

First Audio Recording of the 19 March Meeting

Start: [00:00]

[00:30]

1 **J Pesutto** G'day Moira. How are you?

2 **G Crozier** Do you want a water?

3 **J Pesutto** I'm fine thanks. Ok we can shut the door, but –

4 **D Southwick** – No one here.

5 **J Pesutto** So Moira, thanks for coming in. I think you know what it's roughly pertaining
6 to, obviously the events of yesterday. So, look, just wanted to go through the implications of
7 all of that and what it means for us as a party, and as a team wanting to win in 2026. I think I'd
8 start just by some general comments about what I'm trying to do as leader. [01:00] I've very
9 much, and you would have heard this over interviews over recent weeks in the last few months,
10 is to try to position the party so that no matter who you are, whether you are hetero, whether
11 you are same sex attracted, whether you are trans, whoever you are, the Liberal Party can be a
12 voice for you because the values of the party apply to anybody, no matter who you are. Because
13 it's about enterprise, it's about the rule of law, strength of communities, it's about individual
14 effort and those sorts of things. [01:30] So I've been working very hard to do that. What
15 happened yesterday in terms of the protests, I want to address that and what that means for our
16 ability to prosecute that broader case and theme. I should say people have views about gender
17 identity right across the board so nothing I'm saying is about whether you should or shouldn't
18 have those views, it's not my place to judge [02:00], people will have those views. My concern
19 is that you are a senior member of the Liberal Party, you hold the number one spot in Western
20 Region, you are an ambassador for our party, you have a leadership role in our party, you are
21 the whip in the upper house. You have enormous responsibilities to obviously yourself but to
22 all of us as a party and everyone who's counting on us to win, but more broadly Victorians
23 whether [02:30] they vote for us or not. One day the idea would be that you would, you know,
24 become some kind of Minister or something like that, that's what you do when you go into
25 Parliament, you would think about serving in a higher role. So, my concerns about yesterday,
26 and I will ask for your, obviously, feedback on this and thoughts on this, is that the arrival of
27 the Nazi – [03:00], I will call them Nazi protestors, but the whoever they are – I am going to
28 call them that because that that frankly is how everybody sees them, right, the media sees them
29 –

30 **M Deeming** – I think that's what they are.

J Pesutto Yeah. So, the Nazi protestors arrive and whether you like it or not, when the media and everybody looking at it, whether we like it or not, whether we dispute it vehemently or not, when the media see that, they see them attached to you, they see them attached to me [03:30], they see them attached to us. And now, we've got a problem, a huge problem now, because people think, rightly or wrongly, that we walk in lockstep with Nazi protestors and Nazis. And I'm getting clobbered, not just on social media, I'm getting messages from people now, and that will build, this is not going away this is actually going to, I think, intensify as a story and I say that because I think if you look at [04:00], the way that – this is my suspicion – if you look at the way the media is reporting it they are referring only to Katherine and they haven't talked about you yet. But having been around the oval a few times, that's coming and that's my feeling. I think Andrews in his tweets today is signalling that this is what their week is going to be about. This comes also off the back of at least two weeks of intense work that we have been doing to line up the cross bench on Redlich. So, you might have read and certainly from the briefings in the last sitting week, everything we've been doing over [04:30] the last two weeks is about positioning and moving all the chess pieces in place, so we can have an Upper House Inquiry that'll get us close – as close to holding the Andrews Government to account than anything else we've done in 8 years. It is that serious. Now, I hope I'm wrong, but [05:00] my worry is that now gets overwhelmed by what I think is going to be a crescendo on this which will be fuelled by Andrews and everybody else opposed to us, to see what I'm going to do about it and what we as a party are going to do about it. But right now, at a general level, there's this very concerning perception out there that we are associated with Nazis. [05:30] Now I know you will have a different view, and you can tell us about that and I really want to hear from you about it, but that's the view, and it's going to be toxic for us. We will not be able to get any kind of messages up, we will not be able to campaign on anything, we will just be confronted with that wherever we turn up. I think at this stage I might just leave it there. They're just my general concerns and I really [06:00] just wanted to hear from you to see what you wanted to say about yesterday because I also need to know from you exactly, and we can work through this in the discussion, exactly what happened. I don't know whether when the Nazis arrived and you saw them, whether you left, whether you stayed, I'd be interested to know what happened there, but it's very serious for us. And the damage it will do to us is hard to estimate. [06:30] And all I'm trying to do with all of us as a team is to try to get us over the line in 2026, I'm actually convinced that we can, but stuff like this will stop us from doing that. So, Moira, I'm just going to leave my opening comments there but I throw over to you, obviously respond as you see appropriate, but I'm keen to know, factually, the presence of the Nazis, and whether there was [sic] any connections there before or after, and what happened when you saw them arrive, because that's going to come out [07:00] when the media start digging on this stuff.

M Deeming Very obviously I'm not a Nazi and I don't support Nazis. They arrived just in black as far as I can tell, they were to the - there somewhere. They were to the left of some big pole. Everyone thought [07:30] they were the other people that had gotten through the lines. The only footage that I have seen of them, you know doing any – I didn't find out that they had done the Nazi salute on those steps until after the event. The first time I saw them doing the Nazi salute was when they were being ushered by the police through the middle of the zone. And I was thinking, [08:00] "oh my gosh, there are Nazis here, that's terrible, but at least the police are taking them away."

75 **J Pesutto** Mm.

76 **M Deeming** And then it took me like five hours to think, but why did they take them away
77 through the middle, why did they do that? That's it. How was I supposed to know that they
78 were Nazis?

79 **J Pesutto** I guess, one of the issues, Moira, is that – I mean you've been around politics
80 a while - you know that when you run protests like this –

81 **M Deeming** – I didn't run the protest. [08:30]

82 **J Pesutto** Weren't you involved in –

83 **M Deeming** – I was there –

84 **J Pesutto** – in Polly Parker? Being there, there's the –

85 **M Deeming** – Posie Parker.

86 **J Pesutto** Sorry. Posie, sorry.

87 **M Deeming** – Posie Parker.

88 **J Pesutto** Posie – walking around the back. The YouTube is all over socials.

89 **M Deeming** Yes.

90 **J Pesutto** Weren't you involved in the organisation?

91 **M Deeming** Right at the end. I can show you text messages. I was not the main organiser.
92 The main organiser was Angie Jones who is a Jewish woman. They're all left-wing women.
93 [09:00]

94 **J Pesutto** And yet –

95 **M Deeming** – Nobody knew who they were. The police weren't panicking. They said that
96 they would keep everybody away, have a buffer zone, and when they, like when I finally noticed
97 them – I honestly don't know the time they got there. We were dealing with crazy people right
98 around us, right a meter away from us. I mean, the police have said that they didn't have enough
99 people, that there were all these different groups. The Australian Jewish Association [09:30]
100 has come out and said that we had nothing to do with it, if I was an organiser, but, you know,
101 the Standing for Women people who, yes, I helped, but I wasn't – I didn't do the initial
102 organisation and I don't know why I would be blamed for some random, horrible people turning

103 up that had no insignia, I had no ability, none of us had any ability to know who they were until
104 they put their hand up, which was when they were being escorted off the premises as far as we
105 could see.

[10:00]

106 **J Pesutto** Doesn't it occur to you though, Moira, that you're an MP, you're got a high
107 profile now, doesn't it occur to you that when you participate in protests like this you are going
108 to draw people from all over the place? Particularly people like the Sewells or the –

109 **M Deeming** – No, why would a Nazi group come there? They weren't there supporting us,
110 they've said on their own page – oh that's the other thing you should know, I guess. So, I said
111 that there was a horrible Nazi salute, because I know you don't just call people Nazis because
112 that's insulting to Jewish people, because I didn't know who they were. [10:30] And then later
113 on the newspapers came out, apparently some of them didn't have a mask on and they identified
114 them, and they are Nazis. Terrible. But those people, whoever they are, those Nazis, have come
115 out and said that they were there protesting both groups. They've said it themselves. They
116 weren't –

117 **J Pesutto** – So they weren't there, they've said they weren't there to support you?

