



BAILLIEUGATE 6

Peter Adamis 7 July 2014 July 2014

I am having a chuckle at the utter rubbish that is being reported in the media regarding the leaking of the tapes. It is my uneducated guess that the Liberal party is not involved and that will be the outcome of any investigation. But the 'investigative witch hunt' will leave a bitter taste in many Liberal party members.

To assist readers, selected tweets have been added to provide additional information regarding the alleged theft or deliberate leak of the BaillieuGate tape. One now can only assume that whoever the culprit, it was cleverly and strategically thought out to capture the imagination of all Victorians and to create divisions within the Liberal party. All the names have been removed as it was believed that it is was not appropriate or necessary and that the messages alone spell out their own story. Furthermore, as I don't have a legal or investigative background, I have put aside that I was a Liberal party member and concentrated on the belief that it was an operation by a Labor supporter. I am also of the belief as I make mention of it down below that the CCTV footage will prove me correct.

Despite my prediction, the manner in which this so called with hunt has been conducted by Liberal Party hierarchy and management team leaves a lot to be desired and i can state now that certain individuals have created a rod for their won backs. The people had been targeted were placed under undue stress and accused them such aggravation that it's impossible to know what effect it has had on their families. Luckily their names were not mentioned publicly as it may have been grounds for defamation.

Without any further ado I was reading an recent article regarding a journalist lint of view and I just could not stop the laughter. I am referring to the following statement: 'Higgins MP Kelly O'Dwyer, Liberal Party President Tony Snell, Senator Scott Ryan, former MPs Sophie Mirabella and Peter Costello, former Liberal State Director Julian Sheezel and Liberal power broker Frank Greenstein. Not a group, with much in common one would have thought, including as it does, Baillieu and Mirabella'.

What is this nonsense about calling someone a Power broker and trying to group individuals under the one umbrella. It couldn't be further from the truth. If they (The news media) are trying to make me stand up and take notice, they have achieved their aim. indeed! BUT for the wrong reasons. (see article below). What a turn up for the books is this? Firstly since when did Frank Greenstein suddenly become a Power Broker within the Liberal Party? You have to have credibility and a good understanding of the Liberal party psyche and a lot more to know what makes it tick. Anyway what would I know I am, just a mere grass roots member voicing an opinion.



how did you know something was "about to hit?"

because by the time I tweeted that,
it had already been emailed to half the state.

news, leaks & opinion

did you steal the tape? :

where's the Labor Frankston candidate?

have I missed something?

What's all the ruckus this time?

it will all hit very shortly, stay tuned.

Any good sites to follow the drama from

heraldsun.com.au/news/leaked-

Secondly what is the point of marshalling, MP Kelly O'Dwyer, Tony Snell, Scott Ryan, Sophie Mirabella, Peter Costello, Julian Sheezel and Frank Greenstein under one canopy. It is well known that there are elements under this umbrella that detest each other and that no one in the Liberal party knows what Frank Greenstein is doing. Frank Greenstein is doing his own thing. Farrah Tomazin the journalist whose dictaphone was allegedly stolen is yet to be confirmed. However I would not be surprised if the CCTV footage indicates that the culprit was in fact NOT a Liberal party member and that the emails again allegedly being stolen from Liberal party secretariat will indicate that it was a conglomeration of email messages that were gleamed from upper house members that were sent without being hidden.

Furthermore it is believed that emails can still be gathered by legitimate means and added to a political data base. It does not take Einstein to work that out. Trying to place the blame on anti-abortion MP Bernie Finn and his "crazy mates" for preselecting Geoff Shaw in Frankston is a bit much to bear and the questions one should be asking is why was Bernie Finn selected as a target. Bernie Finn should be congratulated for controlling his emotions and not retaliating at such nefarious remarks, after all every Australian is entitled to their opinion. I may not be a follower of Ted Ballieu but over the years I have respected his stance on a number of issues and was little disturbed that he was undermined by recalcitrant's within the Party.

