put somebody on the spot

to deliberately ask someone a question that is difficult or embarrassing to answer

***Gay marriage debate - Tony Jones talks to Jim Wallace and Bob Brown*:  Let me ask you about this question of Jon Stanhope and what he is doing in the ACT. You accuse him of having a social engineering agenda. Do you think he is trying to put the Rudd Government on the spot here to have to make a serious division like John Howard did or not make the same decision that John Howard did to veto his legislation?**