118 **M Deeming** They've said, or whoever that guy is, I don't know his name –

119 **J Pesutto** – or the – Posie Parker –

120 **M Deeming** – I don't know who he is, but whoever they identified as being, I don't know,
121 with them or one of their leaders, [11:00] he runs XYZ or something, and he's got this whole
122 post about how no he didn't come there to support them. He came to protest both of them,
123 because Standing for Women is – I mean, he's insane. He's like a pro lesbian, atheist. I don't
124 know. They're Nazis. They're insane. They were not with that group, they literally stood – the
125 [11:30] police let them stand on the other side of that pole and take a photo and then walk right
126 through the crowd. I only saw them when they walked through the crowd. Everyone panicked.
127 I don't know what time it was, because we had other protestors. I was assaulted. A woman was
128 knocked unconscious and had to go to hospital. Those crazy trans rights activists were punching
129 horses. The police asked us to finish up early, and they liaised with me because I had – I knew
130 the police officer in charge, Lisa, [12:00] from March for the Babies, so she just reached out to
131 me because she knew me, and she knew that I was reasonable, and I lobbied for the police to
132 get them to finish early because they were hurting the horses and it was going insane. And I
133 said, "I'll do my best," you know, "I'm not in charge of it, but I'll ask her." And she did finish
134 early. And you can see me on the camera talking to the security guard and saying, "No, you got
135 – they've asked us to finish up early. We need to finish up early. We've got to leave everything's
136 going". You know, she said it was just, I can't remember the words she used, something that
137 implied it was going to kick off, [12:30] or something like that, and that's what I did.

138 **J Pesutto** And do you see it as your sort of focus as one of our –

139 **M Deeming** – No, no –

140 **J Pesutto** – Upper House members?

141 **M Deeming** – and I do understand that everything has come in a row. My maiden speech,
142 International Women's Day, and this, it is so unfortunate that they came in a row, but I made
143 sure I didn't say that I spoke on behalf of the Liberal Party. A Muslim woman asked me to give
144 her message. I don't know what [13:00] those Nazi group are about, but I, you know –
145 everybody knows, the police know, the Australian Jewish Association know, all the Standing
146 for Women group know, everyone has condemned them. Everyone has said they weren't
147 invited. And can I just say the mainstream media haven't mentioned my name because I went
148 absolutely berserk at them after my maiden speech, and I caught them all out in a series of
149 emails admitting to me that they had made truth claims that were allegations, and even though
150 they [13:30] refused to, sort of like take them down, they haven't said a single thing about me
151 since then, and they know that I'm seeing defamation lawyers, and that's why they haven't
152 spoken about me, because I have, because I can prove that what they've said is just awful and
153 wrong. That's what I think. Anyway, John, I get it that this could look bad, but I think it could
154 only look bad if you don't come out and shut it down and say that is ridiculous. [14:00] There
155 were Jews, Muslims, Christians, Atheists, Labor people, Liberal people, there were other MPs
156 from our party there, plus David Limbrick.

157 **J Pesutto** Who else was from our party?

158 **M Deeming** Just wait a second. Sorry, I know that sounded aggressive but there was other
159 things I wanted to tell you too. This Standing for Women, like group, Jacinta Price spoke at
160 one, Claire Chandler is speaking at another one.

161 **J Pesutto** I should say, I'm not –

162 **M Deeming** – Labor and Liberal –

163 **J Pesutto** [14:30] Yeah, I'm not – you mean speaking to the group? As I said earlier, I'm
164 not concerned about the substantive issue you feel strongly about, this is not about that. This is
165 about Nazi links and perceived –

166 **M Deeming** – Are you accusing me of actual Nazi links?

167 **J Pesutto** No, to the protest. To the protest –

168 **M Deeming** – How –

169 **J Pesutto** – and the people you were working with.

170 **M Deeming** – that was the police's job. Why did they even let them anywhere near us?

171 **J Pesutto** So, okay, so – perhaps I can phrase it this way. Can you assure us that nobody
 172 [15:00] you’ve worked with has any sympathies or, you know, liaisons with Nazis groups?

173 **M Deeming** Absolutely none that I could possibly know about.

174 **J Pesutto** So, no one you’ve worked with –

175 **M Deeming** – You’re not going to find a single shred of evidence that I had –

176 **J Pesutto** – That there’s–

177 **M Deeming** – Yes, like obviously I’m not a mind reader, maybe there’s some secret Nazi
 178 somewhere, but absolutely no indication at all anywhere. My uncle is a Holocaust – was a
 179 Holocaust survivor. My husband's got Jewish people in his family – I'm part Māori [15.30],
 180 like, it's so insane to even worry about that. They just randomly, I don’t know randomly – they
 181 were being goaded by the trans rights activists. They ended up clashing. I cannot believe the
 182 police walked them through the middle of that whole two groups. I don't know what they were
 183 thinking. That seems ridiculous to me. And then they did a Nazi salute and turned out it was
 184 the second one. They did one on the steps, and then they marched them through. I found that
 185 out afterwards. [16:00] The police watched them do the first one and then walked them through
 186 the middle to do another one. I'm sure they didn't know they were going to do another one, but
 187 why would you walk them through the middle, right in front of that group? And in the footage,
 188 you can see none of our women are even watching it. We’ve got our back to them.

189 **J Pesutto** But you do realise that the public’s never going to be concerned about the police
 190 in this. The way, you know this by now, the way these issues fall in the media is that [16.30]
 191 it’s very easy for media to represent what you’re doing as anti-LGBTI, because that’s what they
 192 want. So, when you go out there, if the protest –

193 **M Deeming** – And as a team, we should – we should refute that.

194 **J Pesutto** Yeah, I’m not going to expose the team to this, because this is a threshold issue
 195 –

196 **M Deeming** We’re already exposed.

197 **J Pesutto** Well, yeah. No, because you’ve gone there now, Moira, to be honest.

198 **M Deeming** And fair enough but – but I have rights, and I want you to be assured that it’s
 199 not true. [17:00] What is it going to take for me to prove to you that that is not true? Where is
 200 a quote of mine, something that I’ve actually done? They just call me names.

201 **J Pesutto** But don't you und— don't you appreciate that when you participate in an event
202 like that, it involves all of us, and not just the leadership team, it's the whole team; the whole
203 party. I'm getting messages from people who are concerned.

204 **M Deeming** It's all — okay, and it's just about the Nazi thing?

205 **J Pesutto** Yeah that — I'm not — I should —

206 **M Deeming** Alright because —

207 **J Pesutto** — at the risk of repetition — I'm not —

[17.30]

208 **M Deeming** — Because I had no ability to know that actual Nazis are going to turn up. No
209 ability to know that.

210 **J Pesutto** But how do you know that people working around you, people you might be
211 associating with, who you're working with, don't have Nazi sympathies or —

212 **M Deeming** I mean they're from the left. And they're Jews, and they're lesbians and their
213 atheists and their radical feminists. That's — and they've never said anything, anything that
214 could possibly give me that impression. [18:00]

215 **J Pesutto** I mean, this does affect the whole team, and I'm not going to sugarcoat there is
216 a mounting concern about whether your passion for this issue, which I do not doubt and I do
217 not ask you to relinquish. I'm not saying you should not be passionate about this issue. I need
218 to make that clear, but there is mounting concern, which I principally share as the leader, that
219 this is not going to stop, and this is the second —

220 **M Deeming** So, can I ask a clarification question? [18:30]

221 **J Pesutto** Yep.

222 **M Deeming** So, if it's not about that issue and it's about the Nazi issue, haven't I just — like
223 there's no evidence against me. They just turned up, there is footage to show that we didn't
224 even like look at them. There's no photos. There's no photos of us talking to them. There's no
225 video footage of us together. People who try and say that we're together have two different
226 screenshots that they put next to each other [19:00] that aren't connected because they were
227 two separate groups.

228 **J Pesutto** But you —

229 **M Deeming** — and they had no insignia.

230 **J Pesutto** Yeah. Well, we're aware that others are searching through social media, media
231 –

232 **M Deeming** – and they can –

233 **J Pesutto** – we know Labor is, we've done a bit. We've found a little but not everything.
234 I might ask, Rod, do you want to go through some stuff you have found?