Still in fairness to Bernie Finn, I found that the comments by Ted Ballieu were unwarranted for and SHOULD never have been passed onto a member of the media. Bernie Finn is a wonderful family man, a fighter for what is in the best interests of all Victorians and Australians and I now from personal experience that he can be a pit bull gladiator in the political arena we call the Victorian parliament. Ted Ballieu discussion with the journalist has cast a dark shadow over the integrity of our current parliamentary members and I for one now question their credibility. Denis Napthine certainly has a difficult task ahead of him and I for one wish him all the best at the next State Election.

As previously discussed in BaillieuGate 5, this has been a deliberate witch-hunt designed to cast dark shadows over opponents of those currently holding the reins of influence at the management level. (see articles below). It is also my opinion that it is the a strategic first strike by one group against another and to lay the foundations of blame against particular groups in the event the Liberal party loses at the next election.

Everyone from the President as well as the State Director know that the real showdown will be post State election and that virtual blood bath and purging of the party will occur. One hopes that cooler and wiser heads can prevail and avert such bloodletting. A bloodletting that has not been seen since the Michael Kroger/Peter Costello versus Jeff Kennet/Ted Ballieu factional wars. One must admit that the reforms that were implemented still require further refining and additional enhancements to ensure that all members are given the opportunity to have a say and not for the few.

Unfortunately the current design is responsible for the waning interest of attending branch meetings, a reduction of memberships in some areas, alienation of long time members in Labor held areas, members jockeying for position and of course we must not forget the ever ready to please sycophants and recalcitrant who will be seeking safe havens in the not too distant future.

There was one chap who was on Administrative committee who was so taken aback by the unwarranted intimidation, innuendoes, personal character assassination, attacks against himself and losing his job in the process, that he resigned in utter disgust. A great pity because he demonstrated clarity, fairness and above all an absolute commitment to the Liberal party. Sad to say the Liberal party due to its stupidity and hunger for power lost a valuable and dedicated member.

Then we had a past parliamentary member who made a mockery of out Australian Indian Community but was put into his place when a Liberal party member approached him on the stage and quietly told him to watch his mouth as he was denigrating those who were supporting him. Then we have another parliamentary member who is allegedly to have told other Liberal party members that all the Jews in the Ukraine should have been exterminated. I of course don't believe such allegations as to me they are just political scuttlebutt designed to undermine members.

On the other hand we have long time Liberal party members rubbishing other long time members who have been loyal and consistently hard working Liberals by allegedly calling tem monkeys and stating that they should return back where they come from. Another bloke donated part of his superannuation towards a Liberal party campaign and yet did not receive the acknowledgement he so richly deserved.

Not to be out done, we had two members at a Liberal function who for reasons of personal ego outbid each other to the tune of in excess of \$30,000. I must admit that this auction raised a few eyebrows as it appeared that one or both of the bidders were under the influence and one wonders whether it was appropriate that the funds should have been accepted. Still that's politics for you.

wouldn't be so quick to acknowledge it's an ALP Member who STOLE the dictaphone. ALP trying to STEAL an election?

Police probing missing Age dictaphone are studying CCTV footage of the ALP state conference

did you steal the tape?

The Age admits it's not uncommon for its journalists to secretly record "off-the-record" conversations

Party of Menzies/Spirit of Assad: Snr Lib official: "We want a body hanging out the front of the building"

Libs closing in on source of leaked recording

LIBERAL Party officials are confident they will identify the source of the leaked recording of a Labor Party conference. The Age is believed to have been made with the assistance of a former Party official known as Michael Cameron. The Age is believed to have been made with the assistance of a former Party official known as Michael Cameron. The Age is believed to have been made with the assistance of a former Party official known as Michael Cameron.

should be asked whether device was reported stolen at the time. It was 'stolen' on budget night LOL
sum of all fears moment arrives as many wonder who else was recorded on the 'stolen' (most probably lost in a pub) dictaphone...

Jeff Kennett about frosty Ted Baillieu: "You can't hold grudges forever. Life is short. Move on." Except when it comes to The Age

Planning minister says Fairfax still has questions to answer over Ted tape scandal

Perhaps the Libs who circulated Ted Baillieu's interview were assisted by the Labor psychos who edited & uploaded the Rudd "swear" video.

