them, either. How do we decide what's reasonable and what's ridiculous? Lynne Malcolm and Olivia Willis examine the psychology of conspiracy thinking.

September 11 was an inside job. Princess Diana was murdered in a government plot. The Apollo 11 Moon landing was faked. The New World Order is taking over. Conspiracy theories are rife, and entertaining them is in our nature. But how do we decide what's crazy and what's a sign of something sinister actually taking place? Sometimes our brain is so good at finding patterns, it finds patterns that aren't even really there.

ROB BROTHERTON

'Research from within psychology has really taken off looking at why people believe conspiracy theories. Within the last five or 10 years, there have been more and more psychologists turning their attention to this,' says Rob Brotherton, an academic psychologist and the author of *Suspicious Minds*.

He believes what was once the pastime of 'intelligent outsiders' is now commonplace. Conspiracies are entertained by a broad swath of the population.

'The stereotype is that conspiracy theorists are crazy, that they are paranoid and that they shouldn't be listened to. I don't think that's reasonable ... and I don't think it's backed up by the research.'

In fact, psychological research suggests that we're all conspiracy theorists, thanks in a large part to our cognitive makeup. Brotherton says a series of innate cognitive biases are 'wired into our heads', dictating how conspiracy-minded we are.

'These traits of mind that we have, these shortcuts that our brains take ... they can lead us to suspect a conspiracy has occurred, whether it has or not.'

According to the psychologist, it all begins with our instinctive desire for control.

'This is something that we all suffer from, not just in the context of conspiracy theories, but we all want to feel like we have control over our circumstances and that we understand what's going on around us.'

'When that feeling of control is stripped away for whatever reason ... then we look for other sources of control, what is called compensatory control.'

'Conspiracy theories are one manifestation of this need ... we think that if we don't have control that at least somebody does, even if they don't have our best interests at heart.'

More: [What are the odds the Moon landing was faked?](#)

Brotherton also points to our hardwired ability to recognise patterns.

'Finding patterns is an ability that we rely on every moment of the day really,' he says. 'It's one of our brain's most remarkable abilities and it underlies all kinds of human endeavours.'

'But sometimes our brain is so good at finding patterns that it finds patterns that aren't even really there. It can find patterns in randomness. Conspiracy theories might be an example of this, taking these events that happen in the world, this chaotic information, and finding the dots that seem to be connected.'

Then there's our 'intentionality bias' our brains' tendency to assume that any ambiguous event was intended, that somebody meant it to happen.

'There's research on this bias from developmental literature,' says Brotherton. 'It's been found that if you ask a child why did somebody sneeze or why did they trip over ... young children below the age of about four think that people meant to do that.'

'Of course, as we get older, we learn that people don't always mean to sneeze or fall over, and so we become able to apply our knowledge and to override that bias.'

'But what the research shows is that the bias is still there, it's still on the back of our mind and our brain is telling us, whispering in the back of our head that everything about this was intended. Somebody meant this to happen.'

Next on the list is 'proportionality bias', our brains' assumption that the causes of events must be as big or as important as the events themselves. JFK assassination conspiracy theories are a perfect example of this—many people find it hard to believe that the president of the United States was assassinated by a lone madman. Instead, they look to the KGB or the mafia—explanations that fit the scale of the crime.

More: [A very real imaginary illness](#)

Then there's good old-fashioned confirmation bias: the fact that we tend to surround ourselves with people and information that confirm what we already believe.

'If you scrutinise your Twitter followers or your Facebook friends or the newspapers and magazines that you read ... you'll probably find that a lot of it is consistent with what you already believe, and you don't really read much stuff that goes against what you believe,' says Brotherton.

'When it comes to conspiracy theories, it becomes very possible to surround yourself with just like-minded people who believe what you believe.'

According to Brotherton, our pre-existing ideologies play a major role in how we interpret events and information. Rather than processing facts in a logical or reasoned way (as we like to believe we do), we sub-consciously filter information to suit a narrative we've already created.

'People to the left and the right of the political spectrum, they both have conspiracy theories but they point them in different directions,' says Brotherton.

'For example, the 9/11 conspiracy theories are more widely believed among people on the left, among liberals, whereas, for example, the conspiracy theories about President Obama not having been born in the United States or being a secret Muslim ... they were much more widely believed on the right.'

Both sides, he says, are as conspiratorial as one another; they simply use information differently.

Because these thinking patterns are hardwired, it's difficult to change our own minds, let alone anybody else's.

Given our innate susceptibility to conspiracy theories, Brotherton believes awareness of our own biases is the best we can hope for.

'Everybody suffers from these biases ... so a good first step would be to realise that, to accept that, and then to look at our beliefs and try and critically evaluate them.'

'Why do we believe the things we believe? Is it based on the good, objective, fair survey of the best available evidence, or might we be falling into some of the traps laid down by these biases?'

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/allinthehead/the-psychology-of-conspiracy-theories/7177962>

Stephen Dank suing for defamation over Jon Mannah newspaper articles

By Brendan Trembath

Posted 15 February 2016 at 7:32pm



PHOTO: [Stephen Dank in front of the NSW Supreme Court in Sydney.](#) (ABC News: Brendan Trembath)

RELATED [Mannah's family refutes peptides cancer link](#)

**RELATED STORY: [Dank admits offering Mannah peptides](#)
Stephen Dank is taking on two Sydney newspapers that published stories saying the death of star footballer Jon Mannah may have been accelerated by substances the sports scientist administered.**

Mr Dank will argue his reputation was ruined by articles published in the *Daily Telegraph* and *Sunday Telegraph* in 2013, in a defamation trial against the papers' News Corporation-controlled publisher Nationwide News.

In a front page story in April 2013, the *Daily Telegraph* made the claim about the death of Mannah, a Cronulla

Sharks rugby league player, who had died at the beginning of 2013.

The Mannah family [refuted the claims soon after they were published.](#)

Responding to the reports in 2013, Mr Dank [confirmed he had offered Mannah peptides but vehemently denied contributing to his death,](#) saying he had consulted "with oncologists about what effects peptides would have on [Mannah's] condition".

Mr Dank was investigated in 2013 and 2014 by the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority (ASADA) over allegations he had prescribed banned substances to Sharks' players as well as members of other sporting teams, including the Essendon AFL club.

Mr Dank has strongly denied ever giving banned substances to NRL players, while Cronulla staff and players denied knowingly administering or taking illegal substances.

Last year, [17 past and present Sharks players were handed show cause notices by ASADA](#) in relation to allegations of taking prohibited substances in 2011.

In the defamation trial, which began in Sydney today, Mr Dank's lawyer Clive Evatt has to convince a jury of three men and a woman that Mr Dank's reputation was damaged by the page-one piece and two other articles.

He told the court: "Mr Dank comes before you as a man of excellent reputation, which we say has been ruined

by the defendant including the editors and the journalists."

He said in the court the Daily Telegraph had the biggest circulation of any newspaper in the state.

Football has become highly professional, scientific: lawyer

The lawyer leaned in close to the jury as he made his opening address and explained to the jurors how football had changed since the days when players mostly lived in the area of their club.

"It's highly professional now and everything is scientific," he said.

He emphasised that each of the 16 teams in the NRL competition had a sports scientist whose job was to prescribe substances to make players less tired.



PHOTO: [Jon Mannah's family has refuted links between peptide use and his death from cancer.](#) (Mark Kolbe, file photo: Getty Images)

Mr Evatt said his client was a qualified biochemist and careful about what substances he administered.

He then challenged the Daily Telegraph's suggestion that Mannah's death from cancer may have been accelerated by peptides administered by Mr Dank.

"We say that the article is completely untrue and we didn't administer warfarin," Mr Evatt said.

The jurors are obliged to put themselves in the shoes of an ordinary reasonable reader, who had read the whole article, not just skimmed the first few paragraphs, as many people often do.

Mr Evatt read out a number of passages from the front-page article, including the headline: "Peptide link to NRL star's death".

Mr Dank's standing in the community will be a central issue in this trial.

As Mr Evatt said: "We are not born with a reputation", instead it was earned as we aged.

A reputation he explained was "what people say about us behind our back".

Nationwide News has previously said it was standing by the piece.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-02-15/stephen-dank-suing-nationwide-news-for-defamation/7169132>

Church \ Church in Africa

Pope Francis accepts resignation of Zimbabwe's Bishop Scholz



Archbishop Robert Christopher Ndlovu, the Archbishop of Harare, will be the Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Chinonyi - RV

The Holy Father, Pope Francis, has accepted the resignation presented by Bishop Dieter Bernd Scholz, from the pastoral care of the Diocese of Chinhoyi, in Zimbabwe, in accordance with canon 401 § 1 of the Code of Canon Law and has

appointed Archbishop Robert Christopher Ndlovu, the Archbishop of Harare, as Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Chinonyi (sede vacante et ad nutum Sanctae Sedis)

Bishop Dieter Bernd Scholz was born on the 2 June 1938 in Berlin, Germany. In 1958, he was professed as a member of the Society of Jesus and he was ordained priest in 1969 aged 31 years.

He was appointed the Bishop of Chinhoyi Diocese which is in the northeast of Zim. on 6 April 2006 and he was ordained on 2 September that same year.

Bishop Scholz, a Jesuit, has lived and worked in Zimbabwe for more than 40 years.

http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2016/02/17/pope_francois_accepts_resignation_of_zimbabwes_bishop_scholz/1209319

Zimbabwe - A Church punished for its opposition



Uploaded on Mar 18, 2010

Host Marie-Pauline Meyer interviews Bishop Dieter B Scholz SJ, the Bishop of Chinhoyi, Zimbabwe, about the struggle of the Zimbabwean people in light of the

economic meltdown and political deadlock and the role of the Church, often punished for her stand for Truth, to provide care for the population.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VWF4CFwqCw>

Finance Sector Union engulfed by bullying claims



By [Ewin Hannan](#),

Feb 18 2016 at 11:45 PM – updated Feb 19 2016 at 1:30 PM

For evidence of why Australian unions are losing members, look no further than the Finance Sector Union, a dysfunctional organisation purporting to represent the interests of thousands of workers across the banking, finance and insurance sectors.



FSU national secretary Fiona Jordan is fighting to keep her job against a hostile union executive. Josh Robenstone

For 18 months, rival camps inside the 30,000-member union have waged a civil war. [In one bunker is Fiona Jordan](#), who stunned union veterans by executing an unlikely victory over Leon Carter to become national secretary in 2014. All other positions were uncontested leaving her opponents, including deputy national secretary, Geoff Derrick, with a majority on the union's national executive.

Insiders describe the environment at the union's Melbourne headquarters as poisonous. "It's toxic," one senior figure says.

On Thursday, Jordan made a fraud report to Victoria Police. She alleged a senior officer had misused a union credit card by engaging in unauthorised spending, in Australia and overseas, of about \$3000.

Jordan had called the employee to a meeting on Wednesday to explain the spending. Before it took place the employee lodged a bullying complaint against her.

Sources said rival officials told Jordan that due to the complaint she should cancel the meeting and the national executive would meet on Wednesday afternoon to consider setting up a subcommittee to hear the bullying complaint. A defiant Jordan went ahead and sacked the employee. The bullying probe did not go ahead.

According to Jordan's supporters, the national executive has adopted 50 motions seeking to hinder her ability to do her job. They claim the conduct is consistent with an alleged warning to Jordan by a ministerial adviser in the Labor Victorian government that the national executive was "going to peel you like an onion".

Jordan has taken legal action in the Fair Work Commission akin to a chief executive applying for a restraining order against a board. She is also seeking an anti-bullying order, claiming she has been subject to mass bullying in the workplace and on social media, where her rivals have made snide jokes about "onions".

