

KALGOORLIE CUP — YOUNG NATIONALS — BEHAVIOUR

Statement

HON KYLE MCGINN (Mining and Pastoral) [2.22 pm]: I rise today to talk about the Kalgoorlie Cup, which was held on the weekend of 3 October. I was in attendance with Minister Papalia, the Minister for Tourism; Racing and Gaming. We held a tourism round table that day and had a great turnout of local operators who talked about how busy it has been in Kalgoorlie, with tourists coming from all over Western Australia to discover the goldfields. There was a massive attendance at the races. Needless to say, there were some complications because of COVID-19, but, all in all, it was a great show and the event went off without a hitch. The horse that won on the day was Missile Launch—it is quite aptly named—and the owners were very happy about their win. All in all, Kalgoorlie benefited greatly from that event.

I will now talk about something that is quite hard for me to raise in here, but I feel I need to raise it. All week I have been questioning whether to give this statement, but I feel that it needs to be put on the record and hopefully something can be done to address it.

Normally, when I see injustice, racism or behaviour that endorses fascism, I make an effort to call it out in an effort to stamp out that type of behaviour. At the races I was confronted by two individuals who are well known within the Nationals WA—namely, Jackson Cooper and Cory Spiers. I have come across these two individuals a few times at events at which they push the Nationals' agenda, which I have no issue with. I do not have a problem debating the policies of WA Labor or federal Labor. I think I have proven that with the member statements that I have made in response to Hon Robin Scott over the last three and a half years. What happened after this took a turn for the worse and needs to be called out. These two individuals were attending the event of the Nationals' candidate for Kalgoorlie, Rowena Olsen, and its upper house candidate, Nick Fardell. They have always been associated with these individuals because I believe they are Young Nationals who hold executive positions.

When we were leaving our tent, which was right next door to the Nationals' event, I was with the minister, his staff and representatives from Racing and Wagering Western Australia. Whilst we were walking across to the cup presentation, these two individuals stood on top of a stage right in front of their event and gave me the Hitler salute. They started screaming "McGinn" and "McGowan" whilst giving the Hitler salute. This was totally disgusting. The individual from Racing and Wagering WA whom I was with was absolutely mortified. They were yelling and screaming my name and the Premier's name while continuing to give the Hitler salute. This type of behaviour is absolutely uncalled for and should not be seen anywhere in this day and age.

Just so that members are aware, the Sieg Heil is a gesture that was used as a greeting in Nazi Germany. The salute is performed by extending the right arm from the neck in the air with a straightened hand. Usually the person offering the salute will say, "Heil Hitler!". The salute was adopted in the 1930s by the Nazi Party to signal obedience to the party's leader. We all know from history what this signal means and how inappropriate it is to use it at all. This salute is actually illegal in Germany and Austria. It is also considered a criminal offence in modern Poland and Slovakia. The use of any phrases associated with the salute is also forbidden. In Italy, it is a criminal offence if it is used only with the intent to reinstate the defunct National Fascist Party. The salute is also not allowed to be displayed in the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and Russia. It is not a criminal offence but it constitutes illegal hate speech.

I am absolutely disgusted that this was done. It was done not only on that occasion, in front of thousands of people, whilst attending a Nationals' event and whilst these people were on the executive of the Young Nationals and, in my view, representing the Nationals, as they do at every single event I go to, and talking very highly of Nicholas Fardell, Vince Catania and Rowena Olsen and representing their interests during this upcoming election; they also did it as I returned back to my tent, and then they did it a third time. They did it three times, until my electorate officer, who was there on her day off, approached them. They ignorantly ignored and argued back towards her. It was almost as though they were defending this as appropriate action to be done to gesture me at the races. This is potentially a cultural issue within the Nationals' Kalgoorlie branch and it needs to be addressed by the party; it needs to be looked into. I know that the National Party has a conference this weekend. I believe they should be asking these two individuals—or asking themselves—whether that was appropriate behaviour for their party. I call upon the Leader of the Nationals WA, Mia Davies, the deputy leader, Shane Love, and the leader in the upper house, Hon Jacqui Boydell, to address these issues and ensure that no-one else is subject to these vile, fascist and racist signs that I was subjected to by these two individuals on the weekend.

Statement

HON JACQUI BOYDELL (Mining and Pastoral) [2.29 pm]: I thank the member for making that member's statement. They are exceptionally serious actions undertaken, as it would seem, by some members of the National Party in Kalgoorlie. I will take up this issue with our leader, Mia Davies, and Shane Love, and also our president, Mr Steve Blyth. I do not condone the behaviour of those individuals and, Madam President, I probably

have made that known previously to those individuals, and to the party. All I can say is: I reiterate the fact that I do not condone those actions. I will further have this conversation with the leaders of the organisation.

I can only apologise to the member and the minister in attendance and certainly, indeed, the officials who attended the Kalgoorlie Cup, which is otherwise a very good day from Racing and Wagering Western Australia. If any offence was taken, I profusely do apologise, on behalf of me and my colleagues. Thank you, member, for bringing it to the chamber's attention.