Victoria Police investigate Labor state conference over Ted Baillieu recording The Age

I can remember at one function early in my political adventures where during an auction I accidentally raised my arm and I was given a bid and when I tried to wave my arm that I was not bidding the auctioneer took it upon himself to keep in the auction.

Much to relief, some kind old gentlemen must have taken pity on me and luckily 'outbid' be. Mind you I only had about \$150 on me at the time whilst the final bid was about \$4000. I am quite sure that readers have many more hilarious stories to tell.

During the Michael Kroger/Peter Costello and Jeff Kennet/Ted Baillieu factional wars we knew who were our political domestic opponents and I must admit they were extremely very bitter, boisterous and it was not unheard of to receive telephone threats, intimidation, predator type of behaviour by persons who one held responsible positions in our society.

Still one rolled with the punches and more that often words that today we would believe to be considered harsh were common. There were no rules and whenever a battle was one it energised one group or another. There was one time I can remember attending a Liberal community function and enjoying myself with some dear friends at our table when an Upper House member came over to our table, leaned over an staring directly at me said with a sneer on his face "we trashed you at policy assembly this evening, it's all over for your group.

I can remember quite well to the this day what my response was. "F@&CK OFF STUPID. He looked at me as if he did not hear me so I stood up and told him the same thing, adding that I didn't want him gloating over the removal of a sitting Senator who happened to be a dear friend of mine. I have to confess that this member was the only member that I have ever regretted in supporting him at his preselection some many years ago.

Stolen recording of Baillieu and reporter Farrah Tomazin sent to...

A tape recording of a conversation between former premier Ted Baillieu and a journalist has been widely distributed via email to sitting Victorian MPs.

After the Baillieu tape leak scandal it's concerning that non-members have been sent undisclosed emails from

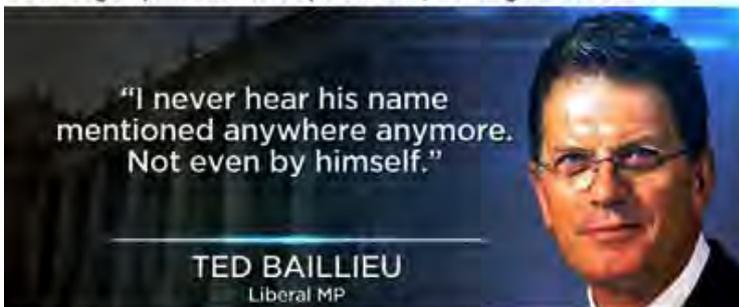
Were the members the Liberal Party were referring to the same members Ted Baillieu called "crazy"?



VICTORIAN Premier Denis Napthine has demanded Fairfax Media explain in full how a private, off-the-record conversation between a journalist and a senior MP was leaked.

WATCH: Former Premier Ted Baillieu caught taking a swipe at fellow MP's in secret tape. on-msn.com/1nyYleF @andrew_jund #9News

Govt caught up in new secret tapes scandal; Involving former Premier



BREAKING: An ALP member STOLE the Age dictaphone.

Just in case you missed it: An ALP member STOLE the Age dictaphone. Police have CCTV footage

Victoria Police investigate Labor state conference over Ted Baillieu...

This same member was the one who also accosted a female waitress at the old Southern Cross hotel only to have a bowl of soup thrown on top of his head for whatever he may have said to the waitress.

This very same Upper House member was the one who advised me or should I say told me that it was a heinous crime to stand against a sitting member and that it was considered mutiny.

It did not matter to him that it was vacancy, but he thought he could use his position to intimidate. He picked the wrong bloke.

This same upper house member it is believed will no longer be in a position to be as influential as he once was.

I initially joined the Liberal party because of the conservative views and now some 24 years later I still hold true to those views. I have friends on both sides of the major political fence and although both have excellent and mediocre policies, my loyalty is still with that of the Liberal party. Having said that, it does not mean that the party that I have joined is above any constructive criticism and that no one is above the laws of this land and no one in my opinion deserves to be treated any different from the man and/or woman in the street.