235 **R Pintos-Lopez** Yeah, so this is a cursory –

236 **J Pesutto** – this is all on the public record –

[19.30]

237 **R Pintos-Lopez** – review of online in particular about Kellie-Jay Keen, who's also known as
238 Posie Parker. So, I think this probably took me 15 to 20 minutes to find. In October 2019, Keen
239 appeared in a video interview with Jean-François Gariépy, a far-right YouTuber who advocates
240 for a white ethno-state and has made videos with neo-Nazis Richard Spencer and Mark Collett,
241 as well as former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke. [20:00] She's also given an interview to
242 Soldiers of Christ Online, a far-right network. Then in terms of white supremacy allegations,
243 one incident came after she took a selfie with Hans Jorgen Johansen, a Norwegian neo-Nazi
244 who was probed by police after his comments against Jews and denial of the Holocaust. Parker
245 was also accused of using a Barbie doll wearing a Nazi uniform as her profile picture on the
246 social media site Spinster. [20:30] Standing for Women's protest in Newcastle on January 16,
247 she sparked a controversy after one of the speakers, Lisa Morgan, quoted Adolf Hitler to attack
248 trans rights. This is the quote: "Do you know the big lie? The big lie was first described by
249 Adolf Hitler in Mein Kampf. The Big Lie is that trans women are women", Morgan told the
250 people at the Parker organised demonstration.

251 **M Deeming** Wouldn't that be a condemnation of Nazism by [21:00] using that quote?

252 **R Pintos-Lopez** A condemnation? No. I think she's supporting – what she is saying is that it
253 is a big lie just as Hitler described it?

254 **D Southwick** The Holocaust.

255 **M Deeming** Isn't she condemning Hitler? I don't know who this person is.

256 **R Pintos-Lopez** No, it's the opposite. So, then I found a video of you and Katherine Deves,
257 Angie Jones and Posie Parker. Yesterday at 4:40 [21:30] Angie Jones posted "Nazis and women
258 want to get rid of paedo filth, why don't you?"

259 **M Deeming** I don't understand what she's saying. I suspect she's saying even horrendous
 260 Nazis want to get rid of paedophilia, why aren't you condemning that to the other side? That's
 261 what I assume.

262 **D Southwick** That's – what she's saying is really offensive. [22:00] And you mentioned about
 263 the Jewish community and that alone it's very, very offensive to be anywhere connected to
 264 someone like that that would use that terminology. If Nazis agree with this, then why don't we
 265 all agree with this? That's outrageous.

266 **M Deeming** I don't think that's what she's saying.

267 **D Southwick** I think that –

268 **J Pesutto** I think that's what you just reasoned.

269 **D Southwick** You just said, “even if Nazis do it then why don't you?”

270 **M Deeming** I think she's saying, how horrendous would you have to be to be even worse
 271 than the worst people in the world who are Nazis. [22.30] They were talking about who's going
 272 to condemn who. I don't know, but she's not – clearly she's not someone who – I mean I don't
 273 even know what you're actually saying –

274 **J Pesutto** Rod found that in 15 minutes.

275 **M Deeming** I don't think that's what you're saying it is.

276 **J Pesutto** Even women and Nazis want to get rid of paedo filth. So, the paedo filth line –

277 **D Southwick** – was used –

278 **J Pesutto** – is so odious across the LGBTI – [23:00]

279 **M Deeming** – So – I don't understand what's going on –

280 **J Pesutto** – and please, let's – we've got to hear each other out.

281 **M Deeming** No, I'm trying to understand.

282 **J Pesutto** But in that comment, that tweet of yesterday afternoon, am I right? Was it –

283 **R Pintos-Lopez** Four o'clock.

284 **M Deeming** I have a serious question – who’s she – who are you saying she’s talking about?
 285 I mean –

286 **J Pesutto** So, can you read the tweet out again. Sorry.

287 **R Pintos-Lopez** So the tweet says –

288 **J Pesutto** – This is Angie Jones.

289 **R Pintos-Lopez** “Nazis and women want to get rid of paedo filth, why don’t you.” She tweeted
 290 that at 4.41pm yesterday.

291 **M Deeming** Who’s she tweeting it to?

292 **J Pesutto** She’s tweeting it to everyone,

293 **R Pintos-Lopez** It’s a tweet.

294 **G Crozier** It’s a tweet. It’s to everyone.

295 **J Pesutto** It’s gone out to the world. That’s Angie Jones who you were having drinks with
 296 yesterday –

297 **M Deeming** Yeah, I genuinely – [23:30] it sounds like she’s condemning paedophilia.

298 **J Pesutto** But she’s saying –

299 **M Deeming** I’m not being a smart alick, I’m seriously confused.

300 **J Pesutto** But this is why, I think, the LGBTI community is up in arms because what that
 301 is interpreted to mean –

302 **M Deeming** Oh, you think she's talking to the LGBT community –

303 **J Pesutto** No, no, no, I'm saying, that's to the world at large. So, the entire LGBTI
 304 community will see that, and they – they will interpret that to mean, that if you're same sex
 305 attracted, if you are bi, if you are, whatever else you might be, you are paedo filth. [24:00] And
 306 that –

307 **M Deeming** – I think she’s talking about –

308 **J Pesutto** – is untenable.

309 **M Bach** Clearly, Moira, it does mean –

310 **J Pesutto** – That’s what she’s saying. So, they all think that now me, the leadership team,
 311 you, the party, hates the LGBTI community – that's how it's going to be interpreted, whether
 312 any of us like it or not.

313 **M Bach** That’s what it says.

314 **J Pesutto** That's what it’s saying.

315 **M Deeming** Yeah, I see what you're saying. I know her, I don't think that's what she was
 316 saying at all. [24:30] Like, I’m just saying because I know her, I wouldn’t have interpreted it
 317 like that. She's very pro LGB and T so long as the laws aren’t – anyway.

318 **J Pesutto** I guess we’ve got to –

319 **M Deeming** – No, no, no, I see that from your point of view, because you don’t know her, I
 320 just genuinely didn’t understand who you thought she was talking about. I think she’s, like in
 321 her head like talking to fascist, or trans – you know, trans rights advocates over there. [25:00]

322 **G Crozier** But there is – you’re in the video with these people who are saying this to the
 323 broader community. This is very serious, and that's what John is trying to say here. Your
 324 interpretation is one thing because you know her, but that's not a whole range of people’s
 325 interpretation. It's very obvious what she was saying, you can't get away from it, you just can’t.

326 **J Pesutto** Moira, that's going to come out [25:30] not because of us –

327 **G Crozier** Nup.

328 **J Pesutto** – [inaudible] can bet Labor already have it lined up. They've already got a cache
 329 of stuff. Labor's got it, I’m pretty sure the Greens would have it, the Teals will have it,

330 **M Deeming** – I’m not –

331 **J Pesutto** – and they will go bananas.

332 **M Deeming** I’m not disputing that, I just wouldn’t have interpreted that the way that you
 333 have, but I see that you would. Anyway – [inaudible] –

334 **D Southwick** – What about Posie Parker's connections with all these people she’s had selfies
 335 with and photos with all of these Nazis, white supremacists. [26:00]

336 **M Deeming** I just – she’s never said anything like that, that I’ve heard.

337 **D Southwick** I mean, I found it within 10 minutes, mid-morning as I was about to go out, I'm
338 like, I better understand what's going on here.

339 **M Deeming** I'm not calling you a liar.

340 **D Southwick** And, he independently found it.

341 **M Deeming** Yeah, I'm not – I'm not –

342 **D Southwick** Yeah, I know. I understand. I'm just saying –

343 **M Deeming** – I'm just saying –

344 **D Southwick** – She's a public figure.

345 **M Deeming** Are you're calling me a Nazi? I mean, I just can't help but be like, I don't know,
346 I would have to go through each of those things [26:30] and work out what did she say, what
347 did she really mean. I don't know, I would have to go through those, because – as far as I can
348 see, it's a Standing for Women event that advocates for a certain set of – well it's just a listening
349 post really. And they don't have – they don't have –

350 **G Crozier** – It's not just a listening post, Moira.

351 **M Deeming** In terms – no, no – in terms of –

352 **G Crozier** – it's not just a listening post.

353 **M Deeming** Fair enough – in terms of the structure of it where they just hand the microphone
354 out to people who line up.

[27:00]

355 **G Crozier** You tweeted about that previously, this – this rally, so you were part of the –

356 **M Deeming** I was going to attend.

357 **G Crozier** Yeah, attend, and you called on Natalie Hutchins to attend.

