

Lawmaker gives heckler "OK, boomer" dressing-down at meeting

Required Annotations		Student-Created Annotations		Summary / Questions / Reflection	
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Student-created	Required (bold)
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A **heckler's** voice rang through the hearing room soon after the 25-year-old lawmaker started her speech. She spoke about the importance of stricter climate change rules.

"In the year 2050, I will be 56 years old. Yet, right now, the average age of this 52nd Parliament is 49 years old," said Chlöe Swarbrick, a member of the New Zealand Parliament. She was emphasizing that the burden of dealing with a climate crisis will fall on her generation and those who come after. Swarbrick supports efforts to slow climate change.

As she spoke, one of her fellow members of Parliament **jeered** at her age, shouting something from his seat. Like many young people before her on TikTok, a social media platform, Swarbrick replied without missing a beat. "OK, boomer," she said, and then continued her remarks.

Biting Reply To Baby Boomers

The **retort** is often used by millennials and younger people. Globally, it has become a biting reply to dismissive comments from older generations, including baby boomers. The generation of baby boomers is defined as those born from 1946 to 1964. The millennial generation was born between the early 1980s and 2000s.

"OK, boomer," a popular phrase online, has also been labeled the latest shot fired in an escalating generation war. Battles often happen in social media comment sections. Relations have **frayed** over issues like student loan debt and climate change.

There was little reaction inside the mostly empty hearing room of the New Zealand Parliament Building. Maybe it was because not many people were there. However, maybe it was because Swarbrick's casual use of Internet slang didn't hit home with those attending, who, if they were like the average lawmaker, were twice her age.

Responding To Heckler

Later, Swarbrick said some were upset with her response during the November 5 speech. However, she said she was simply responding to the heckling lawmaker in the same way and meant no **malice**.

Swarbrick wrote about her speech on Facebook. She said she saw that joking with "somebody heckling you about *your age* as you speak about the impact of climate change on *your generation* with the literal title of their generation makes some people very mad."

Swarbrick took office in 2017 and is a member of the Green Party, a political party that advocates for social justice and environmentalism. She was speaking in support of legislation that would set a country-wide target of zero carbon emissions by 2050. Carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas that contributes

to global warming. She called the bill "the starting line" for **systemic** change on the issue.

"How many world leaders for how many decades have seen and known what is coming?" Swarbrick said. They have decided that it is more politically convenient to keep it behind closed doors, she said. "My generation and the generations after me do not have that luxury."

Plan Opposed By Farmers

The plan, supported by New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, has faced opposition from farmers and some in the National Party. They say the standards for cutting methane would be too much of a burden for the country's large agricultural industry. Methane is another greenhouse gas.

"Agriculture is incredibly important to New Zealand, but it also needs to be part of the solution," said climate change minister James Shaw, when the legislation was introduced in May. Shaw, with Swarbrick, is one of the eight Green Party members in Parliament.

Swarbrick said her party is interested in making bigger changes. However, she said, the bill represents the most agreement that they have managed to reach in this Parliament and across this government as a blueprint for climate action.

As she spoke, Parliament TV's closed captioning operated, as usual, putting her speech into writing. However, the captions couldn't keep up with her **quip**, quoting her as saying, "OK, Berma."

New Zealand Herald reporter Jason Walls posted on Twitter about it. "The captions on Parliament TV clearly have not yet got the memo on millennial slang," he said.

New Zealand's official Parliament Twitter account replied with an apology and a pledge. The tweet said the captions have been updated. It added, "Clearly we need to start doing all-office meme briefings."

Questions

1. Which piece of evidence BEST explains the cause of Chlöe Swarbrick joining the movement to stop global warming at a young age?
 - a) "In the year 2050, I will be 56 years old. Yet, right now, the average age of this 52nd Parliament is 49 years old," said Chlöe Swarbrick, a member of the New Zealand Parliament.
 - b) She was emphasizing that the burden of dealing with a climate crisis will fall on her generation and those who come after.
 - c) The generation of baby boomers is defined as those born from 1946 to 1964. The millennial generation was born between the early 1980s and 2000s.
 - d) Relations have frayed over issues like student loan debt and climate change.
2. Read the following sentences from the article.
 - i. Globally, it has become a biting reply to dismissive comments from older generations, including baby boomers.
 - ii. The generation of baby boomers is defined as those born from 1946 to 1964.
 - iii. "OK, boomer," a popular phrase online, has also been labeled the latest shot fired in an escalating generation war.
 - iv. Relations have frayed over issues like student loan debt and climate change.

Which two sentences taken together provide the BEST evidence to support the idea that the younger and the older populations disagree on some social and political issues.

- a) i and ii
- b) ii and iii
- c) ii and iv
- d) iii and iv

What is the MAIN reason the author includes the section "Plan Opposed By Farmers"?

- a) to summarize Swarbrick's stance on climate change and her career in politics
- b) to explain the meaning behind the "OK boomer" phrase Swarbrick used
- c) to give different people's reactions to Swarbrick's comment and the bill
- d) to show that Parliament TV could not capture the real meaning of what Swarbrick said

2. Read the introduction of the article [paragraphs 1-3]. How does the introduction develop the MAIN idea?
 - a) It explains why a young member of Parliament has received so much attention recently,
 - b) It shows the meaning of the phrase "OK, boomer," which was used by Chloe Swarbrick while giving a speech.
 - c) It highlights the response of other political leaders to Chloe Swarbrick's "OK, boomer" comment.
 - d) It describes the background of the Green Party and its legislative goals.