During a dinner to mark the union's national conference in October, 2015, a union banner with Jordan's image was defaced with a picture of the devil. Jordan informed conference delegates and complained to the police. The delegate responsible for the devil's image paid for the banner and apologised to delegates, but not to Jordan personally.

The national executive later passed a motion condemning Jordan following complaints from delegates about the quality of conference speakers, the agenda, the venue and the food.

The FSU is affiliated to the Labor Party in five states, paying \$161,221 in affiliation fees last financial year. It also makes political donations.

But Jordan, a former Westpac manager, is not a member of the ALP, and has questioned the time and resources spent by the union supporting the Labor Party. "Our members work in the banking sector so we have a lot of Liberal supporters, not just Labor and Green voters," one long-time union member said.

RELUCTANCE TO INTERVENE

The Australian Council of Trade Unions has been reluctant to intervene. An attempt by ACTU secretary Dave Oliver to broker a resolution failed. The Jordan camp later accused Derrick's supporters of walking away from undertakings to Oliver. On another occasion, FSU officials booked the Bob Hawke room at ACTU headquarters for a showdown with Jordan. When they arrived, they were advised the room was no longer available and told to leave.

Jordan is now being threatened with removal on the grounds she went public in 2015 to accuse the national executive of "corrosive, disingenuous and unaccountable behaviour". The executive has proposed rule changes that mean an elected officer removed by the executive would have their membership struck out. Jordan's supporters believe the change is designed to prevent her recontesting a ballot – candidates must be members – if she is sacked.

When Jordan recently fronted an extraordinary meeting to answer charges of "gross misbehaviour and gross neglect of duty", her request for a support person was denied. If she wanted a lawyer, she would have to pay herself, while the executive, her backers say, used union-funded lawyers to pursue the case against her.

"If one of the banks denied a support person to one of our members facing disciplinary action, we would be rightly outraged yet we do it ourselves," one FSU figure said. "It's hard enough to get people to join unions, why would you join after seeing this bunfight?"

Good question. The conduct does not give members confidence their union dues are being well spent.

Hemorrhaging members, and under attack from the Coalition, the ACTU does not need the FSU giving workers another reason not to join a union.

Union membership has fallen to a record low of 15 per cent of the workforce and only one-in-10 private sector workers belong to unions.

The Australian Manufacturing Workers Union, which in decades past had the power to dictate the direction of national wages policy, has been reportedly warned it is on track to suffer membership losses so significant that it will lose its power to effectively represent blue-collar workers.

Labor leader Bill Shorten's former union, the Australian Workers' Union, lost 15 per cent of its members in 2014-15, and auditors expressed uncertainty about the capacity of the union's Queensland branch to survive.

According to the ACTU president, Ged Kearney, unions have lost 140,000 members over 12 months. Seventy per cent were young workers she described as "our next generation of leaders".

In a behind-closed-doors speech to 200 officials in Melbourne two weeks ago, she said it was a "sad fact" that just 1.58 million employees, "most of whom are ageing rapidly", were union members.

Her speech was notable for its frankness and the absence of the excuses often trotted out by union leaders to deflect scrutiny of their falling numbers. The ACTU posted her speech on its website. It was removed [after being reported in *The Australian Financial Review*](#).

"Most of us, including me, are full of excuses when outsiders raise declining union membership as a topic of conversation," she said.

"We get defensive – we quite correctly point to deregulation, off-shoring and contracting out, privatisation, more aggressive employer HR strategies and a host of other reasons that have played a part in deunionisation over the last three decades.

"But you know what? I think we've started to use these challenges as a crutch, as a shield from quite valid criticism that in many industries we've simply failed to consistently organise and recruit as we could have and should have."

Kearney noted that most workers were still in physical workplaces and traditional jobs and 7.9 million people are employed full time. One quarter of the workforce are casuals, labour hire is at 5 per cent and independent contractors are 9 per cent. Even if unions ignore those people, she said, "that still leaves 60 per cent-plus of the workforce to organise".

FIGURES SCREAM FAILURE

"Despite the successful and innovative campaigns we all know about, the figures scream out that we have failed individually and collectively to grow our union membership at the same pace as employment in most industries," she said.

Jordan sits on the ACTU executive. She claims the FSU has lost 8000 members since 2010. Before being gagged from speaking publicly about the internal dispute, she sent an explosive open letter to members, claiming her attempts to restructure the organisation had been sabotaged.

The FSU is structured such that Jordan is effectively the chief executive and the national executive is her board. Jordan sits on the executive, as do employee representatives from banks, credit unions and superannuation funds, Derrick, state secretaries and the national president.

Jordan accused the executive of countering staff appointments and terminations, and replacing minutes of meetings she had circulated with their amended versions. She claims the executive "stuck" her with an inherited budget deficit of \$2.8 million, which she subsequently managed to reduce to \$1.2 million

"The truth is, attempts to change our union, to restore confidence in it, to pursue the agenda of making us a more professional organisation equipped to deliver on member needs, have been blocked," she said. "The

efforts have been deliberately undermined by a series of extraordinary actions designed to stymie change."

Jordan sought to use the controversial sale of the union's Melbourne headquarters to bolster her position. The building was sold for \$17.45 million in November 2013 – Jordan told members that the real estate agency that sold the property has estimated its value at more than \$30 million.

Responding last year to Jordan's allegations, Derrick said Jordan had been asked to bring a draft budget and operational review to the executive.

He said the executive had been "disappointed" with the material, which was "narrowly cast", "lacked insight" and was accompanied by the "biggest operational deficit in memory".

"To deal with the budget situation the national executive directed that certain things happen in the immediate sense to curtail the problems," he said. "And the problems include \$1 million in unexplained additional staff expenses in the budget."

The action to remove Jordan was recently deferred, but remains alive. Oliver has refused to comment on the FSU, but union officials agree that the imbroglia is damaging the union movement's image.

Research presented to the recent meeting addressed by Kearney and Oliver found that potential members were "highly cynical" when approached by unions because they are "constantly sold to" by telemarketers.

Potential members made a cost-benefit analysis of joining unions, were unlikely to join multiple organisations and wanted to select the services they used. As the first generation of the digital age, they expected to find most of what they wanted online for free, including information, services and networking.

The research was commissioned for a report co-authored by Eric Locke, a former Victorian ALP secretary, and Chris Walton, the chief executive of Professionals Australia, which represents more than 23,000 professionals including engineers, scientists, managers, veterinarians, pharmacists and information technology specialists. Walton was an ACTU assistant secretary and architect of the community component of the ACTU's Your Rights At Work campaign.

"The research highlighted the difficulties in organising new areas," their report says.

"The challenge is not just hostile employers and bad laws, in many areas potential members didn't want to buy what we offered at all and for many, what we offered cost too much."

Union membership levels are "a symptom of us not adapting rapidly enough to a changed environment, which to be fair has galloped ahead of us," the report says.

DECLINE LIKELY TO STEEPEN

"The membership decline trend will only steepen given the transformative influences of digital disruption and societal change."

One suggestion is the introduction of new membership models that use social media to connect with large numbers of workers in non-union workplaces. Fees could be as low as \$1 to \$2 a week and include bargaining services.

Oliver told union leaders that "radical thinking" was required to build the union movement. Six taskforces have been set up, with unions to debate proposals, including further amalgamations and

different membership models, such as multi-level memberships like those offered by Australian Football League clubs.

"I'm a member of the St Kilda Football Club and there are seven different types of membership I could choose from to suit my level of engagement, involvement, interest and needs," he said. "Is this something we need to look at for our organisations?"

Oliver says "things can't be business as usual". Kearney agrees. While unions still ran some great campaigns, she said many were "often reactive, are isolated and not linked to organising and recruitment on a mass scale".

She warned that union-negotiated workplace agreements "great as many of them are, will soon become hollow shells if we can't boost union numbers in the very workplaces those EBAs cover".

"At some point we will be simply bluffing when we go to bargain and threaten to take protected industrial action," she said.

Asserting she had "woken up in a cold sweat worrying about the decline of union membership", Kearney said she did not want unions to "move from being an influential and powerful voice for workers to being some quaint anachronism barracking from the sidelines".

"Unless we act decisively, we risk moving in a very short time from national standard bearer – the movement that brought workers Medicare and universal superannuation – to national non-entity," she said.

Perhaps she and the ACTU could follow their own advice and move decisively to fix the embarrassment at the FSU.

<http://www.afr.com/news/politics/workplace-bullying-a-civil-war-in-the-finance-sector-union-20160217-gmws5r>

Chinese billionaire Chau Chak Wing bought \$70m Packer mansion without even seeing it

Aug 8, 2015 Lucy Macken, Philip Wen
EXCLUSIVE



The home at 40 Wentworth Road, Vacluse sold for about \$70 million. Photo: Supplied

Chinese billionaire Chau Chak Wing has revealed he bought James and Erica Packer's Vacluse mega mansion for \$70 million without even seeing it.

In an exclusive interview, the property developer said he had lived at the Hunters Hill home his family bought for \$3 million for more than 20 years, and wanted to upgrade to something "a little bigger".

"I've lived in my home in Sydney for a long time now, there are more children at home, grandchildren, so I wanted to move into something a little bigger," the media-shy Dr Chau said.

The family has owned their waterfront home in Hunters Hill since 1995.

"I never saw the [Packer] house, I don't know who the former owners were."



Chau Chak Wing, right, with his son Eric. Photo: James Brickwood

The chairman of Kingold Group said he had delegated responsibility for the purchase to his daughter Winky, who runs the family's Chinese-language newspaper *Australian New Express Daily*.

Like the Packers, Dr Chou has impressive business and political connections.

In July last year, he sat in on a meeting with former prime minister John Howard and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing, while more recently he accompanied rising Communist Party star Hu Chunhua – who some have tipped as Xi's successor – as part of a travelling delegation to NSW in May.

Former prime ministers John Howard, Bob Hawke and Kevin Rudd have all been hosted by Dr Chau at his leafy Imperial Springs estate, which boasts a 27-hole golf course and an expansive museum with 20,000 Chinese antiques.

<http://www.domain.com.au/news/chinese-billionaire-chau-chak-wing-bought-70m-packer-mansion-without-even-seeing-it-20150807-gitwvc/>

Selling Kidman to the Chinese is 'complete madness', says Dick Smith

Jan 27 2016 at 9:05 AM; Updated Jan 27 2016 at 5:59 PM



Dick Smith says Australia's agricultural land is becoming more valuable and should not be sold to foreign investors. David Tease



By [Matthew Cranston](#)

Outspoken entrepreneur and aviator Dick Smith has called the imminent sale of Australia's largest landholder

S.Kidman & Co to a Chinese company an act of madness and says that with the value of agricultural land rising, Australian super funds should be competing to buy the cattle stations.

Speaking from his 1214 hectare property outside Canberra, Mr Smith, who funded the first major book on his "hero" Australia's greatest pastoral king Sir Sidney Kidman back in 1987, said he was shocked that Australian investors could not compete with foreign investors.

"I am totally opposed to a sale to the Chinese. It's complete madness," Mr Smith told The Australian Financial Review.

"Farming land is going to be incredibly valuable – it is going to generate a lot of wealth into the future so you don't want all that wealth creation to go overseas."



Pengxin chief executive Andy McLeod and Gary Romano chief executive of Hunan Dakang Pasture Farming Co last year. Mr Romano has since stepped down.

Matthew Cranston

S.Kidman & Co, which has cattle station holdings covering 11 million hectares, was [placed on the market](#) for sale in April last year with EY. The company was expected to sell for more than \$325 million.