358 **M Deeming** To go and listen, to see what women want to say about the laws.

359 **D Southwick** But, the issue on top of all of that is it's even more than just turning up, you've
360 actually had someone –

361 **G Crozier** – You’ve engaged with these people –

362 **D Southwick** – who has now a known history of being connected to white supremacists,
 363 supremacists [27:30] and you’ve escorted her through the back of Parliament, into –

364 **M Deeming** I just don’t know what that even means, like –

365 **D Southwick** – Well I mean –

366 **M Deeming** [inaudible] call me Nazi adjacent, what does connected to – I genuinely would
 367 have to go back through there because she doesn’t seem like that to me, she’s never said – I
 368 mean I don’t know her very well, but there’s nothing like that on the Standing for Women –

369 **D Southwick** – But we’re all members of Parliament, right, and we’ve all copped it. I’ve
 370 copped it by having a photograph that I don’t even know who who’s had a selfie [28:00] with
 371 me and they’ve put it up and that person down the track, and we, like, you know, this Member
 372 of Parliament, and that’s just a selfie that’s very, very different from me actively taking
 373 somebody through the back of Parliament to a protest. It’s a lot more than just turning up on
 374 the on the steps and having a say. It’s effectively walking the organiser through the back of
 375 Parliament. And then who has a history of association with these white supremacist neo-Nazis,
 376 and then we have neo-Nazis also turn up. [28:30] Thomas Sewell, who is a well-known neo-
 377 Nazi, has put out a statement that effectively said, you know, “yes, we stood with them, because
 378 we need to get rid of these paedophiles” and –

379 **M Deeming** – He didn’t say “We stood with them”.

380 **D Southwick** Well, well –

381 **J Pesutto** – We’ve got the tweet here.

382 **D Southwick** He said “today in Melbourne, the National Socialist network acted as a
 383 Vanguard for a protest against a constant paedophilia agenda being forced upon our children
 384 and our people. [29:00] Paedophiles deserve destruction, and the only solution to this sickness
 385 is a white revolution. Destroy the paedo freaks.” That’s what he put out in terms of why he
 386 activated his group.

387 **J Pesutto** So, Moira you can say they were there to both – the only thing people are going
 388 to care about is he said he was there to support the protest of which you were part of.

389 **D Southwick** And that’s why I rang you yesterday, because you know, once that happens. And
 390 okay, you can say whenever this stuff [29:30] happens, and you may not have known and
 391 everything else, but once you do know, I understand that you didn’t attract these people and
 392 didn’t set out to attract those people, but you’re now connected right in the middle of these
 393 people and for you to then go and have a little champagne with those people.

394 **M Deeming** Where I said – see –

395 **D Southwick** See, but there's a video of you having champagne with Jones and what have
396 you, and what she said. Can't you see how –

397 **M Deeming** – I thought you were talking about the Nazis, not these women.

398 **D Southwick** No, [30:00] what I'm saying is –

399 **G Crozier** They're both –

400 **D Southwick** of both, you know, the fact that –

401 **G Crozier** – Because they're connected.

402 **D Southwick** – this happened, they're all connected. I would be putting, as I said, it's so
403 important to get a statement out and disassociate yourself with that immediately, because you're
404 a Member of Parliament, part of a party –

405 **M Deeming** – And I had one written and I was told not to put it out without asking the party
406 first.

407 **D Southwick** Well, who did you? Who –

408 **G Crozier** Who did you say that to?

409 **D Southwick** Who did you say that to?

410 **M Deeming** Pardon?

411 **D Southwick** Who did – who told you not to do that, not to put it out or talk –

412 **M Deeming** – Anthony Mitchell said don't do that without talking to them.

413 **D Southwick** Well who's Anthony –

[30.30]

414 **G Crozier** [inaudible] not a Member of Parliament.

415 **D Southwick** – what's Anthony Mitchell got to do with it?

416 **G Crozier** I have spoken to you – how many times and said we are here to help you if
417 you’ve got any issues –

418 **M Deeming** I thought that was helping saying that –

419 **G Crozier** No, no, hang on, Moira. We’ve had this conversation before, right. We’ve had
420 this conversation before and we had a long discussion following the last time about how we
421 are here to help you. You don’t go to party members. We are – you’re a member of the
422 Parliamentary team. You come to this office, or you come to the leadership about anything like
423 that.

[31:00]

424 **M Deeming** Yeah, but I spoke to you and I thought – that’s what I was doing condemning it.

425 **D Southwick** Where?

426 **M Deeming** In that clip I was saying you know, “we didn’t know who they were, they came
427 along to –” look, I, at that stage I don’t think I’d seen that they had identified someone.

428 **D Southwick** Sorry.

429 **M Deeming** I went straight out, you know. Anyway, look, I’m happy to condemn everything
430 – I’m not arguing – like, I’m not defending them. [31:30] Happy to condemn them. Happy to
431 do that; eager to do that, that’s fine.

432 **J Pesutto** We’ll have to think that through, I don’t know –

433 **M Deeming** – Have you got an action you are going to take against me, like is this going
434 somewhere?

435 **J Pesutto** Possibly. In the interests of process, I want to think about what you’ve said and
436 work it through. I guess there’s no easy way to say this –

[32:00]

437 **D Southwick** Do you want to be part of a team? This team? I mean, for me, I mean we've got
438 to be part of a team, and the actions of every individual reflects on our team and as a Jew, and
439 you can, you can, you know, talk about any other Jew there, but as a Jew in terms of what
440 happened on those steps and the people that you associate with in that video afterwards, is
441 highly offensive, and I would not want one of my team, I – you know, like I've never said –
442 your views are your views, I've never tackled anything about them, and I respect that [32:30]
443 you're able to have your views 100%, they're not my views, but they –

444 **M Deeming** What views do you think I have, honestly?

445 **D Southwick** Well, you know, I think they're well documented in terms of your views, I mean
 446 —

447 **M Deeming** Which views did you condemn today?

448 **D Southwick** It's not the views. Sorry, I said your views are your views.

449 **J Pesutto** [inaudible] are not the issue.

450 **D Southwick** They're not my views in terms of the issue.

451 **M Deeming** Which views do we disagree on? In short, I want to be a team, I don't —

452 **G Crozier** But you're not because how can — again, I go back to the point that after last
 453 time.

[33:00]

454 **M Deeming** Look, you've just described it as a disaster, right, I honestly did not view those
 455 women as part of that, rightly or wrongly, and I accept that, I'm not arguing that. I don't want
 456 to spend 100 years arguing that. But honestly what views do you think that I have legitimately
 457 that are so terrible? Like do you actually think that, that I am some kind of a secret Nazi? Is
 458 that actually what you think about me?

459 **J Pesutto** No, no, it's not the Nazi — [33:30]

460 **M Deeming** But it's my views that keep getting condemned, my unspecific, unspecific
 461 views-

462 **J Pesutto** No, no, so sorry, sorry, Moira. I do have to stop you there, I apologise. I do have
 463 to stop you. David was saying precisely the opposite. David was not condemning you for your
 464 views. In fact, he was doing the opposite, and respecting the fact that whatever views you have
 465 are yours. David, continue.

466 **D Southwick** Well, that's 100% and the issue that I have are more about, again, the group that
 467 you associate with, [34:00] and that group, which is — Rod's now made very clear mention that
 468 have associations and have been associated with known Nazis. I mean, one photograph is is
 469 bad enough. This is more than that. It's a series of actions from people in which, after everything
 470 happened, you chose to have champagne on a couch with those individuals. Now, knowing
 471 what you know about these individuals. [34:30] Okay, maybe you didn't know before then, I
 472 would have thought that if I'm going to actually walk somebody through the back of Parliament
 473 and take them up and march them on the steps, I would want to know exactly who I'm dealing

474 with. I would never, ever, as a member of Parliament, take somebody through the back of
475 Parliament and stand side by side with them and advocate for a cause or their cause, and support
476 that without knowing who they associate with, and that's the issue. It's one thing in terms of
477 being an advocate or champion for causes, [35:00] we all champion causes. We all do that
478 every day. That's what we do. It's very, very different as a member of parliament to be
479 effectively associating yourself with individuals and attending rallies, because there are
480 implications with that. You know, we know how many times they've been there's been things
481 on the steps of parliament. I'd love to go out there, and, you know, have my say, but I know as
482 a member of parliament that it can very, very quickly turn in such a way where it reflects badly.
483 And you knew [35:30] very clearly, we had three members of parliament during the lockdown
484 protests where the three of them actually just walked through the crowd and had a conversation
485 with them on their way through. And for the next, for the next, however, many months, not
486 only Andrews condemned them. The Age condemned them. Everyone condemned them,
487 because some of the protesters, not all of them, but the protesters that were just there on the
488 steps, they were associated with others that had gallows and whatever. So, so everyone, [36:00]
489 as far as the Age, as far as sorry

490 **M Deeming** Someone made a tweet about something to do with gallows and I had no idea
491 what -

492 **D Southwick** Yeah, yeah, that's what happened. So, the sheer fact that you had Ryan Smith,
493 Nick Wakeling, and I can't remember the third -

494 **J Pesutto** - Ondarchie.