I do detest abuse of power, I do detest hypocrisy for political reasons and that compromise should only be a last resort when all else fails. The Labor party has some excellent parliamentary members, the union movement has some good people within its ranks, the Greens whether you like them or not are not far behind the now almost defunct Democratic party and now the Clive Palmer (PUP) party is beginning to usher in a new era of political robust discussion. After all that is what politics is all about.

In my opinion this is the first time since the John Howard Government that the Federal Liberal Government is returning back to its conservative roots and one hopes that this turn of events will eventually infiltrate down to the states. The recent comments by Brian Loughnane that the Liberal party is being clever in selecting community leaders is not necessarily true but a spin on the maintenance of past paradigms which desperately need reviewing.

The Liberal party in Victoria is slowly being eroded of its conservative roots by extremely clever people who at this stage will remain unnamed and as such many are concerned that it will no longer be the Party that Sir Robert Menzies first envisaged some many years ago. I fear that he would be turning in his grave so to speak if he were privy to the social media battles and domestic in-house factional skirmishes or the witch hunts and guerrilla tactics being used to reduce the influence or undermine a member of parliament's profile within the conservative Liberal party community. (see articles below)

What does all this mean to the current generation and the new members on the political podium. I am quite sure that they are all monitoring the parliamentary members, their achievements, their failings and their behaviour. I am quite sure that there are many who are disgusted with the personal behaviour of some members but what can they do but to watch, listen and wait until their time comes. I for one can only hope that it's sooner rather than later in order that credibility, personal ethics and behaviour returns to the Victorian parliament. That they who are voted in as our representatives behave in a manner that others can only try and emulate.

When I was in the Australian Defence Force and we found that we were somehow losing the plot so to speak, we always reverted back to the basics. Maybe our parliamentarians can do the same, otherwise they should bite the bullet and resign or quietly move aside for others. My advice to these members is to take the bull by the horns, look at their political environment, observe whether they are relevant and if they can come to an unbiased opinion that it's time to move on, then have the courage to do so. If they don't take a good hard look at themselves, they will be removed unceremoniously by the very people who voted them in the first place.

Take it or leave it. I have stated this on many occasions that Denis Napthine has an extremely difficult task ahead of him and deserves all the support from his parliamentary colleagues to work with him, not undermine him and/or make innuendoes and to stop their long term plans of a political coup. The same goes for Tony Snell and his management team to stop the internal cannibalism that is currently going on at the this very moment and become a united team in order to support Denis Napthine and the State Director.

Having said this, the State Director Damien Mantach should be given a free reign to focus on the coming State election and bring about a successful conclusion. If Damien Mantach is not given a free reign (without interference), the State Director may have some difficulty in achieving a Liberal party over the line in Late November. He has a difficult role as it is and every Liberal party member should be behind him. As a parting note, I hate being in opposition and in the end when it's all over and done with, no one wins.

It's quite obvious to the readers that I detest and abhor individuals who profess to be dedicated and committed to conservative values to be so hypocritical of others and try to place the blame on others to hide their own inadequacies. Bring back the Jeff Kennets, the Michael Krogers, Peter Costellos, Richard Alston's, Rod Kemps, Peter Reith's and the fighters of old. They at least can set an example for others to emulate or follow.



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WHY WE SHOULD ALL CARE ABOUT THE AGE-BAILLIEU TAPE FIASCO

JAMES CAMPBELL HERALD SUN JUNE 28, 2014.

SO WHAT, if anything, is one to make of the Age-Baillieu tape brouhaha? Who is behind it? What was the motive? Should we care? These and countless other questions have been keeping Spring St busy this week in the aftermath of the leaking of a recording of a conversation between former premier Ted Baillieu and a *Sunday Age* reporter. For those not up to speed on the story, it goes something like this.

On Tuesday, Liberal MPs and the Party members were sent an email purporting to be from a Liberal member which included a transcript of a conversation between Mr Baillieu and Sunday Age reporter Farrah Tomazin in which the two discussed the part that the issue of abortion law had played in the Liberal preselection in Kew earlier this year, which saw the Community Services Minister Mary Wooldridge beaten by the ex-Mayor of Stonington Tim Smith.