Chinese group [Shanghai Pengxin](#), which has successfully purchased large farming properties in New Zealand where foreign investment rules are much stricter, was S.Kidman & Co's preferred bidder for the business.

But [the sale was prevented from going ahead](#) late last year on the grounds that part of the landholding was within the Australian Defence Force's so called "green zone" - the lowest security rated area of the Woomera rocket range.

The land that was within the security area, namely the world's largest cattle station Anna Creek, has since been carved out of the overall S.Kidman & Co portfolio of land, allowing for the sale of the remaining business.

However Mr Smith said using the security concern as a reason to prevent the sale was a "furphy". "I really don't understand why the major parties are ok with still selling it off. Nine out of 10 people I speak to are opposed to it."

Other Australian investors have been enthusiastic about buying part or all of the S. Kidman & Co landholdings including transport [magnate Lindsay Fox](#).

Mr Smith [became one of the top ten shareholders](#) in Australia's second largest landholder – the Australian

Agricultural Company – back in 2012 because he didn't want to sound like a hypocrite for suggesting that Australians compete with offshore buyers for our agricultural land. He still has that shareholding.

"The Australian super funds surely they could buy Kidman. Even the prime minister could put in \$1 million, I could match it and put \$1 million in."

At the same time that Mr Smith opposes the sale of S.Kidman & Co to the Chinese company – he is also against the sale of Australia's largest dairy farmer known as the Van Diemen's Land Company. That company is currently owned by a New Zealand local government but is about to be sold to a Chinese businessman Lu Xianfeng "Don't get me wrong if that Chinese businessman wants to be an Australian citizen and bring his money in and live here and have his wife become a member of the Country Women's Association and he becomes a member of the Rural Fire Brigade then he should be allowed to. But selling to offshore is just wrong – you may as well not have borders."

The Chinese based company looking to buy S. Kidman & Co – Shanghai Pengxin is controlled by Hunan Dakang Pasture Farming – a \$3.4 billion listed company, majority owned by billionaire Jiang Zhaobai. It has been looking to add beef cattle to its agricultural operations.

On Tuesday, the Board of Hunan Dakang announced that its chief executive Gary Romano had resigned. It is understood that Mr Romano would continue as a strategic adviser for Dakang in Australia and on the company's S.Kidman & Co transaction.

<http://www.afr.com/real-estate/selling-kidman-to-the-chinese-is-complete-madness-says-dicksmith20160125-gmdqp1>

Canadian commentator calls on Australia to repeal vilification law

February 19, 2016



Mark Steyn in the 3AW studio.

A Canadian commentator has called on Australia to dump our controversial vilification law.

Section 18C of the *Racial Discrimination Act* makes it unlawful for someone to "offend, insult, humiliate or intimidate" someone because of their race or ethnicity.

Author Mark Steyn told Tom Elliott Canada's version of the same law was so easy to satisfy it had a conviction rate "Kim Jong-Un would envy".

"All the things that are in there - offend, embarrass, humiliate - they're all feelings," Mr Steyn said.

"They're not things capable of legal definition.

"If you feel embarrassed or humiliated, then you are embarrassed or humiliated."

Mr Steyn, in Australia to promote his latest book *A Disgrace to the Profession*, says he's heard a lot of Australians say "I believe in free speech, but..."

"The 'but' kills everything beforehand," he said.

"You can't be a little bit pregnant. You're either for free speech, or you're not."

<http://www.3aw.com.au/news/canadian-commentator-calls-on-australia-to-repeal-vilification-law-20160219-gmyq6t.html>

Laurinne Campbell's claim to Aboriginality sparks investigation



[Michael McKenna](#)

Reporter, Brisbane, THE AUSTRALIAN, FEBRUARY 20, 2016 12:00A



Ray Peckham and Bernadette Riley questioned Laurinne Campbell's Aboriginality. Picture: Adam Yip



Rupert Williams, who Laurianne Campbell claimed was her grandfather. Picture: Adam Yip



The Aboriginality of Laurinne Campbell was the subject of investigation. Photo: Adam Yip

Rupert Williams couldn't believe it when he was told he was grandfather of a woman just 11 years younger than him.

The bus driver, who grew up in the Murrin Bridge Aboriginal mission in regional NSW, prides himself on being a family man. He readily shows off a library of pictures of his children and five grandchildren on a smartphone, and keeps in contact with many of the 300 or so people from the "mission days".

But Williams, 60, had never heard of Laurinne Campbell — then in a senior "Aboriginal identified" management position in the NSW Aboriginal Housing Office — when shown a family tree bearing his name that she had submitted to gain membership of the Pilliga Local Aboriginal Land Council in 2006.

"I thought, 'What's going on here, who is this woman? I don't know her and I'm not her grandfather,'" he told Inquirer this week after first seeing the document in 2011. "It really hit me when I saw that she had my sister, who turned 50 last year, dying at birth."

[MORE: Push for Aboriginal ID tests](#)

Campbell, like tens of thousands of others across Australia, was relying on membership of a land council as proof of her - Aboriginality.

It has become the iron-clad standard to claim specific benefits, Aboriginal government jobs and, in her case, to set up an indigenous corporation with her immediate family, securing

more than \$100,000 in taxpayer grants and donations — in just one year.

But almost as soon as Campbell and her sister, Lisa Montgomery, won membership of the Pilliga land council — in a vote of its members — rumblings began about whether, in fact, she was Aboriginal.

It took until this month, after years of complaints and an initial investigation by local Aborigines, for the regulator of the NSW land councils, Stephen Wright, to take action and disqualify Campbell's claim to Aboriginality.

For Wright, the 14-year veteran registrar of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983, it was the first time he had issued a notice for a person to be removed from the membership roll of an Aboriginal land council in NSW.

It followed a 2012 referral from the NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption and a rare genealogical investigation into Campbell's claims of Aboriginal ancestry on both sides of her family, at the missions in Murrin Bridge and Caroona, also in regional NSW.

"My finding was that Laurinne Campbell could not demonstrate her right to membership of a LALC (local Aboriginal land council) pursuant to the ALRA (Aboriginal Land Rights Act)," he said in a statement to Inquirer.

"This finding was primarily based on analysis of a range of family history information provided to me by Laurinne Campbell and the analysis provided by my genealogical reports."

Unless Campbell takes legal action, she will be removed from the roll of the Baradine LALC — which covers land north of Dubbo — to which she moved her membership after initially being vetted by the Pilliga LALC.

In the face of the findings, Campbell refused this week to - answer questions about her Aboriginality when approached by - Inquirer outside her regional NSW home, claiming she was a victim of a "witch-hunt".

But the two Aboriginal people — Ray Peckham and Bernadette Riley — who pushed for action, after conducting their own investigation into Campbell's family tree, say they only wanted to get at the truth. The pair were only too aware they were "crossing a bridge" when they began questioning Campbell's Aboriginality.

It is regarded as the worst insult among the Aboriginal community, with lighter-skinned Aborigines an easy target of malicious and false accusations.

The issue exploded in 2011 with a Federal Court judgment that columnist Andrew Bolt breached section 18c of the Racial Discrimination Act in several articles he penned in 2009. The nine "fair-skinned Aboriginal" complainants alleged the articles conveyed offensive messages by saying they were not genuinely Aboriginal and were pretending to be Aboriginal "so they could - access benefits that are available to Aboriginal people".

But for Peckham and Riley this wasn't about skin colour.

It was in 2010, when Campbell, a trained nurse, successfully - applied for an "Aboriginal identified position" — which requires the job go to an Aboriginal person — as the regional manager for the NSW Aboriginal Housing Office in Dubbo, that Riley - became suspicious.

The great-granddaughter of William Ferguson, one of Australia's first civil rights activists who founded the Aborigines Progressive Association in the 1930s, she recalled a conversation two years earlier when Campbell told her she was not Aboriginal.

"I met her in 2008, and at that time she was in another job which I thought was an identified position, and I asked if she was Aboriginal and she said she wasn't," Riley told Inquirer. "She explained that the position was only targeted and she got it as there were no other worthwhile Aboriginal applicants."

Riley, who in 1996 narrated the documentary *Blacktracker*, about her grandfather, police tracker Alexander Riley, decided to test whether any of her famous forebear's skills had flowed down the generations. She soon learned that Campbell — who it is believed was on a salary of \$126,000 with the Aboriginal Housing Office — had secured her confirmation from the Pilliga LALC in 2006.

It was then that Riley turned to Peckham for help. The Aboriginal elder, now 86, had ties across several generations

with the Riley family and had been heavily involved in the civil rights movement in the 50s and 60s through the unions and later the Aboriginal-Australian Fellowship, which had grown out of the Aborigines Progressive Association. Peckham had lived at the Pilliga missions and "didn't know of Laurinne or her family".

"It was the first time I had been involved in something like this, and for years the government people ignored us, told us to drop it — and we were even threatened with defamation and 18c — but we couldn't," he told Inquirer. "People are afraid to challenge, but this is about our identity as Aboriginals."

In the 80s, the federal Department of Aboriginal Affairs came up with a three-part working definition for recognition of Aboriginality. It states: "An Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander is a person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent who identifies as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and is - accepted as such by the community in which he (or she) lives." Only a few court cases have considered the definition, with - arguably one of the more important decisions being that of Federal Court judge Ron Merkel in 1998 relating to a dispute about the Aboriginality of candidates in Tasmania's election for the now defunct Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission.

Merkel said proof was often difficult because of lack of records and years of denial of Aboriginal descent in the face of racism.

"Accordingly oral histories and evidence as to the process leading to self-identification may, in a particular case, be sufficient evidence not only of descent but also of Aboriginal identity," he said.

Merkel said the onus was on the Aboriginal community to establish who was Aboriginal.

In 2010, Riley and Peckham found that despite being approved for membership of the Pilliga LALC, there had always been concerns among the community about the claim to Aboriginality by Campbell and her sister.

A 2006 letter from Wright — as the regulator of NSW land councils — to the Pilliga LALC showed local Aborigines had sought to rescind the sister's membership just months after it had been approved. It seems to have gone nowhere. The driving force for the push back, Mark Allen, later told Riley and Peckham he had known the sisters all his life as they had lived in the small town of Baradine, which is near Pilliga.

"Mark, who died in a car crash soon after we spoke, told us he had gone to school with Laurinne and that the whole time they had grown up she had never said she was Aboriginal," Riley said.

Pilliga LALC handed over the sister's application for membership, which included the family tree, a 1995 approval certificate for Abstudy — the commonwealth support payment for indigenous students — and extracts from *Dawn* magazine.

Produced by the NSW Aborigines Welfare Board between 1952 and 1975, the magazine covered life — including school and sports events, birth and death notices — on the Aboriginal communities. The magazines are now digitally archived and freely available for anyone to search by "the name of a person and specific dates".

In the application to Pilliga, Campbell submitted copies of the articles that included pictures of her purported grandfather, - Williams — shown in a tug of war with other children and teachers — and handwritten notes, citing references to people on her family tree.

Riley and Peckham trawled electoral rolls and birth, death and marriage public records — checking the family tree on both sides "back nine generations" — before tracking down people from the missions and questioning them.

They came to the conclusion that Campbell had used her legitimate family tree of European-descended ancestors and found the same or similar names among the Aboriginal communities.

"We interviewed people in the *Dawn* magazine, which was used to substantiate her claims to Aboriginality and took statutory declarations," Riley says. "It was then that we put it all together and sent off our evidence to the Aboriginal Housing Office, the registrar and every funding body or statutory body that had anything to do with them. We just wanted the authorities to

investigate, but I think people didn't take it seriously. They thought it was just a squabble between blackfellas."