495 **D Southwick** - Ondarchie, three of them, they didn't attend. They just walked through the
496 crowd on the way into Parliament, had a chat with a few of them on the way through, and
497 Andrews framed them for the rest of the year about we associate with Nazis, and you've got
498 three of them in your group that associate with them. That's a fair way. [36:30]

499 **M Deeming** I would find that extraordinarily offensive.

500 **D Southwick** I'm just telling you, in terms of the way this game works.

501 **G Crozier** That's the reality, that's what happened -

502 **M Deeming** That's fine, I'm just saying they've all condemned Nazism and everything.

503 **J Pesutto** I don't think they have, Angie Jones hasn't.

504 **G Crozier** No. She supported it.

505 **J Pesutto** I don't think you can say that.

506 **M Deeming** I don't think she supported Nazism.

507 **G Crozier** Well –

508 **D Southwick** – They also – they all say on the couch, Moira. They're also on the couch, she
 509 was saying about – she's using these inverted commas 'so called Nazis', and then this whole
 510 conspiracy theory that they were, they were part of the trans group that were dressed up. [37:00]
 511 I mean, that's, that's way out kind of stuff.

512 **M Deeming** And I said –

513 **D Southwick** And you were on the couch when that happened?

514 **M Deeming** I calmed that down, I said no I think all the police were, you know, most of them
 515 were really good, I think they made a mistake in letting, you know I don't know why they let
 516 them through the middle.

517 **G Crozier** That's not [inaudible].

518 **D Southwick** But that's the conversation that you're having on – but on Twitter that's the vision
 519 of what Parker had to say and Jones had to say that. That's the commentary that you're sitting
 520 alongside. [37:30] So it's not like you're invited into Channel Seven and they're putting people
 521 up against you. These are people that you've associated with, that you've walked through the
 522 back of Parliament, you're now having a champagne with, and they're suggesting big
 523 conspiracy theories of “they're not so-called Nazis. They're trans people that are dressed up.” I
 524 mean, seriously? That is completely – they're the people you're associating with. Let's be and
 525 I'll call it straight out –

526 **J Pesutto** – We're associating with, not just you.

527 **D Southwick** – and by implication, we're all associating with those people. You either stand
 528 with them or you don't. You're either with that, you're part of that group, or you're not. You
 529 know, [38:00] are you with that kind of behaviour, or are you part of a party that says, “hey,
 530 you know, everyone respects their views, but that's not where we're going to be.” And you're a
 531 member of Parliament and you're part of a team, and you represent all of us, we all do. And I
 532 step out of line, I expect you to tell me.

533 **J Pesutto** Okay, so Moria I think there's a threshold question about whether you feel you
 534 can be part of the team, and whether we're convinced you can be part of the team. I have no
 535 doubt you feel [38:30] so strongly about these issues that you would want to continue to do
 536 what you've been doing. And that's my concern. I'm very concerned that I think the damage
 537 that has already been sustained publicly for us is not the end of the matter, it's the start of the
 538 matter. And I'm very concerned about where Andrews is going to take it this week. They have
 539 been itching for something to clobber me with and this is it, it's coming. [39:00] And I know

540 you're annoyed sitting here, I can feel it. But I can tell you how much I was looking forward to
541 meeting with the leadership – hang on let me finish. How much I was waiting and looking
542 forward to planning what we've got planned this week on Redlich. We got some big stuff
543 planned, but I have to tell you, I'm looking at it now and thinking, “can we even make that
544 happen now?” Government's now got the wind in it sails. You see Andrews [39:30] came out
545 strong today on that tweet, right, which was signalling what's to come. They're out, they're off
546 the ropes again. We've got them on the ropes. They're off the ropes again. And so that protest
547 yesterday, whatever you might say about it, has given them the out. And we might, if we're
548 lucky, be able to eke out a strategy for this week, but it's not going to be what we had planned.
549 It's really bad. And again, putting aside whatever issues we all might have on things, Nazism
550 is like the [40:00] most toxic acid that can run through any political party and it's running
551 through us, whether we like it or not, people think we turn the other cheek to Nazis. That's what
552 they think, Moira. It's bad. So, I think the threshold –

553 **M Deeming** – And it needs to be fixed.

554 **J Pesutto** Well the question is I suppose –

555 **D Southwick** – How do you propose to fix it?

556 **M Deeming** You said that I was annoyed sitting here –

557 **J Pesutto** – It felt like that because you were – [40:30]

558 **M Deeming** No, no, no, no, that's true, but you have, you know, convinced me that that does
559 look way worse than I thought. To be fair I genuinely don't think that, you've made me worry
560 about Kellie-Jay Keen, but I do not think Katherine Deves and I do not think that Ange Jones
561 is actually – I don't really think any of them are –

562 **J Pesutto** The one who used Nazis in air quotes?

563 **M Deeming** I think that like –

564 **J Pesutto** – Of people who confess to be Nazis. [41:00]

565 **M Deeming** Honestly for the time – Yeah, but the timeline, and I don't know what she was
566 doing.

567 **J Presutto** Well the video, we can play it.

568 **M Deeming** No, no, no I'm trying to think about when I saw the article that identified them.
569 I'm trying to think about that but I just, Ange wasn't with me the whole time after that, so I
570 don't know, maybe she –

571 **D Southwick** But, that was on, that's the campaign chat.

572 **M Deeming** Yeah, yeah, yeah, no, no. I'm not –

573 **D Southwick** No, I know. I'm not – I'm just helping you in terms of the –

574 **M Deeming** I'm processing it –

575 **D Southwick** – Yeah. Yeah.

576 **M Deeming** And I'm like, I found out after that and I was going to say, we hadn't found out
577 but she wasn't with me then. I don't know what to say about that, [41:30] I don't sort of
578 remember that she did that in air quotes, I haven't watched it again. I was thinking of that, what
579 I said, which was distancing us all from them. Anyway, like I said, I'm not trying to argue with
580 you.

581 **D Southwick** Yeah. No –

582 **M Deeming** – I'm not trying to defend it, I'm not trying to argue with you. I was all offended
583 that you could think that I was a Nazi until you made that case.

584 **D Southwick** No, we're not –

585 **J Pesutto** It's never been about accusing you of being a Nazi.

586 **M Deeming** No, no, no, but like even that I could be, you know – because, I was saying,
587 “adjacent” of it, what are you talking about. Right, so that's fine. [42:00] If you want to fix it,
588 I'm open to suggestions, if you want like, you know, whatever you want to do that's fine. I just,
589 I'm not – I don't want to argue as if I'm defending like Nazism. I just, I don't know what to do
590 now.

591 **J Pesutto** I think, so in the interest of candour, I came into this meeting thinking there
592 were two outcomes, either you resign from the Parliamentary Party [42:30] or I look at a
593 process under the Parliamentary Party rules. I can't rule those out. I'm thinking, on the basis
594 of our discussion, whether there is a third way which doesn't involve the same kind of outcome
595 as those two options. I don't know that that's possible, to be honest, but in the interest of
596 working through the process fairly I'm prepared to sort of confer with the leadership team, to
597 take on board what you've said, and see if there's a way. [43:00] But I just don't get the sense
598 you appreciate how toxic this is for us with again, the issues – it is so toxic. I had to give speech
599 to –

600 **M Deeming** Before I came in here, I didn't think that there was even a – anywhere near
601 reasonable case to make that argument.

602 **J Pesutto** About?

603 **M Deeming** That it does look like that.

