



Speech by

BILL FELDMAN

MEMBER FOR CABOOLTURE

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Mr FELDMAN (Caboolture—ONP) (Leader of the One Nation Party) (4.41 p.m.): I am grateful for the opportunity to rise in the House to speak about the Budget. The Beattie Labor Budget is well-named as the yawn Budget—the ho-hum Budget—partly because of two Government backbenchers who fell asleep during the Minister's reading of the Budget Speech. This proved a better vote of no confidence than anyone on this side of the House could have ever mounted. The Budget also appears to be a part plagiarisation of the previous coalition Budget.

It is pleasing to see that some of the funds that were earmarked for Caboolture are still there. The funding is still there to complete a 24-bed mental health unit at the Caboolture Hospital. The funding of \$24.8m for the co-located private hospital is still there. Thank you very much. The funding for the Tullawong State School of \$1.2m is still there, thank you. The upgrade of the Mayne-Caboolture railway line is also welcome, as is the replacement of the Redcliffe watch-house, which the police and residents of Redcliffe have been waiting for for such a long time. It is great to see.

My concern, though, is that this Budget is not going to be the great job creator that it professes to be. I cannot see how it is going to keep our unemployed youth off the streets. This is probably the best Liberal Budget that Labor could have managed. This is a Budget that has been put together by the same bureaucrats who put together the previous Budget. We can read their stamp all over it. All the Beattie Labor minority Government has done is snip the figures around the edges and, consequently, the results are primarily the same.

This is a Budget put together by the bureaucratic mandarins intent on building bureaucratic castles at public expense. This is a Budget where tinkering around the edges is done under the cover of applying Labor election promises. What boggles the imagination is what the Beattie Labor minority Government hoped to get away with by its deception. The Government has been caught out by both the media and the coalition, the latter having put together the original set of figures.

There is nothing really revolutionary about this Budget. It is a ho-hum Budget, a yawn Budget, a Budget that is really going not too many places. It is a Budget built on tax and the wishful hopes of Labor that the Queensland economy will generate its own momentum and that, somehow, its Capital Works Program will work the miracles that the Government needs.

To the extent that this Budget is a big spending Budget, it is also a big taxing Budget and therein lies the major problem. Taxation, as promoted by both Liberal and Labor, has reached such an impasse that it is actually depressing job creation and working against jobs. Added to this tax problem is the Federal Government policy of exporting our industries overseas and cancelling the jobs they create. Put these failures of policy together with the normal job shedding caused by the growth in technology, and this Beattie Labor minority Government is facing a major problem in delivering on its policy of jobs, jobs and more jobs. Unless there is some dramatic and fundamental economic reform in Canberra, Premier Beattie's pledge of jobs, jobs, jobs is about as plausible as the achievement of Bob Hawke's pledge that no young Australian would live in poverty.

The tax element of the State Budget is already alarmingly high and will have a massive undermining effect. This should be obvious to members opposite. Before Premier Beattie again drafts up a Budget for his Government, it would be wise for him to take a serious look at the extent of taxes

taken back by the Federal Government. Indeed, the Beattie Government should note the amount of Federal tax money taken back from the State by the Liberal/Labor club in Canberra—the amount of fringe benefits tax, superannuation tax, PAYE tax, and all the other taxes that a State Government must pay. The amount of tax paid by State and local governments is depressingly high, especially now, and is a measure of the inefficiency, the double taxation and the tax mess that the Liberal/Labor club has inflicted upon all Australians.

It is also a measure of the failures inherent in this Beattie minority Labor Government Budget. Seen in this light, the Budget could be only tinkered with around the edges by Labor, ostensibly to honour its election promises which, it must be remembered, were rejected by more than 60% of the present voters of Queensland. Under the Beattie minority Labor Government the people of Queensland are receiving what they voted against because of these fundamental problems built into the Budget.

The Beattie minority Government has only tinkered around the edges with this Budget. No wonder the Beattie minority Government does not want community based referenda—the people just might get the change they want. The extent to which the Federal Government is ripping off the State Government and local government is the same as that to which our State's sovereignty has been eroded by the Liberal/Labor club in Canberra. This is an erosion that has been opposed and attacked by the Liberal/Labor club in this House: yes, attacked with a feather; opposed with a ritual of defeatism; opposed with only feathers and froth.

This should be a major issue in the current Federal election, but there is only silence from the Liberal/Labor club. They are presently shadow boxing about how they will hammer Australian voters with more tax slugs. This week Prime Minister Howard has exposed Labor's plan to increase taxes after the Federal election. But, unfortunately, Mr Howard does not come to this election with clean hands either. His GST is just another tax proposed during pressing economic times and has the real potential to overturn his best intentions by keeping old taxes as well as imposing new taxes upon all Australians.

The new tax schemes dreamed up by Labor's Evatt Foundation are proof that Labor is not fair dinkum. When taxes rise, the result will impact on what we do in this Parliament. How effective will our Budget planning be? If the Australian public allows, or votes for, increased taxes now or in the future and allows the old parties to get away with raising taxes yet again, future Budget planning will be more difficult than it is today. Creating jobs will be more difficult. The entire tax mess that the old parties got us into must be addressed.

Even the Honourable the Premier has raised the importance of regressive taxes on unemployment, but he did so to lambaste the Opposition and score political points, not to solve the problem of overtaxation. This Budget is built upon taxes taken from Australians. The Labor Party in all States, when in Government, is expert at throwing other people's money at other people's problems but takes all the credit to itself.