Among the recipients was the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations, which regulates corporations set up with a majority indigenous membership and has access to certain benefits and exemptions.

In June 2008 — about two years after winning membership to the Pilliga LALC — Campbell, her two sisters and parents established the Nigyanni Indigenous Corporation, which at various times listed its business as running shops, art and education services.

According to documents, in 2011 the corporation reported - receiving almost \$120,000 in government grants and donations. It was voluntarily deregistered in December 2012 — soon after authorities began to properly investigate.

Campbell's involvement with the corporation, while overseeing Aboriginal housing across much of regional NSW, was among the issues initially raised by Riley and Peckham to her bosses.

In June 2011 — according to correspondence seen by Inquirer — the then acting chief executive of the NSW Aboriginal Housing Office, Mike Allen, wrote to Peckham to say the pair's "extensive documentation" had led to a review of Campbell's recruitment for the job in 2010, which she held until last year.

"I can confirm that the AHO has information about Ms Campbell's Aboriginality that adequately meets government requirements for staff who occupy Aboriginal identified positions," Allen wrote.

Later that year, the pair each received legal letters from solicitor Russell Booby — who wrote that he was acting for Campbell and the NSW Department of Family and Community Services — accusing them of defamation and racism.

Booby — who said this week it "was my understanding" that his bills were covered by the taxpayer — even cited the Bolt case and section 18c of the Racial Discrimination Act in calling for the pair to stop their complaints and calls for an investigation.

"The allegations have left my client feeling humiliated and publicly derided, and because the allegations spoke to the issue of my client's Aboriginality and raised some question around that, they have the effect of undermining my client's professional credibility," the letter said.

"The court's decision in *Eatock v Bolt* is a timely warning to you that my client will not tolerate her Aboriginality and/or her reputation and good character being impugned."

It didn't work.

The pair continued to push for an official investigation and in early 2012 ICAC referred the complaint to Wright — the registrar of NSW land councils — who then ordered an independent genealogical assessment of Campbell's claims to Aboriginality.

During the next two years, several genealogical reports were authored — which cast doubt on the bona fides of Campbell's evidence — and she was given the right to respond.

On March 17 last year, Wright wrote to Peckham informing him that "there is no current basis, on the evidence provided to me, which supports Ms Campbell's claim that she is Aboriginal".

In April, Peckham wrote to the AHO informing them of Wright's findings.

But it was not until October that AHO boss Shane Hamilton responded, saying he had asked Campbell on March 27 for evidence of her Aboriginality and that the subsequent material she supplied met the threshold of the NSW Public Service Commission's Confirming Aboriginality Guidelines for NSW Public Sector Agencies.

Hamilton said Campbell had been made redundant in June.

Regardless, Riley and Peckham feel vindicated in their investigation and await what action ICAC will take when it receives a report from Wright.

For them, the saga has been as much about the reluctance of government agencies and regulators to act on concerns about people's claim to Aboriginality than about Campbell herself.

"We were fighting about a principle, about the right to call yourself Aboriginal," Riley says.

Ian15 MINUTES AGO

This is what Australia has come to. Want extra welfare and benefits or access to a computer lab? Well you better have the right genes. Forget personal circumstances or disadvantage. Forget who you are as a person. Just make sure you were born to the right parents. Funny how the progressive left have now gone full circle and are happily implementing Adolf Hitler's vision of a world divided by race.

James6 HOURS AGO

Another example of the folly of criminalising the legitimate questioning of matters of "race", "identity", etcetera. Repeal 18C!

Laurie8 HOURS AGO

Well, if you are mad enough to put benefits out there, people will lie and cheat to get them.

Peter william11 HOURS AGO

Wait for the changes to the constitution and then rush in for a DNA test, if your roots in Australia go back even 100 years there is a high probability you have some Aboriginal genes.

Lawrence11 HOURS AGO

We are one and we are many. From all the lands on earth we come. And so on. We are Australian. So I gather from this bunfight and the one over recognition that Aborigines do not want to be Australians but something else. So who are the racists?

Richard13 HOURS AGO

Maybe if the government doled out benefits on the basis of need rather than race we wouldn't have this problem?

I dont see how these 'aboriginal reserved' jobs help the people who need help; surely if you are qualified for one of them you are qualified for plenty of mainstream economy jobs too? So where is the need? Conversely if you are an uneducated and isolated Aboriginal in a town camp somewhere you will never be considered for these white collar public service roles, so where is the benefit?

Maria12 HOURS AGO

@Richard Hear Hear -- all welfare should be needs-based not race-based we'd then have fewer public servants, few fiefdoms and more flexibility. More importantly fewer little indigenous children would be held captive to lives of misery, hunger, brutality and early death or incarceration because of misguided notions holding sway in the mental cul-de-sacs inhabited by policy-makers

Martin20 HOURS AGO

The real folly is that government rules make a racial aspect to certain jobs and other benefits - naturally there is created an incentive to deceive. The best thing to do is remove the whole racial differential on benefits, subsidies and employment as this is just another form of racism.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/inquirer/laurine-campbells-claim-to-aboriginality-sparks-investigation/news-story/5fa0af56b656fa815ffbf74d965287a3>

Who Towers Behind Trump?

SEPTEMBER 28, 2015 AFP

The following detailed background on billionaire real estate developer, TV personality, author and GOP presidential candidate Donald J. Trump comes courtesy of an excerpt from Michael Collins Piper's book, *The New Jerusalem: Zionist Power in America*, which was published in 2004 by AMERICAN FREE PRESS.

An inquiry into the background of flamboyant American entrepreneur Donald J. Trump provides some surprising insights into Trump's path to power and influence, for the fact is that Trump's rise to stardom came as a direct consequence of his having functioned as hardly more than a colorful front man for some very wealthy behind-the-scenes sponsors.

Everyone knows, of course, about Trump's gambling operations and of the wide-ranging links of the gambling industry to organized crime. But the story is much bigger than that. In his own memoir, *The Art of the Deal*, Trump proudly described how in 1987 he bought his first casino interests when he purchased 93% of the voting stock in the Resorts International gambling concern.

What Trump doesn't tell his readers is what the late Andrew St. George reported in *The Spotlight* on October 30, 1978 (and in the previous September 25, 1978, issue): Resorts International was established and controlled by front men for the Rockefeller and Rothschild families and their "enforcers" in the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and its allied intelligence agency, Israel's Mossad.

What made the report so explosive was that this newspaper pointed out that the illegally rigged casinos were being operated with the collusion of "respectable" politicians, law enforcement officials, Wall Street financiers who floated loans to finance the gambling resorts and the high-profile gambling resort operators themselves.

St. George pointed out that many of these casino resorts run by the mob through a variety of front men have actually been engaged in a de facto partnership with behind-the-scenes mobsters who have assisted the CIA and the Mossad in massive laundering of drug and gambling profits that have been channeled into covert operations of the two allied intelligence agencies. In return, the CIA and the Mossad, using their own influence, have provided "protection" for the illegally fixed gambling operations, preventing law enforcement authorities from cracking down on this corruption.

Where would-be president Trump fit into the picture? To find the answer, one must turn to the murky origins of Resorts International.

Resorts evolved from a CIA front company set up in the early 1950s by then-CIA director Allen W. Dulles and his close associate, three-term New York Governor Thomas E. Dewey, political functionary in the so-called "Rockefeller Republican" wing of the GOP.

The front company in question was the innocuously named Mary Carter Paint Company, which operated a national chain of paint stores but was set up to function as a covert CIA money-laundering operation.

In 1958-59 Dewey and a number of associates used a reported \$2 million in CIA funds to buy a controlling interest in the Crosby-Miller Corporation (headed by Dewey friend James Crosby), which was then merged with Mary Carter.

Among other things, the new corporation laundered CIA money for arming the anti-Castro Cuban exiles. The company also launched into lucrative casino gambling enterprises in the Caribbean where the CIA was quite active during that period, having engaged the Lansky crime syndicate in now-thoroughly documented and widely known plots to topple Fidel Castro who had enraged the mob by closing down its Cuban gambling enterprises.

Thus it should be no surprise that in 1963, Alvin I. Malnik, a top henchman of crime syndicate boss Meyer Lansky, was found to be closely connected to the operations of Mary Carter Paint.

In 1963, Mary Carter Paint spun off its paint division and during the next several years began developing its casino operations, particularly in the Bahamas. In 1967-68, Mary Carter Paint officially changed its name to Resorts International and began massive international expansion. The *Spotlight* determined that several principal investors provided the funds and assets for the venture:

- **Meyer Lansky**, the acknowledged "chairman of the board" and chief financier of the underworld gambling syndicate, who maintained his own longstanding ties to not only Israel and the Mossad, but also the CIA and the American intelligence community;

- **David Rockefeller**, head of the Rockefeller financial empire, who provided his family's clout and CIA and global banking connections to assist in the operation;

• **The Investors Overseas Service (IOS)**, then the world's largest flight-capital conglomerate, controlling assets worth \$2.5 billion.

• **Tibor Rosenbaum**, who was not only the Mossad's Swiss-based chief financier behind covert arms deals but also the head of the Banque De Credit Internationale of Geneva, the Lansky syndicate's chief European money laundry; and

• **Baron Edmond de Rothschild** of the European banking family and a personal business partner of Rosenbaum in Rosenbaum's Mossad-related ventures ranging far and wide; and lastly,

• **William Mellon Hitchcock**, one of the heirs to the Mellon family fortune (one of America's largest private family fortunes, which, for many years, has also maintained close ties with the CIA).

Resorts International expanded by leaps and bounds and soon became one of the most profitable of all the gambling enterprises, and by 1970 the underworld figures who were running the casinos (in league with their behind-the-scenes partners) began moving to expand casino gambling in the United States.

Mob chief Lansky called a high-level meeting of gambling syndicate figures in Acapulco, Mexico and there the assembled

mobsters pinpointed the fading resort of Atlantic City as their first new target. (Prior to that time, of course, the mob had already established Nevada as the only outpost of legalized gambling on U.S. soil.)

In the wake of this meeting, the resources of Resorts International were used (publicly and privately) to begin the lobbying campaign that resulted in the legalizing of gambling in Atlantic City and once the New Jersey legislature opened up the Garden State, Resorts moved in.

In 1987, upon the death of longtime CIA front man James Crosby, the nominal head of Resorts International, up-and-coming young New York real estate tycoon Donald Trump stepped into the picture and bought Crosby's interest in the gambling empire.

Trump soon became a household name, with his colorful personality and his insistence upon naming a variety of luxury hotels, apartment houses and other commercial ventures after himself. But while the name "Trump" appeared in the headlines, the names of the real movers behind Resorts International remained hidden from public view.

<http://americanfreepress.net/who-towers-behind-trump/#sthash.dmaMxoOR.dpuf>

Why is US storing new tanks in hidden Norwegian caves?



US Marine Corps during live firing with their M1A1 Abrams tanks in a shooting range at the Rena military camp this week. Photo: Torbjørn Kjosvold / Forsvaret

Once dormant Cold War era caves are being restocked by the US Marines.

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[Russian spying can 'damage' Norway: PST](#) (10 Feb 16)

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US Marines are using Cold War era Norwegian caves to store new tanks, artillery and other military equipment to ramp up their presence near the Nato-Russia border, [CNN reported](#) on Thursday.

"Any gear that is forward-deployed both reduces cost and speeds up our ability to support operations in crisis, so we're able to fall in on gear that is ready-to-go and respond to whatever that crisis may be," Col. William Bentley, said in a Marine video posted to Facebook:

According to a Marines statement, the military began using the caves to store military equipment in 1981. When Cold War tensions subsided, the US military transferred the costs of maintaining the caves to Norway,

Magnus Nordenman, the director of the Transatlantic Security Initiative at the Atlantic Council, told CNN.

