

Wu, Karen

From: Wu, Karen
Sent: Friday, 14 February 2020 5:47 PM
To: 'Cormann, Mathias (Senator)'
Cc: Browne, Chris; s22
Subject: FYI: Coverage of Paul Bongiorno's tweet [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Sky News – Kenny Report – 5:17pm
Paul Bongiorno's tweet

CHRIS KENNY:

I need to cut that off because related to that I just want to show you a debate that has broken out on Twitter today, an attack. Let's first have a look at a tweet here from the Channel Ten journalist Paul Bongiorno. He's now with some other leftist organisation I think. But he says I notice the Finance Minister Mathias Cormann is into assertion. He asserts against evidence of the independent auditor after ten months of investigating that everyone was eligible. It's a technique invented by Goebbels, the big lie. So here we go the Nazi slur, thrown at Mathias Cormann of all people, of course of Belgian origin with that strong Germanic accent. Let's see what Mathias Cormann has responded publicly, are you for real! I speak with a German accent, so you accuse me of being a Nazi? You are absolutely despicable Paul Bongiorno. You clearly do not know what you are talking about. This is a disgrace and you should apologise. Your view on that Eric Abetz.

ERIC ABETZ:

Well I am subjected to exactly the same sort of attacks because of my German heritage. I was born there. The Nazi slurs that come my way on Twitter on a regular basis, but can I tell you I never respond to them because I think they are beneath my dignity of responding to them, so I don't. But Mathias Cormann's summation of Paul Bongiorno, spot on, it is correct. But the most important thing is, it is so highly unprofessional. And how somebody has existed for so long, in the media behaving in such an unprofessional manner is something that I think the media itself should be looking at and asking this sort of bilious bias is completely unacceptable.

CHRIS KENNY:

Thanks for joining us Senator.

ERIC ABETZ:

Always a pleasure.

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From: Wu, Karen
Sent: Friday, 14 February 2020 7:19 PM
To: 'Cormann, Mathias (Senator)'
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Subject: UPDATED: Coverage of Paul Bongiorno's tweet [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

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Sky News – Credlin – 6:38pm
<https://youtu.be/kpNOEkVQqTU>

PETA CREDLIN:

Now I want to move to the issue of a tweet that hit the Twittersphere this afternoon. I think it deserves plenty of attention. I think everyone needs to call it out. I am gobsmacked by it. I will put it up. It's a tweet from Paul Bongiorno. He's a journalist formally at Network Ten. He now does all manner of things. He thinks he is quite a big man. Certainly around the gallery. But he says. I notice the **Finance Minister Mathias Cormann** is into assertion. He asserts against evidence of the independent auditor after 10 months of investigating that everyone was eligible. It's a technique invented by Goebbels, the big lie. Well that is pretty inflammatory stuff. And **Mathias Cormann** hit back, and he hit back pretty firmly and he made it clear that, Are you for real, says **Mathias Cormann**. I speak with a German accent, so you accuse me of being a Nazi? You are absolutely despicable Paul Bongiorno. You clearly do not know what you are talking about. This is a disgrace and you should apologise. Well Bongiorno had nowhere to go. Rather than apologise immediately and pull down his post, he's come back with give me a break, the Minister is Belgian his accent is Flemish. You are a dumb ignorant, well there you can read it for yourself on the screen. I don't know if I can say that word at half past six. **Mathias Cormann** goes back to Bongiorno and says I'm not Belgian Paul Bongiorno, I am Australian. But in any event he doesn't have a Flemish accent, he has a German accent. So it was a very targeted, filthy response there from Bongiorno and I have to say, and I have got the Minister's permission to say this tonight, but his grandmother's uncle was an editor of a German speaking, the longest and only German speaking newspaper in Belgium and he copped five years in a concentration camp for speaking out about Hitler. Now why on earth does the left get away with this Rowan Dean. Time and time again. **Mathias Cormann** is a very senior Government Minister, Leader of the Government in the Senate. Why on earth should he cop this rubbish from somebody like Paul Bongiorno.

ROWAN DEAN:

Yeah, well he shouldn't cop it and he was right to call it out. And the more that the conservatives, or liberals or members of the Coalition do start speaking up, standing up and speaking out against this sort of vilification, which is as you say relentless, endless from the left. This Paul Bongiorno bloke has a lot of form in this department. Many, many decades ago he was vaguely a respected journalist. He sold that out to basically character assassinations and hard left kind of grovelling to the hard left is his stick and trade. The less publicity this bloke's given the better. The, and I have certainly been on the receiving end of stupid tweets by him, which I have just chosen to ignore. But **Mathias** is right to call it out. **Mathias** has a thick German accent, which is self evident if you listen to it. But I always say that if you, and for many people it is not an original thought, but if you start saying this is Hitler, this is Nazi, this is like Goebbels, and all the rest of it in these debates, you've kind of lost the debate before you have begun. Because the overreach is so ridiculous. And to link the sports rorts affair to Goebbels and Hitler and ultimately the evils of the Nazi regime is just absurd. But please, I say to all the Coalition Ministers and others please hit back at this nonsense because for too long you have just taken it on the chin. Stop doing it.

PETA CREDLIN:

Well I think that's also just the tone of a conservative in debates like this. We let a lot of stuff go through to the keeper. There's offensive stuff said about conservative women and what was said about women...

ROWAN DEAN:

Yes, you've copped so much Peta now.

PETA CREDLIN:

Just imagine what would happen if it was the women of the left.

ROWAN DEAN:

Exactly.

PETA CREDLIN:

Look I do applaud Mathias Cormann, but I think it is just filthy by the mere fact the bloke has a German accent when you look at his family history it is extraordinary that that stuff sees the light of day.

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