The conversation was on a dictaphone belonging to Tomazin which went missing sometime in May. The email accompanying the transcript — and the link to recording — made the nonsense claim that *The Age* was in possession of countless hours of recordings and named a number of Liberals who it said were “big leakers”. Readers were told to expect more exciting revelations in the months ahead in the count down to the state election in November.

For those of us who enjoy this sort of thing the recording made fascinating listening. The gist of what Baillieu was telling Tomazin was that before the vote in Kew, those backing Smith had been using Wooldridge’s support for Victoria’s current abortion laws as way to win votes for their man – or that anyway they had been briefing journalists in the lead up to the vote that the issue was going to hurt her.

He also blamed anti-abortion MP Bernie Finn and his “crazy mates” for preselecting Geoff Shaw in Frankston and suggested the same group were behind the earlier destabilisation of Police Minister Kim Wells almost ten years ago. In Big Ted’s mind all these events were connected. “I’ve known these guys for 25 years and their tactics have not changed,” he told Tomazin.

Listening to this you could be forgiven for thinking that the former Premier is a little paranoid, that is until you remember that one — or more — of his enemies had taken the time to transcribe his thoughts and send them around the Liberal Party. As to who that might be, and their motivation, it strikes me that the email accompanying the recording of Ted Unplugged is far more revealing than the tape itself. Who, according to the email are the big leakers.

Well they are a diverse bunch according to “Elizabeth McRobert”, taking in — in addition to Baillieu – Higgins MP Kelly O’Dwyer, Liberal Party President Tony Snell, Senator Scott Ryan, former MPs Sophie Mirabella and Peter Costello, former Liberal State Director Julian Sheezel and Liberal power broker Frank Greenstein. Not a group, with much in common one would have thought, including as it does, Baillieu and Mirabella.

In fact, the only thing most observers can see that they have in common is that they are people who in recent years have either fallen out with Michael Kroger, the former Liberal Party president, or fallen out with some of his associates. Or both. Which isn’t of course to say that Kroger or his associates are responsible for sending the email. Indeed they are all denying vigorously to all who will listen that it’s nothing to do with them. In which case it would appear that someone in the Liberal Party is trying to frame them.

Of course, the whole thing might have been put together by someone in the Labor Party, as Premier Denis Naphine seemed to suggest on Friday when he said there were rumours Tomazin’s Dictaphone had gone missing at the ALP State Conference in May. In which case the exercise has worked brilliantly because despite some suspicion that Labor might have had some role in the disappearance of the dictaphone no one I have spoken to in the Liberal Party this week has any doubt that the email was sent by one of their own. Which is why the Party’s HQ in 104 Exhibition St is taking its investigation into who sent it so seriously.

And they have to. Because if this was done by a group within the party, then the Liberals have some real odd bods they would do well to root out. Of course on one level, sending around a recording to damage your enemies — or fit them up as the culprits — is simply good adolescent student politics fun. But to the rest of us it looks, well, kind of weird. Not the sort of people you want to have much to do with. And not the sort of stuff you want kicking around if you are a struggling minority government miles behind in the polls with an election in five months.

<http://newsle.com/article/0/163376457/>

TAPE GATE: BAILLIEU CHAT LEAKER NOT IN MY OFFICE SAYS MINISTER

JAMES CAMPBELL AND ELLEN WHINNETT HERALD SUN JUNE 28, 2014

FEDERAL Social Services Minister Kevin Andrews has denied any member of his office was involved in distributing a leaked conversation involving former Victorian premier Ted Baillieu.

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/victoria/tape-gate-baillieu-chat-leaker-not-in-my-office-says-minister/story-fni0fit3-1226969463816>

TAPE GATE: BAILLIEU CHAT LEAKER NOT IN MY OFFICE, SAYS MINISTER

NewsComAu ·

Opposition Leader Daniel Andrews confronted Liberal Party state director Damien Mantach on the phone over the matter. Mr Andrews confronted Liberal Party state director Damien Mantach on the phone, after the Herald Sun's report that a senior adviser to a federal minister was under suspicion. A party headquarters source said that the focus of the leak investigation had not changed as a result of the conversation between Mr Mantach and Mr Andrews.