But with Russia flexing its muscles in the region, the cave complex is now back in active use. Nordenman told CNN that the caves hold enough equipment to support some 15,000 Marines.

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See also: [Russia on agenda at Nordic Nato discussions](#)

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Heather Conley, the director of the Center for Strategic and International Studies' Europe Program, told CNN that given the tense current relationship between Nato and Russia, northern Europe is now being viewed as a "theatre of operations".

"Now that we have a very new security context with Russia, it now makes sense to rethink what is needed," she said.

Russian aggression in the Nordics has been an ongoing concern for Norway and its neighbours in recent years.

In 2015, it was revealed that [Russia rehearsed military takeovers](#) of northern Norway, the Swedish island of Gotland and the Danish island of Bornholm.

[Norwegian](#), [Swedish](#) and [Danish](#) intelligence services have all reported that Russia is one of the biggest threats in the region.

Just last week, the Norwegian Police Security Service (PST) singled Russian spying out as having [major "damage potential"](#) for Norwegian interests.

The Marines statement said that more than 16,000 troops will use equipment stored in the Norwegian caves later this month for cold weather training exercises.

The Marines have released video showing the Norwegian army assisting the Americans in learning how to best operate tanks and Amphibious Assault Vehicles in icy conditions.

<http://www.thelocal.no/20160219/why-is-the-us-storing-new-tanks-in-hidden-norwegian-caves>



Europa und Amerika.

Eine Universalerklärung

1. *Europa* ist die alte Welt, und es ist die Mitte der Welt. *Amerika* ist die neue Welt, und es ist der Rand der Welt. Amerika ist der Außenrand des atlantischen wie des stillen Ozeans, somit ist Amerika die doppelte Randständigkeit.

2. Die neue Welt ist der Auswurf Europas, sie ist von der alten Welt abgefallen. Amerika ist der Abfall Europas. Nachdem Europa saubergefegt worden war, sammelten die Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika Völkerabfälle rund um den Erdball ein. Auf diese Weise wurde Amerika zu dem, das es heute ist: ein die ganze Welt bedrohender, *globaler Abfallhaufen der Völker*, unter dessen zerstörerischen Anmaßungen und giftigen Ausdünstungen der ganze Erdball und der Rest seiner noch nicht amerikanisierten Menschheit zu ersticken droht.

3. Das *Deutsche Reich* ist die Mitte Europas und somit die Mitte in der Mitte der Welt. Die Deutschen aller derzeitigen Reichszerteilungsgebiete sind das Kraftzentrum aller europäischen Talente und Tugenden. Schicksal aller Deutschen ist es, das Kernvolk Europas zu sein, das aber in seinem heutigen Zustand erst selber wieder kernig werden muß.

4. Das *Russische Reich* ist seit der Zerschlagung des napoleonischen Rußlandfeldzuges die Großmacht Europas. Iwan III. hatte im Ausgang des 15. Jahrhunderts (1480) die zweihundertjährige Mongolenherrschaft abgeschüttelt, Peter der Große vollendete die Aneignung Sibiriens bis zum Stillen Ozean und Katharina die Große hat dann im 18. Jahrhundert die germanischen Ursprungsgebiete Rußlands – die Ukraine und die Krim – zurückerobert, die Tataren aus ihnen vertrieben und so das Werk der Europäisierung Rußlands vollendet.

5. Durch die *Kolonisierung Sibiriens* hat das russische Volk den Raum der europäischen Kultur bis an die Westküste des Stillen Ozeans ausgedehnt. Die russische Kolonisierung Sibiriens war eine über Land, hingegen gingen die Kolonisierungsbewegungen der westlichen Randmächte des Abendlandes über See. Erstere blieb bis heute geschichtlich fest, letztere erwies sich als flüchtig und ist in der Entkolonialisierungsbewegung des 20. Jahrhunderts versickert.

6. Die *Unterwerfung der alten Welt* durch die neue Welt war der geschichtliche Gehalt des 20. Jahrhunderts und die größte Tragödie des Abendlandes überhaupt. In zwei Weltkriegen hat nur das Deutsche Reich mit seinen Verbündeten die Freiheit Europas verteidigt. Konnte im Ersten Weltkrieg die Mittelmacht noch an der Ostfront siegen und den Staaten Finnland, Estland, Lettland, Litauen, Kongreßpolen und Ukraine die Unabhängigkeit im Frieden von Brest-Litowsk ausbedingen, unter Verzicht auf Annektionen und Reparationen, so hat doch an der Westfront das Deutsche Reich den Ersten Weltkrieg, der zu Recht die Urkatastrophe Europas

genannt wird, nicht gegen England und Frankreich, sondern erst ab 1917 gegen die nordamerikanische Union verloren. In dem europäischen Unglücksjahr 1917 begann nicht nur die amerikanische Invasion Europas, sondern ebenfalls die Gegengeschichte des Judenstaates mit der Balfour-Deklaration und zu allem Überdruß auch das Unglück Rußlands mit der judäo-bolschewistischen Machtergreifung, die keine Revolution war, sondern eine anti-kapitalistische Konter-Revolution, die eine asiatische Produktionsweise mit der ihr entsprechenden despotischen Herrschaft über die Russen und die ihrem Reich angehörenden Völker errichtete.

7. Die *völlige Unterwerfung Europas* durch Amerika geschah im Zweiten Weltkrieg mit der Zerschlagung der europäischen Mitte. Die Voraussetzung dieser schlimmsten Niederlage Europas war das Versailler Diktat mit seinen unendlichen Annektionen und Reparationen und dem völkerrechtswidrigen Kriegsschuld-Vorwurf, der das Prinzip der Souveränität selber, das *ius ad bellum*, verraten hat, indem das Versailler Diktat dieses oberste Recht dem Deutschen Volke absprach.

8. Der *Krieg* ist nicht nur, wie schon Clausewitz wußte, die Fortsetzung der Politik mit anderen Mitteln, sondern auch die Fortsetzung der Ökonomie und der Ideologie mit außerökonomischen und außerideologischen Mitteln. Diese anderen Mittel sind Gewaltmittel. Dabei ist, wenn es zur Gewalt kommt, diese immer ein Mittel und nie der Zweck. Deswegen beschwören Kriegsparteien stets den Frieden, denn der bloße Zweck ist stets ein friedlicher Genuß, und der ist um so ungetrübter zu erlangen, je weniger ihm gewaltsamer Widerstand entgegengesetzt wird. Wenn jener, dem der Zweck entrissen werden soll, friedlich bleibt, kommt es auch nicht zum Krieg, weil nie der Angreifer die Schuld am Kriege trägt, sondern erst der uneinsichtige, gewaltsame Verteidiger. Weil der Krieg eine Form des gesellschaftlichen Verkehrs, deswegen ist er auch das Kriterium von Gesellschaft, weil ihre letzte Instanz. Frieden gibt es nur innerhalb einer Gemeinschaft und nur solange, als diese nicht in mindestens zwei gesellschaftliche Subjekte zerfallen ist. Eine friedliche Gesellschaft ist unmöglich und wäre, falls erzwungen, keine Gesellschaft mehr, sondern eine Gemeinschaft. Der Krieg ist nicht nur Fortsetzer der Politik mit anderen Mitteln, sondern auch der Wirtschaft und des Bewußtseins. Daher ist alle Gesellschaftswissenschaft in letzter Instanz Kriegswissenschaft.

9. *Erweiterungskriege* sind Schadenstrachtungen, die die militärischen Gewaltkriege vorbereiten, begleiten oder nachbereiten. Sie werden in den politischen, ökonomischen und ideologischen Räumen ausgefochten und wenden den außermilitärischen Zwang der sogenannten Intelligenzdienste an, deren Vorliebe für Presse, Erpressung, Bestechung, Folter und Mord wahrlich kein Geheimnis ist. In den 1890er Jahren setzte

der vorbereitende propagandistische Erweiterungskrieg gegen Reich und Volk der Deutschen bereits ein, und der nachbereitende Erweiterungskrieg gegen alles Deutsche wurde auch nach dem 3. Oktober 1990 nicht etwa abgeschwächt, sondern in zuvor unvorstellbarer Weise verstärkt.

10. Das *Jahrhundert der Massen* war das 20. Jahrhundert. Die Führer dieser Massen konkurrierten um den Titel des „welthistorischen Individuums“. Historische Helden, die in diesem Wettkampf zur Auswahl standen, waren die Volksführer Lenin, Stalin, Mao, Ho, Mussolini und Hitler. Lenin und seine Nachahmer waren die industriellen Revolutionäre der asiatischen Geschichtsform, und Mussolini versuchte eine Restauration der antiken Geschichtsform; gemeinsam war ihnen die antikapitalistische Konterrevolution. Allein Hitler gelang die antikapitalistische Revolution der germanischen Geschichtsform in der von Marx und Engels vorhergesagten Anfangsform einer Diktatur des Proletariats, an der auch der Mittelstand und die Schwerindustrie sich beteiligten. Dies gelang, weil die Deutschen das kulturell, sozial, ökonomisch und technisch höchstentwickelte Volk der Welt waren und seine Errungenschaften selbst durch die militärische Niederlage und die darauffolgenden Plünderungen und Massenmorde nicht ungeschehen gemacht werden konnten.

11. Die große Erzählung von den glänzenden sozialen Errungenschaften wie von dem heldenhaften Kampf und Untergang des Dritten Deutschen Reiches ist heute schon zum unverwüstlichen *globalen Mythos* geworden, wofür die in alle Welt verstreuten Todfeinde dieses Reiches selber gesorgt haben. Die Juden, deren global-nomadischer Volksgeist nach dem Sieg über das Deutsche Reich sich definitiv 1948 (mit der Gründung Israels) zum regierenden Weltgeist aufgeschwungen hat, üben als Anti-Nation und Negativ-Exponenten der Gegengeschichte die globale Hirtenschaft aus, mit den demolierten Völkern und den angetriebenen Migrantenströmen als ihren Herden. Die breite Masse der Menschheit erscheint heute nicht mehr als unter einer Herrschaft in der Knechtschaft befindlich, sondern als in der globalen *Viehschaft* von einer jüdischen *Hirtenschaft* getrieben, mit den nur allzu bekannten weltweiten Übeln.

12. Die *neue deutsche Mythologie*, von den Denkern der deutschen Romantik seit dem klassischen Jahrzehnt der 1790er Jahre vorgedacht, entwickelte sich im hellen Lichte der deutschen Geschichte des 19. Jahrhunderts. Mit dem Ende der Neuzeit in den 1830er Jahren bildete sich der erkenntnistheoretische *Historismus* heraus und schuf – in Kunst und Industrie, in Wissenschaft und Technik – die Gründungsmythen des besitzbürgerlich-kapitalistischen Zeitalters. Und dann im 20. Jahrhundert, dem Zeitalter der Massen und ihrer Extreme, kann man sagen, daß in ihm weder der Konservatismus, der Liberalismus, der Kommunismus noch der Faschismus einen bleibenden und immer noch anschwellenden Mythos begründet hat, sondern allein der deutsche Nationalsozialismus. Er schuf die von den deutschen Romantikern (also den Germantikern) herbeigesehnte neue deutsche Mythologie, die das Wunderbarste, das Heldenhafteste und auch das Schrecklichste zu erzählen weiß und sowohl Glauben als auch Unglauben fand und weiterhin findet. Diese große deutsche Erzählung ist ein seit unserer klassischen Zeit anschwellender Bocksgesang, eine überwältigende Tragödiendichtung,

die die Völker der Welt in ergriffene Zuschauer verwandelt hat.