604 **G Crozier** How could you think it doesn't?

605 **M Deeming** No, no, I'm saying you've convinced me that it does.

606 **G Crozier** It – with understanding [43:30] the severity of what happened yesterday in our
607 country, in our state, horrified any reasonable person. Any reasonable person. It is all over
608 social media. You're on social media, you actively went and filmed this and let it go on social
609 media. That's why I said to you this morning this is a very big issue. It's a very big issue, and
610 that's what we're concerned about. Because – [44:00]

611 **J Pesutto** – And it's not who we are, more importantly, it's not who we are.

612 **G Crozier** I am beyond furious because of the work we have done, the time we have put
613 in, to get the worst Government in this state's history on the ropes and it's all blown up now.
614 We have worked with the cross bench; they won't sit with us now. You saw what happened last
615 time, when we defended you in the House after your maiden speech, you saw what they did to
616 you. [44:30] They're going to do it tenfold this week.

617 **J Pesutto** It's coming.

618 **G Crozier** Our Redlich strategy I think is gone and I am, I'll be really blunt, I am beyond
619 furious about it, Moira. Because I went to you and I said we are here to help you. And you've
620 just, you've just defied all of that, and you've walked away, you haven't asked for advice about
621 even going out and doing that, saying [45:00] "what do you think, is this wise" or "what do
622 you know?" We can have a conversation. We want you to succeed, I said that. I said please
623 come to us, we all make mistakes. But this looked deliberate about what you went out knowing
624 that it was going to cause some tension, and it did.

625 **D Southwick** The issue, and look I'm all for, you know, like, if we can fix this, let's fix it.
626 Right, so I'm always, I've never, you know, accused you [45:30] or think that you've got a
627 hidden agenda or whatever, but the issue has been and you mentioned before about people have
628 painted you in a particular way, and you're really upset at the way that they've painted you in
629 that particular way. But you can only be judged by your actions. And you mentioned yourself
630 that the introductory speech, International Women's Day and this are three actions that it's
631 unfortunate that they're all happened in that way. But they've happened that way, and you've
632 been integral [46:00] to those things happening that way. And I get it right, but if that's who
633 you want – and no one's saying that you can't do that, if that's what you want to do. Then there
634 are ways to do that, but for you to effectively run your agenda, run an agenda on issues that
635 effectively are going to put us at odds with different communities, whether they be LGBTI,
636 trans communities, [46:30] and put us at odds with that, we can't do that. So, it seems to me
637 that –

638 **G Crozier** – We're not going to succeed.

639 **D Southwick** Yeah, like, if that's not who you want – that's not what you want to do, and you
640 genuinely want to work as a party, to actually to win government and to focus on the key issues
641 that people are worried about every day, then let's do it 100% but I just I don't understand kind
642 of what's the next step? [47:00] Like, we go out there and we put a statement, what happens
643 next month or next week?

644 **J Pesutto** Well, can I say, I'm happy to explore this and no one would want this, not
645 [inaudible] me, but I can't see a statement of any worth unless you disown those people, and I
646 reckon you're probably not going to do that. If you do that would be good, but I don't think
647 you are, because it's the only way that we can cauterize what's coming. What's coming is a
648 series of pieces that links [47:30] the worst comments and actions of those people, to you, to
649 me, and then it's on. That's the only way –

650 **M Deeming** – Can't I just disown anything, any views or that they've said?

651 **J Pesutto** I suppose you could work –

652 **M Deeming** – Like, in general.

653 **G Crozier** But it's association, don't you see the association, you are there on a couch with
654 these people who've got a long history of saying stuff in the public domain, which are pretty
655 bloody offensive. [48:00] They're pretty full on. And you are now associated with that through
656 your own actions. We can't change any of that, right?

657 **M Deeming** Can I just. One – just one point of clarification here. I'm treating the transgender
658 laws as separate to the Nazi thing, right? You may not be able to say. So, the transgender laws
659 thing, you know, I honestly think that we just got so much support, that I have so much support
660 on that. Rightly or wrongly, I'm just saying, [48:30] that was my view. The Nazi thing, that was
661 from my perspective, believe it or not, just so out of left field. So out of left field. I honestly
662 thought it was the other side. Anyway, so that's easy to condemn, like just flat out. And I,
663 because, like, I don't know what she has said in the past. So, to just condemn in general, I don't
664 know, Nazism, you know the beliefs, that would make more sense because what if I leave
665 something out, [49:00] and I don't want to condemn a whole person, I just want to say that if
666 they've said that then I disagree with that or –

667 **J Pesutto** – But Moira, I mean, look it's a question for you but do you even as a political
668 figure, I mean you're public figure, do you actually want to be associated with Angie Jones?

669 **M Deeming** I just don't want to set a standard where just because I'm talking to someone or
670 agree with someone on one thing, that means I agree with them on everything. Or that I have
671 to –

672 **J Pesutto** I'm sorry, what I should have clarified is, do you actually want to be associated
673 with a person who basically [49:30] will be interpreted as saying that anybody who's in the
674 LGBTI community is paedo filth, is that the kind of person, as you as a public figure –

675 **M Deeming** – No, but honestly –

676 **J Pesutto** – That just kills us.

677 **M Deeming** And I'm happy to make a statement that that's not what I believe. I just don't
678 think. I honestly don't think that's what she believes.

679 **J Pesutto** I think you've got that wrong.

680 **M Deeming** And I think she needs to have a clarification statement because clearly that's not
681 the way it's coming across –

682 **J Pesutto** We're not talking to Angie –

683 **G Crozier** No, no, no we're not going there.

684 **M Deeming** No, no, just for herself, I think she needs –

685 **J Pesutto** So, I mean in terms of [50:00]. You know, so if we were to posit that there are
686 three general scenarios, with the one in the middle being that we work on a statement, it would
687 need be pretty hard, it would need to go a long way to disassociating yourself from them and
688 disassociating us. But I guess, if I can go back to the threshold issue, if you want to be able to
689 prosecute these issues, and this is – this was part of my reasoning, if you want to be able
690 prosecute these issues, with the same passion you've got, I know – I know your passionate
691 about these things so, I get it, [50:30] but if you want to be able to continue to do that, the best
692 way to do that might be to be an independent, to give you complete freedom. If you want to be
693 in the party, it's possible to do that without having to relinquish your views, or walk away from
694 the things you believe in, but there would have to be some clear, if you like, road rules. You
695 can't hang out with these people. You just can't. You can't go to rallies [51:00]. You're a senior
696 figure of the Liberal Party, you represent all of us. When you go out you represent me, David,
697 Georgie, every member, supporter, donor, everyone. You can't conduct – and I don't think –
698 for the most part – I haven't read all of this stuff – but you'd have to be careful about the
699 language you use because there are people who engage in this debate publicly. It's not like
700 there's no debate about it, people debate about it. But as a public figure, with responsibilities,
701 [51:30] as a senior liberal you'd have to be prepared to make sure that all of your language –
702 and I'm not saying it has or hasn't been – I'm saying that the language would have to protect
703 us at all times the team would have to be protected, from anything you say which doesn't mean
704 you can't go out and argue case for things but that it protects the team at all times and protects
705 our ability to win. If that, [52:00] comparing that with the first scenario or the third, if that's
706 possible, if you're willing to do that, then it may be – I don't know we would have to work
707 through it and see if it's possible, then it may be possible to do something, but there is a

708 fundamental question – and ultimately, Moira, I think – I think you have to be happy with what
709 you’ve landed on because if you – I can tell you now, if you agree to something that deep down
710 you’re not really happy with, genuinely you’re not happy with, and feels like it in any way
711 hampers your ability [52:30] to argue the cases you want to argue then you’re not going to be
712 happy and it will manifest itself somewhere, somehow, it just does.

713 **M Deeming** I agree.

714 **J Pesutto** So you have got to be ultimately happy.

715 **M Deeming** I agree. But obviously I’m not interested in promoting Nazism, it’s not a
716 problem, you’ve told me I don’t have to give up my – you know my arguments about the laws
717 about balancing sex-based rights. Like I said, it’s unfortunate that the three events came in one
718 go [53:00] but it isn’t something that I – I don’t want to be a single-issue –

719 **G Crozier** – Hang on –

720 **M Deeming** – MP.

