



NAPHTHINE GOVERNMENT SHAW OUTWITTED LABOR

Peter Adamis 10 June 2014

If the news media is to be believed that a motion to suspend Geoff Shaw is true, then you have to hand it to Denis Naphthine and his team of advisers.

Taking this action to bring into line a recalcitrant member of parliament who has gone allegedly rogue by his parliamentary colleagues is a smart move.

For months Liberal party supporters have been advising their parliamentary members to seek out other forms of bring Geoff Shaw into line and not to use intimidation, harassment and use of the heavy gloves treatment. They should have realised like many of the Liberal supporters whose feet are well grounded are also political savvy in realising that the heavy handed approach was not appropriate in this case.

After all Geoff Shaw was and probably still is a committed Liberal and conservative in mind and soul and therefore would normally support Government policies. Parliamentary members were consistently advised not to seek retaliatory methods especially in an election year or make Geoff Shaw a martyr. The only issue that remains is to pass the budget and move forward with some degree of confidence.

A confidence that is brewing amongst Liberal party members and their media machine appears to be having some success with the Victorian voter. Although this media machine and its political statements are far too early to judge their overall effectiveness, they do appear to be on track. However knowing how well oiled and well structured the Labor media machine is judging by past elections, it is believed that the Victorian voter is in for quite a torrid ride given that revelations about the performance on government ministers and their parliamentary colleagues may be embarrassed or exposed.

Whatever the case may be and/or the outcome, this year's State election will be like no other. Both sides are politically equal and both sides are evenly matched against each other in the political scoring of who is best to govern the great state of Victoria. Politics has no master and yet it can seduce individuals and organisations by the twist of its finger. Whichever political party falls is seduced may well be the deciding factor to yield power. Let the games begin.



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Victorian MP Shaw faces suspension

June 10, 2014 Melissa Iaria and Genevieve Gannon

Rogue balance-of-power MP Geoff Shaw will be suspended from Victoria's parliament under a move by the premier but Labor says it is a weak punishment and will push to expel him. The independent MP will be suspended for 11 sitting days, must apologise and repay money for misusing his parliamentary car, or be expelled from parliament, Premier Denis Naphine says. But there is no guarantee the motion will be passed on Wednesday, with Labor saying it won't back it and vowing to push for a second day running to have Mr Shaw found in contempt of parliament and expelled.

It is not known if former Speaker Ken Smith will support the government motion, given the Liberal MP has signalled he will side with Labor to have Mr Shaw found in contempt and booted from parliament. It is also unclear whether Mr Shaw will be able to vote on a motion involving himself, but there is at least one recent example where a MP voted against his own suspension. Dr Naphine says if his motion is passed on Wednesday, Mr Shaw will be suspended until September 2 and lose daily payments totalling \$4246.

He will be ordered to repay more than \$6800 for misusing his parliamentary car, fuel card and parliamentary entitlements and apologise to the parliament for breaching the MP code of conduct. Dr Naphine said he expected Mr Smith would give serious consideration to the government's move. "This is genuinely dealing with wrongdoing by the member for Frankston," Dr Naphine told reporters on Tuesday.

"I think this is fair and reasonable to hold him to account." Dr Naphine said his motion went above and beyond the penalties set out by the privileges committee into Mr Shaw's misuse of his taxpayer-funded car. If Mr Shaw doesn't abide by the premier's motion, then he will have crossed the line and be in contempt of parliament and face expulsion, he said. "At this stage the member for Frankston has shown no remorse and no understanding of his wrongdoing with regard to misuse of taxpayer funds," he said.

But Opposition Leader Daniel Andrews said the premier's motion is weak and amounted to "barely a slap on the wrist" and "gardening leave" for Mr Shaw, who would retain the use of his office and other entitlements. "There was a chance today and we will hold fast tomorrow to again push for the expulsion of Mr Shaw," he told reporters. Dr Naphine said expulsion of a MP is a serious issue only reserved for the most serious of offences.

"These are people who are democratically elected members of parliament and for the majority to use their numbers against a fellow member of parliament is a very, very serious issue." Dr Naphine said the government will continue to make parliament work if Mr Shaw, who holds the balance of power in the Legislative Assembly, is suspended. Mr Shaw withdrew support for the Naphine government after it failed to guarantee he would not be penalised further for misusing his entitlements.

<http://news.brisbanetimes.com.au/breaking-news-national/victorian-mp-shaw-faces-suspension-20140610-39vbn.html>