<http://www.veooz.com/news/hHI4Z3I.html>

LIBERALS SUSPECT INTERNAL PARTY DIRTY TRICKS

June 28, 2014 Josh Gordon The Age with Richard Willingham

Premier Denis Naphine has fuelled speculation Labor figures could be working in tandem with Tea Party-style Liberal agitators to destabilise the state government. As reported on Thursday by *The Age* online, a Liberal Party investigation has turned its attention to a senior Abbott government staffer believed to have been involved in a dirty tricks campaign. It follows the theft of a recording device from *Sunday Age* reporter Farrah Tomazin containing a private conversation with Ted Baillieu during which the former premier is critical of some colleagues.

The conversation was distributed to hundreds of party members in an email purporting to be from a Liberal Party member. Liberal officials have been examining who might have accessed information from its membership database. Liberal officials turned the attention towards a staff member in a Victorian minister's office. A spokesperson for the minister said: "Any suggestion that a member of this office is involved in the alleged issue as claimed, is false and scurrilous." Up to five individuals have been identified as suspects.

Dr Napthine said there had been "rumours circulating" in State Parliament that the dictaphone was stolen or went missing at Labor's state conference, which took place in mid-May. Despite the damage inflicted on his government, he would not be seeking advice from state Liberal director Damien Mantach over who might have been responsible and would not discuss the "hypothetical" possibility a staff member in a federal minister's office was involved.

"There is no relevance for me to be involved in these investigations, they are investigations for the Liberal Party not me, they are not government issues," Dr Napthine said. Dr Napthine's reference to "rumours" have added to suspicions the recording device could have been picked up by a person at the Labor state conference in mid-May and passed on to a group of Liberals associated with the hard-right intent on undermining the state government to seize control of the party and toughen Victoria's abortion laws.

Despite a big spending state budget and a strong budget position, Dr Napthine has been struggling to gain political traction. The latest *Age*/Nielsen poll showing the Coalition trailing Labor 41 per cent to 59 per cent in two-party-preferred terms. The news comes as tensions continue to simmer between the Liberals and Nationals, with Dr Napthine's two most senior ministers at odds over the Liberals' decision to run a candidate in the newly formed seat of Euroa, which the Nationals have made a strong claim to.

<http://www.theage.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/liberals-suspect-internal-party-dirty-tricks-20140627-3az8m.html>

KENNETT: LEAKED BAILLIEU TAPE DELIBERATE

Fenella Wagener 26 June, 2014 3AW

Jeff Kennett says the leaked tape involving former premier Ted Baillieu was "no stuff up", but a "deliberate" ploy. Speaking with Neil Mitchell, Kennett said he suspected if the tape was stolen, it was stolen from the budget party that was thrown in the media rooms after the budget was brought down in May. "Someone, at that function, stole one, or maybe two, but I suspect one, or was given one tape – stolen or given – went away, listened to it, tricked up the material, hawked it around," he said. "And no one did it, because no one would accept it in the media and then went back and put together this list that they circulated it to.

"I think *The Age* owes its public the same transparency it demands of us. "It's got nothing to do with Ted, this is the credibility of the newspaper. "There's a bigger issue here, particularly as we go into an election, is a newspaper going to betray views when it won't uphold the same standards that it expects of others." Jeff Kennett says the leaked tape was "no stuff up". But *The Age* editor in chief Andrew Holden maintained there were "no dirty tricks".

He assured Neil Mitchell it was not a cover up. "What I do know is the tape recorder went missing, I don't know exactly where, I don't know exactly when," he said. "Fundamentally it's gone and somebody has got hold of it and I do regard it as stolen at that point because they clearly know who's on it and they've used it in this purpose which I find quite appalling." Holden said the tape recorder that they knew was misused belonged to Farrah Tomazin, the political editor of the *Sunday Age*.

He added another tape was also missing – that tape belonged to Josh Gordon. "I have absolutely no idea whether they're connected in any way whatsoever," he said, adding they went missing within the same week. "Again, conspiracy theories might say that Fairfax journalists have been targeted, I can't categorically say that. "Until it's proven to me that somebody has got hold of (Josh's) tape and are using pieces of his audio, it is purely coincidence as far as I know."