721 **G Crozier** Its unfortunate the three events came. You knew the first one was a problem.
722 Then the second one and now this one. And I am stunned –

723 **M Deeming** – Yeah –

724 **G Crozier** and dumbfounded to think, and I’ve got to say, because this is, a lot of this stuff
725 I’m hearing for the first time, I am stunned and dumbfounded that you didn’t even think that
726 you needed to come to us and talk about this. You didn’t even have the insight [53:30] to
727 understand that this was an issue, that you went to a party member instead of the MPs. That
728 says to me –

729 **M Deeming** – I didn’t go to him, he just happened to call me.

730 **G Crozier** Well still –

731 **M Deeming** – I’m just saying –

732 **G Crozier** – It doesn’t matter. Still, why didn’t you just say “actually I’ve got to speak to
733 someone”.–

734 **M Deeming** I thought I was acting on instructions, I thought I was about to do –

735 **G Crozier** What?

736 **M Deeming** I thought I was acting on, like because you know you were saying to disassociate
737 – and I had my staff member to be writing up a press release, it was just –

738 **D Southwick** [54:00] but I’ve called you, so call me back. You know like, if you want advice
739 call me back. I will always take your call I’ll always work with you.

740 **M Deeming** I’m not – I’m not blaming you

741 **D Southwick** I’ll then get you onto the media. I’m just saying –

742 **M Deeming** – I’m just saying it was in progress – it wasn’t –

743 **Southwick** I’m just saying- I understand that but you’re a Member of Parliament you’ve
 744 got a team hear you’ve got a media team here. This is a media issue, and you – you’ve got to
 745 work with the resources that you’ve got. You’re not just a member of the party now. You’re an
 746 elected representative that represents those members and all Victorians quite frankly [54:30]
 747 and this was –

748 **M Deeming** – I would have come back with the press release but Anthony knew I was
 749 coming to this meeting. He said wait until after the meeting, that’s just –

750 **D Southwick** Anyway, anyway but the –

751 **M Deeming** – It doesn’t even matter, I know what you’re saying. I’m just saying, I wasn’t
 752 going to not –

753 **D Southwick** The issue is this stuff gets a head of steam really, really quickly and my point
 754 about the conversation yesterday when I called you straight away when I knew, is I said it is
 755 urgent. You need to get on the front foot now because I can see where this is going to go.
 756 [55:00] and so that was trying to give that urgency about it, and I said I’ve been, you know I’m
 757 going to put a statement out, which I did straight away and it was really important for us to do
 758 that otherwise we were all going to be caught on the back foot because that’s what Andrews
 759 does, that’s how he rolls. And we have to be on the front foot of this as a team.

760 **G Crozier** And he did, he spoke at the multicultural dinner last night –

761 **D Southwick** – he did it last night. Last night deliberately he changed all the game John was
 762 meant to have a VIP thing with the Premier, [55:30] he didn’t turn up.

763 **G Crozier** Snubbed him.

764 **D Southwick** Snubbed him, he walked through the back door, and used the whole
 765 multicultural community to pretty much get the message about, you know, the whole thing.
 766 That’s the way the guy rolls. That’s what –

767 **J Pesutto** – Why wouldn’t he do that?

768 **G Crozier** Correct, why wouldn’t he?

769 **J Pesutto** Of course he would, when we’ve got him on the ropes.

770 **D Southwick** It’s just, and look I get it, I get it, it’s just, as John says in terms of you and where
 771 you want to be and what you want to do, no one’s asking you or telling you that you have to
 772 give up [56:00] your views but there are three things that have happened in the last few weeks
 773 that have effectively from the outsider looking in would say, you’re a single issue candidate,
 774 this is who you are, and this is what you want to be known for, and you are not interested in
 775 playing the team game. Now, that might be very unfair but that’s the only thing that people
 776 have got to judge, that’s what your colleagues have got to judge you on, that’s what members
 777 have got to judge you on, that’s what the media have got to judge you on [56:30]. All of them
 778 can only judge you on what you say, if you don’t want to do that then you’re not doing a very
 779 good job of actually changing that that perception because every single one of those three
 780 events you were centre of it. International Women’s Day, you didn’t have to speak – or you

781 could have spoken about something else, in your speech, which John and I sat through, 95% of
782 that speech was amazing. Brilliant. Amazing. Unbelievable. It was one of the best speeches,
783 and then you wanted to frame it that way, you have chosen to frame it that way.

784 **J Pesutto** And that's what it was known for, good speech but that's all it was known for.

785 **D Southwick** And then, [57:00] and then, today, or yesterday, so there are events that always,
786 it's part of your control. Now the point from here on in, if that's not who you want to be and
787 you in fact want to be someone that's part of a team that wants to focus on mainstream issues
788 that we are talking about each and every day, IBAC, corruption, all that stuff that we're focused
789 on each and every day, then your narrative has to change. [57:30] Not to say –

790 **G Crozier** – Actions have to change –

791 **Southwick** Yeah, in terms of what you're actually, what you're saying and when you're
792 saying them, what your focus is, what are you actually, what are you putting out there. You
793 know, it's just like none of that – up until this point you haven't shown that. If you- if that's not
794 who you want to be – which, again I'll take that on face value, I'll accept that. But what are
795 you going to do? Like okay let's put out a statement, fantastic, lets disown the lot, fantastic. So
796 where [58:00] are you going to go going forward, do you want to be part of that focus on let's
797 get good government in Victoria, and let's focus on the mainstream issues, let's do it. And I
798 suppose that's what John is saying if it isn't, and if it is about you want to focus on a key issue
799 on the, on the women's issue specifically that you've been focusing on, [58:30] then then as
800 John said, well you know, you can do that from – there are others means for you to be able to
801 do that. But if that's the only thing and that's what you are going to focus yourself on, you're
802 taking us all on that journey.

803 **J Pesutto** And so for example, and so just to finish on that, I know we've been talking for
804 a bit, if you are going to be bringing down Katherine Deves, then whatever we are talking
805 about, I'll be honest with you, whatever we are talking about, we could find Daniel Andrews
806 robbing a 7-Eleven, but if you bring Katherine Deves down, everyone is going to go “don't
807 care about that, Katherine Deves is in town,” that's all it's going to be about. [59:00] And this
808 is why I say to you, I genuinely say, it's a really tough call for you, because I think the best
809 thing you can do for yourself, if you don't mind me saying, is honestly arriving at a decision
810 to say what do I really passionately want to do. Because if you want to keep doing that, I think
811 that first option of going your own way would be the best. But I don't- the reason I say that is
812 I don't want you to be under any misapprehension about what's required in the statement
813 [59:30] and not just the statement but what follows it. So, you can't be bringing down Katherine
814 Deves because when you bring down Katherine Deves, we're all in it. It means disowning those
815 people, I will not, I will not be associated by one or two times removed with Angie Jones. I
816 will not. Anyone like that is out of my tent, but if you are prepared to do that, that's how I think
817 it can work, but it's a big ask, and if you want to be able to keep doing those things, [1:00:00]
818 that's why I think, you know, just, you know, have a sense of what it really does require, because
819 it's big, it's doable, but it requires a big change. I don't know if you need any time to think we're
820 going to, we're talking about a lot of issues, unless there is anything else you wanted to
821 contribute, Moira, but I'd like some time to think and maybe just confer if that's all right. I
822 mean, I genuinely want to explore the options, Moira.

823 **D Southwick** None of us want to talk about this. [1:00:30] To be honest, none of us want to
824 talk about this.

825 **M Deeming** When you say this, what do you mean?

826 **D Southwick** What we're talking about now-

827 **G Grozier** Why we're here-

828 **D Southwick** None of us – we're going to Parliament next week. I don't want to talk about
829 Nazis. I don't want to talk about this. Seriously, I don't want to talk about this.

830 **J Pesutto** We're supposed to be getting Robert Redlich to appear before a committee that
831 we're hoping to set up, which is in the papers, hoping to get Callida the independent auditor,
832 it's just – and it's just slipping.

833 **G Crozier** Harriet Shing.

