

COUNTRY ALLIANCE

MEDIA RELEASE

Joyce accused of being Scrooge

Country Alliance has accused Nationals Senator Barnaby Joyce of grandstanding over the Federal Government's industrial relations laws which were passed last week.

"Joyce, who said he saved Christmas for Australian workers, turned his back on them a few days later by voting with the Government to pass the industrial relations laws," said spokesperson, Russell Bate.

Mr Bate said Senator Joyce did much the same thing over the sale of Telstra.

"On that occasion, he opposed the sale of Telstra prior to the Federal election, promised to represent his electorate after the election - but fell into line with the rest of his party."

Mr Bate said the Senator's actions provided the best illustration yet of the problem with 'party politics', and the need for better political representation.

"Senator Joyce has now put his party's priorities ahead of those of his constituents on two matters of major importance to them."

He said he hoped his party, which gained party registration in August, will provide that alternative.

"We will be contesting the 2006 Victorian State election on the basis that our candidates have to put their constituents first."

"It will be interesting to see how people respond to the idea of voting for someone who will put the interests of their electorate ahead of party ideology," he said.

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