13. Neben den militärischen Heldentaten hat das Dritte Reich auch historische Großtaten vollbracht, denn es hat das *geschichtlich Gebotene* angefaßt:

(a) die von Polen geraubten deutschen Ostgebiete im September 1939 wieder in Besitz genommen,

(b) in die von der asiatischen Geschichtsform (orientalischen Despotie) bestimmte und mit dem Auftrag der Welteroberung („Weltrevolution“) versehene Sowjetunion, deren riesige Militärmacht in Angriffsformation aufgestellt war, im Juli 1941 präventiv hineingestoßen, und es hat

(c) der nordamerikanischen Union als der hinter der Sowjetunion stehenden Macht den Krieg erklärt, der wirklich unvermeidbar war, der bis heute anhält und der erst mit der Auflösung der USA in reelle Nationalstaaten beendet sein wird. Denn Amerika ist heute noch die anti-völkische Un-Nation, die folgerichtig von der jüdischen Anti-Nation getrieben wird.

14. *Europas Nullität* in geistiger und politischer Hinsicht besteht seit 1945, als das Deutsche Reich in die Handlungsunfähigkeit geschlagen worden war. Sie beschleunigte sich mit dem Aussterben der Kriegsgeneration von Jahrzehnt zu Jahrzehnt und liegt heute offen zutage. Der Anschluß des reaktiven sowjetischen Besatzungskonstrukts DDR an das initiative Reichszerteilungsgebiet BRD hat die inneren Spannungen zwischen Mittel- und Westdeutschen verständlicherweise verstärkt. Die Westdeutschen, insoweit sie dem Besatzungskonstrukt BRD verhaftet bleiben, sind den Mitteldeutschen zwar ebenbürtig, aber nicht ebenwürdig, weil sie ihre Besatzungsmacht nicht hinauskomplimentiert und die BRD noch nicht abgewickelt haben. Solange dies nicht geschehen ist, können die der BRD verhafteten Westdeutschen eine Meinungsfreiheit und eine Selbstbestimmung noch nicht beanspruchen. Die Österreicher hingegen sind den mitteldeutschen Altreichern sowohl ebenbürtig als auch ebenwürdig, weil sie es geschafft haben (in Ausnutzung des mitteldeutschen Aufstandes vom 17. Juni 1953) ihr Territorium 1955 von den Besatzungstruppen der Siegermächte zu säubern.

15. Dem militärischen Untergang des Dritten Reiches folgte die *provisorische Lüge* des lügenhaften Provisoriums BRD, das von sich behauptete, nur ein vorläufiges Konstrukt für die bald zu beendende Zeit der Handlungsunfähigkeit des Deutschen Reiches zu sein und solange in Geschäftsführung ohne Auftrag die Belange von Volk und Reich der Deutschen unter den Bedingungen der Besatzung auf einem Teilterritorium zu vertreten. Hoch und heilig wurde erklärt, daß Deutschland nie und nimmer ein Einwanderungsland sein werde, als die ersten Gastarbeiter den nur allzu berechtigten Verdacht der Westdeutschen erregten. Daß der Volkstod der Deutschen genau nach den Vorgaben des Hooton-Planes nicht nur ernst gemeint war, sondern mit ihm jetzt auch ernst gemacht wird, liegt gegenwärtig (im Frühjahr 2016), mit dem Übergang von der jahrzehntelangen ruhigen Zivil-Okkupation in eine stürmische Zivil-Invasion, offen zutage. Und daß dieser hybride Krieg gegen das Deutsche Volk nicht mit irgendwelchen germanischen Völkerschaften ausgeführt wird, sondern mit nachdrücklich abgesüdeten Völkerschaften fremder Rasse, nötigt auch Gegnern des Dritten Reiches das Zugeständnis ab, daß Hitler in seinem

Testament Recht behalten hat, als er erklärte, daß auch nach der Niederlage des Deutschen Reiches die Rassenfrage der strategische Hauptgesichtspunkt bleiben würde. Erst langsam und dann immer schneller wurde offenkundig, daß Antigermanismus und Deutschenhetze mittels *Absüdung Europas* durch tieferstehende Fremdrassen die Hauptwaffen des hybriden Krieges sind, der sofort nach der Kapitulation der Deutschen Wehrmacht am 8. Mai 1945 einsetzte.

16. Daß der deutsche Volkstod jetzt noch auf legale Weise, ohne einen Bruderkrieg, aufgehalten werden kann, das ist wohl auszuschließen. Eine *Herrschaft des Unrechts* kennzeichnete nicht nur die BRD von Anfang an, sondern alle anderen Reichszerteilungsgebiete. Nach und nach wurde dies auch zum Schicksal der anderen Völker Europas, soweit sie dem Westblock unterworfen waren. Die *europäische Union* (EU) als Wurmfortsatz der nordamerikanischen Union institutionalisierte dieses von den deutschen Reichszerteilungsgebieten ausgehende Unrechtsregime in Alteuropa. Der ehemalige Ostblock einschließlich Rußlands hingegen konnte sich nach dem Zusammenbruch der Sowjetunion und nach einem Jahrzehnt liberalistischer Zerstörung völkisch stabilisieren. Insonderheit hat das Russische Reich sich wieder als *die* Großmacht Europas gezeigt und stellt die Vorherrschaft der USA über Europa in Frage. Die USA sind seitdem in erbitterten geostrategischen Rückzugsgefechten gefangen, nicht nur in Europa und am mittelländischen Meer, sondern auch in Fernost und im südchinesischen Meer.

17. Diese *Ansichten*, die die heutige Weltlage bietet, führen rund um den Erdball zu neuen *Einsichten*. Allenthalben wird der Globalismus als das erkannt, war er immer schon war: Der Hochverrat an den Souveränen, an den Völkern der Welt. Die lange Welle, die durch die Weltgeschichte anbrandet, wird zur Verwirklichung des Grundsatzes Ein-Volk-ein-Staat führen. Und dies auch in Nordamerika.

18. Die *europäische Völkerordnung* wird sich nach der Befreiung Mitteleuropas von der amerikanischen Besatzung um das wiederhergestellte Deutsche Reich herum bilden. Die geostrategische Achse, die es ermöglicht, daß die europäischen Völker erneut auf der eurasischen Weltinsel die führende Rolle spielen, ist damit wiederherzustellen, daß Bismarcks Rückversicherungsvertrag mit dem Russischen Reich wieder in Kraft gesetzt wird. Ein kleiner feierlicher diplomatischer Akt in Tauroggen oder in Rapallo würde dazu völlig ausreichen. Die Substanz der erneuerten europäischen Völkerordnung wird die Rückkehr zum Völkerrecht sein und dessen Neubeginn mit dem *status quo ante* vom August 1914.

19. Allein die *Achse Moskau-Wien/Berlin* verleiht Rußland, dem größten Land der Welt, und den Russen, dem größten Volk Europas, den verdichteten Rückhalt, um im eurasischen Bund mit der asiatischen Vormacht China ein gleichgewichtiger Partner zu sein, der eine Bevölkerungsexpansion aus Asien nicht zu fürchten hat.

From AI Archives – 2015:

Department of disgrace

IBAC investigates Victoria's rotten education bureaucracy

By [Catherine Ford](#)



Former Victorian education department executive Nino Napoli (left) and lawyer Leighton Gwynn leave the IBAC hearing in Melbourne, June 2015. © Tracey Nearmy / AAP

In early June, Nino Napoli, a senior executive with the Victorian Department of Education and Training (DET), stepped into a witness box and began to answer some long overdue questions.

Until his recent sacking, Napoli had been a highly paid financial manager responsible for multi-billion-dollar

state education budgets. He'd also been a member of an allegedly corrupt corps of DET managers, and was in Melbourne's County Court to give evidence to Victoria's Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC) about large sums of money allegedly stolen from schools' funds over roughly two decades.

Napoli's appearance drew a crowd. Dressed in a pinstripe suit, and with a conspicuous toupee of tousled ginger-tipped spikes, he cut an odd figure even in a building where strange wigs are common. Napoli's evidence was stranger still. Drawn by the counsel assisting, Ian Hill QC, into increasingly profound exchanges, Napoli gave the impression that IBAC was tapping on the tip of an iceberg.

Hill: The scheme is open to ... grave abuse [...]

Napoli: Yes, Mr Hill, the potential is there, absolutely.

Hill: Yes, and you're the living embodiment of [that potential] because you abused ...

Napoli: Well, I'm an – I'm a ...

Hill: Just a *moment*. You abused your position of trust.

Napoli: I – I – absolutely – and, with regret, what I've done was – was – *dreadful*. And all I'm saying, Mr Hill, is that just as I've been able to do that, which was not something of a – of a – of such a difficult scheme, it's – it's – it's open to – to others. That's all I'm saying.

Hill: Yes. What we would be interested in is your view as to how to stop people like yourself.

Napoli: I have – I have some – very good ideas about that, sir. We can talk about that at some stage.

Napoli had conducted his dealings in the DET until a whistleblower acted in early 2013. Shortly after IBAC investigators went in pursuit of the evidence, Napoli suffered a heart attack and took leave. But for department staff who were alleging Napoli and his colleagues bullied them into submission, or who had lost their jobs after not co-operating, the investigation was a relief. A former senior employee said to me, anonymously, that she and others had *run* to IBAC, to report what they knew.

After two years of IBAC investigations, 50 people gave evidence in hearings from April to June, with 39 of these preceding Napoli. By most accounts, he was manifestly unfit for public service – a number suggested he was a grossly incompetent financial manager; others, a pathological liar, an inveterate thief and a bully. A female accountant alleged Napoli was given to terrible rages in head office, in which he became highly aggressive and went "completely berserk".

The commission also heard Napoli "brainwashed" his young adult children into perpetuating his deceptions; they'd received more than \$100,000 from the DET for work they hadn't done. His sons provided harrowing evidence at the hearings; one telling the hearing his father was "delusional", and his professional life was "one big fucking lie".

It seemed that, right up until this June morning, Napoli's feints had been so outrageous that almost no one had the courage to mention them.

Victoria's IBAC has had its own critics since its inception in 2011, for being more of a lapdog than a watchdog. Operation Ord (investigating "alleged serious corruption at the DET"), however, proved what IBAC *could* do. Empowered to install bugging devices in suspects' homes and offices, take covert photography (mostly in suburban cafes) and send forensic accountants down byzantine money trails, Ord produced, at the very least, an abject spectacle of incompetent and criminally inclined senior public servants "at work".

It exposed a fiefdom operating within the DET, allegedly creaming off significant sums of money from schools' funding. It uncovered cultures of self-serving executive

"leadership", and found critical structural flaws in the DET's funding arrangements and areas of governance. The machinations behind the complicit managers' brazen mateship deals were aired for all to see.

And not before time, according to the teachers and principals watching proceedings. "Most of us were aware for years that the bureaucratic hub of the system was rotten," a recently retired principal told me. "As long as you could keep them at bay you could do what you were paid to do: teach kids." Another ex-principal, who muttered savagely throughout the hearings, vented to me during a break. "You have *no* idea how most staff struggle with inadequate funding for schools. Meanwhile, these jokers lined their own pockets? I have come in to *eyeball* these bastards."

A primary-school teacher, attending IBAC around her classes, put it to me in language a prep child could understand. "Head office has been a boys' club since Madame Butterfly was a caterpillar!" she said. "I've been buying my students basic items – think jumbo crayons and picture books – with my own money for *years*, because I was told the school's budget didn't allow for such things."