<http://www.3aw.com.au/blogs/3aw-news-blog/kennett-leaked-baillieu-tape-deliberate/20140626-3auj4.html>

BAILLIEU SHOULD QUIT FOR HIS WELL-BEING

3AW Mornings 25 June, 2014

Former Premier Jeff Kennett has questioned why Ted Baillieu would want to remain in parliament after a secretly recorded tape emerged of him blasting colleagues. In the recording, Mr Baillieu criticises some MPs' views on abortion and jokes about others leadership ambitions. He also accuses some within the party of firing up rogue MP Geoff Shaw to drive the abortion debate. Speaking on 3AW Mornings, Beyond Blue chairman Mr Kennett said if Mr Baillieu's unhappy at work and with his colleagues, he should leave for his own well-being.

"What this tape indicates is that Ted is unhappy still. He's not happy with the people he works with," he told Neil Mitchell. "We know 25 per cent of people don't want to go to work, they've got stress and anxiety. "Why would you want to continue to work in a workplace when you don't have to if you're unhappy about those you work with?" Mr Kennett said the fact that Mr Baillieu was recorded apparently without his knowledge was "morally dishonest". "I think The Age owe us all an explanation. Did they record it without Ted's knowledge?," he questioned.

Mark Forbes, news director and former state political editor at *The Age*, told 3AW Breakfast it appears the journalist's dictaphone was stolen. "It went missing at a function. I don't want to specify the function because it may indicate that it was taken by a person of a certain political persuasion," he said. "We don't have evidence of that. What we have evidence of is obviously someone clearly knew, and could see, the tape was from The Age. "They clearly listened to it... and obviously made a conscious decision not to return it."

Mr Forbes also said the theft of state political reporter Farrah Tomazin's recording device wasn't an isolated case. "This is actually the second dictaphone of an *Age* state political reporter to go missing in a short space of time," he said. "[The other was from] state political editor Josh Gordon. That contained a numbers of interviews, largely on the record rather than off the record. "That is also a concern to us."

<http://www.3aw.com.au/blogs/neil-mitchell-blog/baillieu-should-quit-for-his-wellbeing/20140625-3arww.html>

VICTORIA POLICE INVESTIGATE LABOR STATE CONFERENCE OVER TED BAILLIEU RECORDING

July 6, 2014 Josh Gordon State political editor for The Age. Former Victorian Premier Ted Baillieu. Photo: Arsineh Houspian. Police are examining security footage from Labor's state conference as part of an investigation of the theft of a reporter's dictaphone. The recording device contained a private conversation between The Sunday Age's state political editor Farrah Tomazin and Ted Baillieu, during which the former premier was critical of some colleagues.

The Sunday Age reported the alleged theft to police after the conversation was emailed to hundreds of Liberal Party members by a person claiming to be a party member. Victoria Police spokeswoman Leonie Johnson declined to give details, but confirmed police were investigating a theft. "Moonee Valley CIU are investigating a report of a theft of a dictaphone ... whilst at a racecourse function in Moonee Valley in May," Ms Johnson said. "As the investigation is ongoing it would be inappropriate to comment further." Premier Denis Napthine last week added to speculation after he several times referred to "rumours circulating" in State Parliament that the dictaphone had gone missing at Labor's state conference at the Moonee Valley Racing Club in mid-May.

The examining of the security footage raises the extraordinary prospect that the theft and damaging leak could have involved factional operatives from both the Liberal and Labor parties. Liberal Party officials who are also investigating the incident are confident the email was sent by party insiders with access to membership information. The issue was raised on Friday night at a tense meeting of the Liberal Party state assembly, attended by party president Tony Snell, state director Damien Mantach, federal Social Services Minister Kevin Andrews and other senior party figures.

Mr Andrews is believed to have warned those present to focus on attacking Labor and winning the November 29 state election, rather than speculating about who might have been responsible. At least some of that speculation has centred on a staff member working in Mr Andrews' office. Mr Andrews last week dismissed the speculation, reported in some media outlets, as "false and scurrilous".

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/victoria-police-investigate-labor-state-conference-over-ted-baillieu-recording-20140705-3bfb4.html>