

SCROOGE McDUCK

Statement

HON LORNA HARPER (East Metropolitan) [5.26 pm]: I will not take long because I understand it is late in the week. I am quite upset that our colleague Hon Dr Steve Thomas is out of the house on urgent parliamentary business, but if he can hear me, that will be really nice. Hon Dr Steve Thomas likes to use the term “Scrooge McDuck” a lot, and he knows it irritates me. I am sure he used it numerous times this morning—five or six times—and smiled sweetly at me every time. So I thought that instead of getting upset about this, I would do a little research and find out how I could actually deal with this without giving him ammunition.

Scrooge McDuck—also known as Uncle Scrooge—is a Scottish-American cartoon character created in 1947. He was originally intended to be used only once, but because he was so popular, he became a major star of Disney.

Hon Sue Ellery: That sounds familiar!

Hon LORNA HARPER: Yes! He was named after the character Ebenezer Scrooge from Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol*, and I will point out that Ebenezer Scrooge has an English accent and, we believe, was based in England! Uncle Scrooge is a self-proclaimed adventurer, oil tycoon, businessman—it says “businessman” but I would prefer to say “business duck”—industrialist, and the owner of the largest mining concerns. But in his later appearances, he was portrayed as a thrifty hero, adventurer and explorer. So now every time Hon Dr Steve Thomas refers to Scrooge McDuck, I will think about him as a thrifty hero, adventurer and explorer! He worked his way up from humble immigrant roots; he was self-educated. He was noted for his drive to set new goals and face new challenges. So from now on, any time Hon Dr Steve Thomas wants to refer to anyone on this side as Scrooge McDuck, we will think about a thrifty hero, adventurer and explorer who is noted for his drive to set new goals and face new challenges.

Goodbye old, grumpy Scrooge McDuck; hello our hero, Scrooge McDuck! Thank you.