With such an audience, IBAC Commissioner Stephen O'Bryan QC, a lanky man with Harpo Marx curls and a falcon's gaze, might well have felt supported. O'Bryan warned one unhelpful witness that the commission had "truckloads" of evidence of "services, goods and the like not received by the school". He was also obliged, repeatedly, to remind dissembling witnesses they were under oath, and that perjury attracted jail sentences.

At one point, O'Bryan pressed an otherwise lucid witness – a businesswoman implicated in the alleged laundering of DET money, attending the hearing in towering heels adorned with bows, and with diamond and pearl rings on her fingers – about her chronic memory lapses. "Have you got any *medical* condition?" O'Bryan parried from the bench. "No *memory* problems that you could enlighten me about?"

Counsel assisting – Ian Hill QC, Ted Woodward SC and Amber Harris – would establish, in often tense exchanges, that an operation had disguised a "round robin" of DET money being diverted into private holdings. Media reports – the front page of the *Age* newspaper, for one – alleged the combined misuse of DET money, under IBAC's purview, was in the order of "hundreds of millions of dollars".

The questions exchanged in the gallery weren't so much about why it had occurred, but what would be done about it. One woman, who told me she had "crawled out of [her] teaching career, spent", asked the pressing question: how far up the bureaucratic chain did the alleged corrupt conduct extend?

IBAC scrutinised activities between 2007 and 2014, when at least four DET mandarins – Nino Napoli (then director of school resources), Jeff Rosewarne (deputy secretary and acting secretary); Darrell Fraser (deputy secretary) and John Allman (regional director) – are alleged to have misappropriated funds.

Napoli had been responsible for school resource funding budgets since 1992 – most recently, \$5.5 billion out of an \$11 billion total – and enjoyed unfettered discretion over an annual branch budget of \$1 million.

The commission heard there were two forms of theft allegedly operating within the department. One involved

misusing credit cards and expense accounts. The other centred on a virtually undocumented, and formally discredited, method of administering school grants known as Program Co-ordinator Schools, or "banker schools". Banker schools began in the '90s during a push to decentralise management and hand budget control to individual principals. Some within the DET entrusted selected schools to hold funds in high-yield bank accounts to pay for earmarked programs. Banker-school monies, however, were rarely used for educational programs within the schools actually holding the money. This set-up, it was heard, was exploited by those under investigation as a way of hiding illegitimate expenditure, in some cases for years well beyond IBAC's seven-year scope.

Napoli told the hearing that the banker-school system was designed for "schools getting together, collaborating and making things administratively simple". In reality, it was what one witness described as a "phantom finance system".

When Neil Loveless, an internal auditor who had heroically descended into a departmental rabbit hole to seek proof of the banker-school structure, gave evidence, he sounded like someone in need of a hyperbaric chamber. "Look," he said, his face reddening with frustration, "the culture of the place is that ... banker schools *don't exist* ... And there's no policy, procedures or practices that define a banker school *anywhere* ... I mean, you can't do an audit of a system that doesn't actually *exist* ..."

IBAC alleged that Napoli, Rosewarne, Fraser and Allman each "had their [own] banker schools", and that these schools' principals and office staff were chosen because they would either do the executives' bidding or turn a blind eye to the questionable use of funds.

Allegedly, the laudable simplicity of the system had, in Napoli's case, allowed him to divert some \$2.5 million of DET money, in just seven years, into his own accounts. Counsel assisting spent days, in dramatic explication, describing how that paper trail unfolded. Napoli, it was explained, would send tax invoices, marked as goods and services required by the DET, from his home computer to that of Carlo Squillaciotti, his cousin. Squillaciotti – along with Napoli and Carlo's brother, Luigi – was a director of five companies purporting to be, variously, printers and stationers, an employment agency and a video production company. He would send the invoices, complete with phony company letterheads, tax invoice numbers and contact names, to the chosen banker schools, as directed by Napoli. (One such Napoli-Squillaciotti company was named "Quill Proprietary Ltd, Printing and Stationary [sic]" – a business Ian Hill QC derided, in an aside, as the "printing company that never moved".)

When banker-school principals or office managers received the sham invoices, they were then instructed by Napoli to pay them out of DET grant money parked at their schools – which had been allocated to them *by* Napoli.

Again, Loveless gave compelling testimony about what his audits had dragged into the light. "The thing that amazed me about the whole thing was that there was money flowing all *over* the place ... and it was just on the flimsiest of documentation. Sometimes they – a program area or a [deputy secretary] – would fill out a general expenses claim form, which is the sort of stuff that you

would, you know, pay your *tea money* on, and they would move \$250,000 from one area to another, and there was no justification for it, there was no explanation of it ... I was just gobsmacked by how simple it was for large sums of monies to move from program areas to regions and from regions to schools."

The apparently gross waste and mismanagement of DET funds also extended to international travel. It was "just chaos", he said.

"We live in an age where you've got Skype and you've got Google and you've got heaps of resources that you can actually look at to work out how the Finland education system is actually working. But the first thing a lot of our principals want to do is jump on a plane and go to Helsinki! So these are the sorts of things that probably need to be explored – or get somebody out from Helsinki and find out what was going on. But you don't want to have 500 principals going [to] Helsinki to find out what's going on."

Commissioner O'Bryan interrupted Loveless to confirm a point.

O'Bryan: So, are you saying that you came across one instance of a lump sum being paid out from, what, central office under the guise of tea money, *literally*?

Loveless: No. It was put into an account at a school called tea money.

O'Bryan: Put into the tea money account at the school?

Loveless: Yes, yes.

O'Bryan: Roughly how much are we talking about?

Loveless: \$3 million.

IBAC found that the banker-school system was mostly overlooked, until a giant hole appeared in the DET ledger in Napoli's area. A hole that Jenny Zahara – a whistleblower accountant – called "a bit of a deficit issue", which had been detected in a "bucket" that needed plugging after "about 80 or 90 million dollars" had dropped out of the bottom of it.

Rewards for principals and office managers who did the executives' bidding came mostly in the form of nepotism and favouritism. Some principals were promoted into management positions, mostly in head office, without transparent process; they, and staff, were often granted overseas "information gathering" trips. Mary Hannett, an office manager at Chandler Park Primary School, who'd signed off on Napoli's invoices totalling more than \$150,000, scored seven overseas trips in one year, and received \$10,500 in bonuses over four months.

But IBAC's investigations hit a wall, it seemed, trying to locate where the DET money went once it landed in Napoli's family trust fund.

In both Luigi and Carlo Squillaciotti's examinations, Ian Hill QC struggled to pull together a full picture of the Napoli-Squillaciotti assets and investment properties. Even when Commissioner O'Bryan issued a dire warning to Carlo Squillaciotti – that "there are very serious penalties for perjury ... that's lying under oath. Up to ten years' imprisonment. Now, *let's have an answer*" – little was illuminated.

The Squillaciotti brothers gave three days' evidence. Carlo, the more outwardly serene of the brothers, stared imperiously down his nose at Hill. His affectlessness – marble-clad expression, shoulder shrugs – suggested he didn't consider the allegations as something to get worked up about.

Luigi, whose fingertips were black from fixing cars, was more forthcoming. Although he, too, gave the impression – dwarfed, as he was, in an enormous coat that he kept on at all times – of a person insulated from the gravity of the situation.

IBAC had bugged Cobra Motors, Luigi's car workshop, for covert recordings. Panicked and expletive-laden exchanges from the workshop's rear office were played during the hearing. The men could be heard scheming about how to hide the spreadsheets and hard drives involving DET money they'd allegedly stolen, mostly through banker schools. In one exchange, they argued bitterly about hiding places. Napoli had scrambled into his mother's attic to hide his DET archive there. Luigi chastised him for this stupidity.

Commissioner O'Bryan [grilling Luigi Squillaciotti about the recording played to the commission]: I thought I picked up the word "underground" when you were speaking towards the end there. Were you speaking about somewhere to hide [the DET spreadsheets] underground?

Luigi Squillaciotti [shrugging]: Underground. I might have mentioned that. I can't recall.

O'Bryan: Yes. What did you have in mind? Where was the underground location?

Luigi Squillaciotti: Bury it [...]

Ian Hill QC: Well, what precisely were you suggesting then?

Luigi Squillaciotti: That ... if [Napoli] wanted to hide something, he should do something better than his *mother's* place!

After another audio clip, Hill questioned Carlo Squillaciotti on its contents.

Hill: And your brother [Luigi], when he said, "I'll be fucked to Jesus Christ," was indicating his concern about ... the file that [IBAC investigators] had got out of [the] office ... he didn't sound very happy there, did he?

Carlo Squillaciotti: No.

Hill: And your brother says, "I've got a feeling, as much as I hate to think it, I reckon Nino's going to do time, and I reckon there's a good chance Carlo's going to ... fucking go in. Yeah. And I'm fucking – I could go as well." What did you say to your brother Luigi ... to give him the impression that there was a chance you could go to jail? [...]

Carlo Squillaciotti: False payments. False payments. False invoices.

Jeff Rosewarne, former deputy secretary and acting secretary, is mentioned by the brothers in these recordings as someone who needs to be urgently telephoned and spoken to.

Hill, attempting to get to the bottom of the banker-school rorts, would also question Napoli. In one exchange, Napoli gave the room a farcical brushstroke tutorial in how an executive who controls vast sums of public money in a large government bureaucracy might work.

Hill: Are there any other avenues that you think the investigators should be looking at in respect to corruption within the [DET]?

Napoli [in helpful, consultative mode]: *Goodness* ... I don't know that I could do justice in going through, you know, the *complete* detail of it all, because it would take ... [shaking his head, indicating how long it would take to explain his and his colleagues' behaviour] ... but just to give you the *broad* sense, I think the concept of the co-

ordinator school, banker schools, needs a pretty good review. I think the guidelines and the way that those things are operated, and the volume of money that goes through them, needs some – a *thorough* look at.

Hill also questioned Napoli about end-of-year surpluses and the allocation of bonuses.

Hill: If there was a surplus held by those within the department at the end of the financial year, how was that dealt with? Let's take, for example, one of the executives, Mr Fraser.

Napoli: OK. I would approach Mr Fraser with perhaps maybe a week in the financial year to go ... I would say, "Mr Fraser – Darrell I would call him – look, it looks like there'll be a couple of million, two and a half, three, four, five million, what do you want me to do?" [And] he would provide me with a list of grants to various schools to be made. And there would be very little description, because it wasn't my place to – I'm not an educationalist, so – I would simply make those grants to schools. And off they would ...

Hill: Would any of the executives reward themselves in any way?

Napoli: Would – sorry?

Hill: *Reward* themselves in any way? Let's take overseas travel, for example.

Napoli: Like, how would you know? Because you could park the money – you could park the money into a [banker] school and then take the travel seven months later.

Hill, illustrating the point, tendered to the commission two unforgettable photos of Rosewarne and Napoli "taking it easy" on a DET-funded holiday to the UK and Italy. (Their wives went with them for part of the trip, too; airfares, accommodation and expenses paid, via false invoices, to the tune of \$15,000.) One photo shows Rosewarne and Napoli grinning in front of Buckingham Palace. The second shows them lying together – school camp-like – on a double bed in a well-appointed hotel room. Napoli, looking at the photos on the courtroom's screens, was suddenly mortified. "Jesus!" he exclaimed. "I'm a *lot* fatter there, aren't I?"