[1:10:00]

834 **J Pesutto** So, Moira, I'm just –

835 **M Deeming** I wasn't mocking you, I just -

836 **D Southwick** No, no. Yeah, yeah –

837 **M Deeming** Trying to work out if we're talking about Nazis or the paedophile thing. That's
838 –

839 **D Southwick** Well – well I think, yeah –

840 **M Deeming** No I'm just [inaudible]-

841 **D Southwick** The unfortunate thing, about his whole thing is –

842 **M Deeming** Well, no, because two different things need to be denounced is what I'm saying
843 –

844 **D Southwick** – the Nazis used the paedophile thing

845 **J Pesutto** Sorry, Matt. Matt?

846 **M Deeming** I'm just saying there's two different things

847 **D Southwick** Yeah.

848 **M Bach** It's been good to listen, it's been good to hear your views, Moira. Even in that,
849 in coming back, in seeking, [1:01:30] pointedly, I think, from you, so to seek to lessen some of
850 the shocking things that these – your friends - have said, demonstrates to me that – I don't think
851 there is a way forward. So, for me, the issue is your friends, the people you worked with, the
852 people you showed through Parliament, very openly and publicly, have a long history of
853 sympathizing with neo-Nazis [1:02:00] and white supremacists. And you said a little while
854 back, John, you know, you wanted to explore and see if there is a way forward. I – this – I don't

855 think there is. These are your people, and I don't mind saying also, I don't think a reasonable
856 person would believe you, that you had no idea that these are the long standing, stated views
857 of your people. I don't believe you. And it's absolutely clear to me, from what you've said,
858 [1:02:30] that you don't get the seriousness of that, at all. Your mob have stated white
859 supremacist views and still we're arguing about exactly what they might have mean –

860 **J Pesutto** – as recently as yesterday –

861 **M Bach** – when they call trans people paedophiles, which, of course in and of itself, is
862 quite disgusting and disgraceful, so, for mine, I don't see a way forward.

863 **J Pesutto** Georgie, did you have anything else? And we're not deciding now – [1:03:00]

864 **G Crozier** No I've said, I've said I'm so disappointed, I can't begin to tell you how
865 disappointed I am, because we have put a lot of time in, we've had lots of discussions, I am
866 bitterly disappointed that's all I've got to say.

867 **J Pesutto** Um did you have anything further to add –

868 **D Southwick** Oh look, I mean, I think there's one thing about working on an issue, there's
869 another thing in terms of [1:03:30] associating yourself with those individuals. And you've
870 done that, I mean, and that's – Matt makes an absolute point, they are your people, you know,
871 you showed them into Parliament, you took them through the back, you interviewed with them,
872 you, you know, like you are connected well and truly –

873 **G Crozier** – You're celebrating afterwards.

874 **D Southwick** celebrating with a champagne afterwards. If at any point in time, up until this
875 point, there has not been any alarm bells, in fact, quite the opposite having a champagne with
876 effectively known individuals [1:04:00] that have very stated views about this issue. It's very,
877 very hard to walk back from that. It's very, very hard to walk back from that. And yeah, it's all
878 very well to talk to them about separate issues, but the neo-Nazis have effectively used, you
879 know, connection of the paedophilia and all that kind of stuff, is that's who they see trans people
880 as, you know, and it's, it's, it's, it's the two – the two issues have come in unison together because
881 of a very deliberate attempt and these, [1:04:30] these – these women that you know, as Matt
882 has said, your friends effectively, have not denounced any of these Nazis. Have been taking
883 selfies with them. So, you know, they've used it – they've used it as part of their posse. They
884 haven't turned around and focused on the issues that you want to prosecute, if it was on the
885 issues that you want to prosecute, change rooms and whatever else, fine, but it's not that, you
886 chose to do that publicly. You chose to do that with a group of people that associate [1:05:00]
887 themselves – you took it to the steps of Parliament, which is always very dangerous. How do
888 you walk back from that? How do you walk back from that, credibly? You know, yeah, I don't
889 know, I mean if – fine, I'm always willing to give people the benefit of the doubt, but you're an
890 elected Member of Parliament in a team in the Liberal Party, those views of the – effectively
891 of those friends [1:05:30] who you've walked through the back of Parliament you're now
892 associated with, and by implication, we are. Because they were the questions that I had. They
893 were the questions that the ABC ran to the Anti-Defamation Commission. You know, do you
894 know that the Liberal Party – the Anti-Defamation Commission were asked after me., you
895 know, did you know that - what are your thoughts about the Liberal Party having one of their
896 own associated with these Nazis?

897 **J Pesutto** Association is a flexible word, [1:06:00] and you leave yourself open.

898 **D Southwick** And it's not the people that marched on the steps, they were – they were the
 899 icing on the cake, it was the individuals that you had champagne with who have had selfies
 900 with Nazis.

901 **J Pesutto** So Moira, I think that that option's difficult, I wouldn't say it's impossible but I
 902 worry that Matt's right, I don't think it would be believed, but I'd give it chance, but there's
 903 nothing we can do tonight, [1:06:30] we can't force any outcome on you but I am concerned
 904 about the damage that this has done to the party. I'm inclined to think that a resignation's the
 905 best thing to do, because it would involve - avoid a whole lot of other, you know, difficult time
 906 for the party. But if you really, honestly feel that you could cut yourself away from these people
 907 then I'm prepared to look at it [1:07:00] but I couldn't give a guarantee that it would be enough.
 908 As I said, I would want to think through it, I just think the damage is deep, and it's- we haven't
 909 even got through the toughest part of it yet, which is coming.

910 **M Deeming** Am I –

911 **J Pesutto** [inaudible] by all means.

912 **M Deeming** I don't have a problem at all, and I look forward to denouncing Nazism and, I
 913 don't know, anything similar [1:07:30] and any accusations of paedophilia for the trans
 914 community. No problem at all. I don't believe those things.

915 **J Pesutto** are you prepared to dis–

916 **M Deeming** – I know it sounds stupid to you, but honestly, I did not read those the way that
 917 you have read them, and I'm not arguing with you, I see it now that you've said it but I'm not
 918 kidding I don't I don't it was just they were having an argument [1:08:00] with the activist –
 919 and I'm not arguing it, I'm just saying –

920 **G Crozier** But I think that goes to Matt's point, I only saw that an hour ago or whatever it
 921 was, an hour ago. I could not believe – I said, “that's not Moira”, I – didn't I? I said, “that's not
 922 Moira”. They said, “That is Moira”. I said “you're serious, how on earth?” I couldn't believe
 923 that you would do that, after everything that Rodrigo had read out, and I've seen the YouTubes
 924 [1:08:30] I've been going through with that woman, whatever her name is, and the jokes and
 925 the whispers and, you know, the revving up and whatever, all of that. So, there is a close
 926 association.

927 **M Deeming** What [inaudible] whispers.

928 **G Crozier** Oh I don't know, I saw it on YouTube, you were whispering in her ear about
 929 something. It's on YouTube.

930 **M Deeming** I'm not denying that, I'm just –

931 **G Crozier** – Anyway, all I'm saying is that this is what is out there in the public domain
 932 that I found, like I'm not – you know, [1:09:00] what I'm saying is I am, as I said, so bitterly
 933 disappointed that we are even having this discussion. And there is, there is no question there is
 934 a clear association because of the imagery and the actions that we – you can't take back, no
 935 one can take back, because they're there. They're there forever, and that is the problem.

936 **M Deeming** Well, I don't know what to say to you, this seems so insane to me, of course I
937 don't [1:09:30] think that a whole group of people are paedophiles because of their sexuality
938 or gender identity. Of course, I'm not a Nazi and I don't support Nazism. I'm more than happy
939 to condemn all of that. It's just a real shock to me, it's just a real shock to me that those were
940 the ones that you thought were Nazis.

941 **G Crozier** They're their words –

942 **J Pesutto** Their – we're only using the words –

943 **M Deeming** – I'm not arguing, I'm not arguing. I'm just telling you the truth. I thought you
944 were going to come in here and talk to me about those people in black [1:10:00].

945 **D Southwick** There's no question who they are.

946 **J Pesutto** Yeah

947 **M Deeming** No but no, I'm just saying, I wasn't prepared for –

948 **G Crozier** – That's the cream on the top

949 **M Deeming** I'm not arguing, I'm just saying. Do you want me to wait outside while you
950 talk?

951 **J Pesutto** Well, we might go, you can stay here if you like. We might just have a few
952 minutes. Do you mind if we just have a few minutes –

953 **M Deeming** No, I don't mind.

END: [1:10:30]