IBAC investigations showed where at least some school funding ended up. An incomplete list includes: a curated wine cellar stored in Jeff Rosewarne's garage; two coffee machines (total worth \$5000), also for Rosewarne; overseas holidays with wives, associates and staff; overseas "study tours" that produced neither reports nor documented expenditure; a party at The Apartment nightclub for Rosewarne's 50th, invoiced as "professional development" for \$6000; and a "planning retreat" at a Yarra Valley resort, where Darrell Fraser – according to three witnesses – drank so much he had to be assisted out of the venue, and was so hungover he was incapable of delivering the presentation executives had apparently travelled to hear.

Of the many emails tendered and displayed on screens, just a handful were needed to illuminate the executives' "mates at play" credo. A lunch invitation, emailed from a "Maddo" – a supposedly independent consultant associated with a turf company, then tearing up school ovals to pave them with synthetic grass – to "The Italian Stallion" (Nino Napoli) and "The Bushfire Legend" (Jeff Rosewarne) read:

"Boys! I'm confirming lunch at the Waiters on Friday ... to hear about Nino and Jeff's important overseas work for

the government and to help Mick spend some of his exorbitant consultancy fees."

The "boys", Maddo told the commission, met for such lunches every three weeks, at the very least.

But these were just the more picaresque forms of malfeasance in the department. As a DET official told me, while sharing a descending elevator in the County Court, there was "far worse to come".

In week three of the hearings, three senior DET staff members gave evidence that they'd been harassed, humiliated and alienated for raising concerns about suspect behaviour. All three reported being exiled either to an office "gulag" or "naughty corner". One had been "punished" by having her budget slashed from \$160 million to \$5 million, and her staff numbers reduced from 50 to nine. Another had taken leave because of anxiety and ill health. All three had eventually done what some colleagues hoped for, and left the department altogether. Gail Hart, one of these witnesses, had been a DET general manager responsible for business transactions, and a chair of the Accredited Purchasing Unit (APU) for nine years, until 2010. She reported to the DET deputy secretary Jeff Rosewarne.

Hart, a petite woman whose hands trembled throughout her testimony, told the commission that any exemptions to the department's regulation tender process – purchases above \$100,000 and below \$1 million were to be put out to public tender – required her authorisation. Hart explained she had "come under pressure" from Rosewarne because "executives were complaining that I was too strict, that I wasn't letting things through that should go through, that I was being pedantic". When she and the APU rejected one particular requested exemption because it wasn't competitive, "Jeff called me in [and] said, 'You need to work this out. You need to get it over the line.'" One executive told her, "Look, I don't understand what the issue is. This is the company I *want* so just – why can't I *have* it?" Hart clenched her jaw. "I was just furious that that was his attitude," she said. "That someone as senior as him would think, you know, 'This is who I *want*. Why should I go out to tender and waste time and money?'"

Hart told the commission she was asked by then department secretary Grant Hehir to scrutinise Darrell Fraser's personal expense claims, which Hehir felt to be suspect, most of which were "lunches or dinners in restaurants". "The restaurants were expensive," she added, and "a *lot* of alcohol was on the bills." She recalled Fraser had taken the then minister, Lynne Kosky, and her husband and two children to lunch. Hart held her breath, then proceeded. "It's not appropriate for a public servant to take the minister and her *family* to lunch or dinner," she said, quietly.

Hehir then instructed *Hart* to "meet with Mr Fraser and ask him to repay some of the monies relating to various expenses ... I don't know why he asked me," Hart said, tremulously. Fraser was senior to Hart; Hehir was senior to Fraser. "I mean, I – I must admit," Hart quavered, "I was a little bit shocked to be asked to do that."

Fraser "wasn't very happy", Hart stressed, but then he merely took a detour around her and hid his expenditure by charging things to a credit card he gave to a relatively junior public servant named Steve Sullivan. Asked who approved Sullivan's personal expenses, Hart replied, "Mr Fraser."

At about this time, Fraser and Rosewarne stopped submitting receipts for expenses, Hart reported. Instead they submitted statutory declarations declaring their receipts lost. "Not only were [stat decs] used for lunches and dinners in Australia," Hart told the commission, "they were also used when Mr Fraser and Mr Rosewarne travelled overseas." When she confronted Rosewarne on the matter, he "just shrugged his shoulders".

Hart's testimony went on so long she was asked if she needed a break. She shook her head and ploughed on. She said Fraser and Rosewarne pushed her to "work around" processes that weren't transparent, particularly in relation to implementing the Ultranet IT system. (It cost \$180 million before being abandoned, and will be the subject of further IBAC investigations.) Hart gave a relatively small, but telling, example of the behaviour common during Ultranet's implementation. Five DET staff went to the UK during that period, with Rosewarne insisting they fly business class. Hart refused the demand, knowing that only the premier could approve such an upgrade. Rosewarne sent a message to her that "he was the 'dep sec' and he could do what he liked". The staff flew business class.

Hart said Rosewarne frequently raised his voice at her. "I used to just, I suppose, grin and bear it," she told the hearing. "I did start looking for other jobs in other departments." Which was just as well – a messenger advised her that Rosewarne had restructured her position out of existence.

On Day 12, an imposing man with a face furrowed with frown lines strode into the courtroom, took an oath and galvanised the hearing with his evidence. Dr Stephen Brown, whose nervous wife watched from the gallery, was doubly striking, coming as he did after a week-long parade of school principals in the witness box, all of whom, bar one, had been slouch-shouldered, jargon-spouting automatons who had facilitated allegedly corrupt transactions by merely doing what they were told.

In this company, Brown seemed a towering figure of integrity. A highly qualified ex-teacher, he had left the position of Queensland's executive director of schools in 2005, to move to Victoria where he eventually became the state's executive director for literacy and numeracy, and was a possible future contender for DET secretary.

Brown gave evidence on what he termed a "completely unethical practice by a number of people in the leadership team in the department at the time".

Brown conducted a 2010 audit into the banker-school system, and urged that it be abolished – a recommendation strenuously rejected by the DET's most senior management. Brown found there was no "central, system-wide, transparent list of banker schools". The audit was unable to get even a sense of how banker schools were appointed. The 2010 recommendations went as far as the then acting DET secretary Jeff Rosewarne's desk, and no further.

Brown told the commission that a "caucus" – including Darrell Fraser and John Allman – routinely met prior to fortnightly departmental meetings to ram through their agendas. Fraser, sensing a rival, pursued Brown with outbursts of "obvious anger and displeasure". Brown told of his amazement at the "very brazen and arrogant" sense of entitlement, not to mention a "significant embedded culture of drinking, and lunching", among the

executives in head office. Brown brokered a meeting with Professor Peter Dawkins, then head of the department, to raise these matters, and twice emailed Helen Silver, then head of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, about this “boozy, blokey culture”. His emails went unanswered.

Most staff within the department, Brown asserted, wouldn’t speak their mind about what was going on “because of retribution or fear”. It was “pretty well known,” Brown said, “that Mr Fraser was a heavy drinker ... On quite a number of occasions, public occasions for the department, there was *quite* clear evidence that [Fraser] was fairly inebriated.” Brown told the hearing that Allman was Fraser’s “emissary”; Allman would tell Brown how he “did things for ‘the dazzler’, and how [Fraser] was at the moment, what mood he was in, what *state* he was in”. Allman was a “go-between”, Brown said, “a trader of information”.

Brown approached James Kelly, the DET’s head of audit, about banker schools, and the executives involved. Kelly assured Brown they would be scrutinised, but very little was done. Brown and Gail Hart had both been placed, by this stage, in a “temporary office position away from the main area, almost like a gulag”, Brown said. “And so it just so happened we started talking about what [we’d] seen ... she was just distraught, like I was, about what ... we were seeing.”

Brown eventually approached Fraser, to tell him he “needed, for my own family and my own health ... to get out”. Brown had resolved to return to Queensland, but “adopted a mature approach” and arranged to meet with Fraser to “resolve this, so we can move on, even though we perhaps don’t like each other”.

Gripping the courtroom’s witness box so hard his knuckles whitened, Brown continued. “So, the meeting took place across at the hotel opposite St Andrews Place, in a room,” he said, pausing briefly, gulping air. “I walked into the room with much trepidation, and he [Fraser] was sitting there with a bottle of wine and some cheese and whatever. And he *launched* out of the chair at me, and tried to grab me by my *throat*, and so I grabbed his hand, and pushed him away, and said, ‘Don’t ever do that again.’”

“You are not a *small* man,” Ian Hill QC commented, tangentially.

Later in his account, Brown said he thought it all came down to the values of individuals. He impatiently ticked some basics off: an education system needed strong secretary leadership, good governance practices, a high degree of transparency and accountability, checks and balances. “We need to make sure that we have the best leadership to ensure that the children of this state get the best opportunities and resources. I think there needs to be a really *clear* review. Educators hold a special place in society,” he continued, staring ahead sternly. “They hold the hopes and dreams of so many parents, so many people. And if we lose – if the *leaders* lose their moral compass, what chance do those children *have*, if we lose our moral compass?”

The courtroom fell silent, stunned by such passionately held sentiments. As Brown left the box, and O’Byrne adjourned proceedings, those present got to their feet and looked around, dazed and possibly chastened.

In the final week of hearings, the mood in the gallery had hardened to barely disguised disgust; everyone in the courtroom, most particularly the IBAC team, seemed fatigued. But when Jeff Rosewarne entered the witness box for his second IBAC appearance, people’s concentration sharpened once more.

A grim-looking man with close-clipped silver hair and a pale-wool suit, Rosewarne sat at an oblique angle to the gallery; only very occasionally did he deign to lock eyes with his interlocutor, the serenely lethal Ian Hill QC.

Rosewarne had been recalled to reflect on the testimony of Napoli and the Squillaciotti brothers. Despite the clear paper trail exposed by IBAC, and the testimony of Napoli – that Rosewarne had not only known about Napoli’s schemes, but had been involved in false and inflated invoicing for his own gratification – Rosewarne did not crumble, would not freely acknowledge his alleged wrongdoings.

Napoli had made a confession to IBAC. His testimony was heavily sprinkled with the words “yes, sir”. Rosewarne, in stark contrast, remained steadfast; his only moment of humility was to thank the tipstaff for filling his water cup. What IBAC didn’t learn about Rosewarne from the man himself, it learnt from the witness who followed him.

The DET head of audit James Kelly was a younger executive who reported directly to Rosewarne. He told the hearing how he’d come to believe that Rosewarne – sitting at the very top of the pyramid – was corrupt.

Summoned to Rosewarne’s office in early 2011, Kelly believed he was finally, after many months of inaction, getting the secretary’s sign-off on the critical audit findings about the department being “ripe” for corruption and fraud.

Instead, what occurred in that meeting made Kelly feel “the blood drain from my face”.

Rosewarne wanted reassurance that the “Mildura events” – a notorious incident in the history of the department, Kelly told the hearing, “a meal for a lot of executives at Stefano’s which ... involved the sexual harassment of one of the staff members” – were “historical events that should be left alone ... shouldn’t be dragged back up again”.

Then Rosewarne cut to the chase. “Are you investigating *me*?” he demanded of Kelly. At that stage Kelly wasn’t, but the very question “flattened” and “shattered” the younger man.

Directly after the meeting, Kelly “went for a walk through Treasury Gardens”. He needed air. He needed to get his thoughts in order. He told the commission, “Frankly, I was in trouble.”

Did he emerge from the gardens with a plan? Did he go around the “roadblock” at the top, counsel assisting Ted Woodward SC asked, and report what he now knew to the auditor-general?

“In hindsight, should I have gone to the auditor-general?” Kelly said, mouthing the question like a challenged child. “Yes,” he told the commission. He should have. But he didn’t.

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This is a slightly revised version of the article that appears in the August 2015 print edition of the Monthly.
<https://www.themonthly.com.au/issue/2015/august/1438351200/catherine-ford/department-disgrace>