This is a Budget that throws money at people. If any credit is forthcoming from this exercise, the credit is due to those who worked long hours to earn the money which was taken from them for redistribution to others so that Labor could take the credit. There is no pledge in this Budget to support innovative change to the tax structure so as to gain relief for Queensland Budgets of the future. There is no pledge to electors. With these points in mind——

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! There is too much audible conversation in the Chamber. There is also crossfire. The member deserves to be heard.

Mr FELDMAN: Thank you for your protection, Mr Deputy Speaker.

With these points in mind, where then is the Premier's challenge to members of this House to get out into the community to fight for a fair tax system by opposing the GST of the coalition—to fight the GST to help out tourism? His challenge is worthless and without substance. There is no challenge, because the Premier and his Budget have already fled from the field of a fair tax system.

The Budget confirms the importance of trade in introducing funds for jobs, jobs, jobs. With that in mind, one would have to wonder why the Labor Party continues its efforts to convince our Asian neighbours and trading partners that there is a racism problem in Queensland. Let us settle once and for all Labor's involvement in the hate campaign to smear One Nation in Asia. This has boomeranged back to Labor and caused disinformation and misinformation to be spread in Asia to advance Labor's domestic hate campaign and to marginalise One Nation for crude political advantage in Australia. They have done this for so long and so often that the leopard just cannot change its spots.

If one believes Labor and Labor's mates within some tourism factions, including some academic and multicultural factions, this distorted and misconceived concept canvassed in Asia is causing a loss of business in Australia because of an Asian backlash. This conveniently ignores the disaster that has crippled the tiger economies. The truth of the matter is quite different. The fundamental cause of the alleged problem is directly tied to Labor and its organised program to vilify One Nation. This program is

directed at preventing issues being properly addressed, because Labor cannot and will not address issues such as immigration and multiculturalism. This includes the massive abuse and waste involved in its long-term policies of denigration. Labor has resorted to name-calling and smears. Labor itself is primarily responsible for any problems in Asia, because it is an agent of its own misfortune. Labor's organised vilification program is ably exposed by the best-selling author of *Among the Barbarians*, Mr Paul Sheehan, who accuses Labor of squandering billions of taxpayers' dollars to build up a sinister anti-Australian apparatus in the multicultural, Aboriginal and associated industries. He exposes Labor as viewing these areas as Labor Party preserves and thus recipients of huge Federal largess.

Only recently, this industry spent most of its time swearing at Pauline Hanson on ABC radio. It got so bad that selective monitoring revealed that some 15 vilifying news blurbs were aired in just three hours—and some 25 in four hours of air time. And all they did was badmouth Hanson and One Nation. Never, ever did they get down to the policies. All the foreign language critics said exactly what Labor told them to say. But the Prime Minister says that the ABC is biased. He thinks he is hard done by. One Nation supporters, after monitoring the ABC radio programs, would not be upset by his revelations about the ABC, but they would certainly consider that he got off reasonably fairly when it comes to being vilified by a biased media.

The conclusions reached by Mr Sheehan have been confirmed by the local media in recent days—by no less than a former Minister of the Hawke Labor Government, who identified millions of dollars spent on Labor. He questioned if such money was well spent. He revealed that the beneficiaries of public funding were spending their time badmouthing Australia and Australians as racists overseas and channelling this untruthful denigration of Australia into the foreign language media. And this is where the Premier will find his problems. This is where the Premier must direct his attention. The Premier was prepared to spend public money on an Asian misadventure, but this adventure will be a total waste of money unless he roots out the problem which lies deep in Labor and its well-funded dirty tricks division of deliberate hate, fear and smear.

The economic problems hurting Asia will eventually hurt Australia. But One Nation members in this House have had a gutful of Labor blaming everything and anything on Pauline Hanson. We have heard the blame on the GST, we have heard the blame on One Nation, on Pauline Hanson and on the economic problems in Asia itself. One would think that perhaps no industry could exist in Australia after hearing such bleatings.

The Asian economies are in big trouble, and their problems will not go away quickly. One Nation volunteered to join the Premier's delegation to Asia, but the Premier had left and rejected that out of hand. Instead, he used a public-funded push to continue the Labor campaign of denigration against One Nation. People in Asia are not getting the message. They are not getting the facts. They are not getting what they are asking for, which is the truth. They are getting Labor misinformation. Asia is suffering because of international economic troubles. Australia could fall into the same hole if our Federal Government does not put its house into better order. This is a fact of life: One Nation will join any—I repeat: One Nation will join any reasonable and honest push to assist the Queensland economy as long as that push is bipartisan and not just another Labor Party hate trip.

This Budget is not a particularly good Budget, but it is probably the best that the Beattie minority Labor Government can do. One Nation has pointed out some of the problems. The Premier knows now where those problems are, and I ask him now if he could come clean and really clean up those problems where they exist within the Labor ranks and within the media. I say to the Premier: give us something better; give us something to deliver. If he is fair dinkum about delivering a good Budget, we would be pleased to help him in any way with respect to the Asian problems that he is facing. And we will join and assist in any way possible to correct the misinformation that has led to the overseas problems—or the perceived problems.

I ask members to listen and to ensure that the Premier gets the message that One Nation will assist, One Nation will help, as long as the misinformation, the denigration and the vilification finish, because that is the only way that it can help. That is the only way that things will change. One Nation is prepared to help. As has been said before, I say to members here: vilify, degrade, detest One Nation at your own peril. Listen to the 438,000 people who voted this way. Listen to them. Listen to those people who are not racist in any way, shape or form. Let them assist you in your endeavours to create employment opportunities in this country, to return a sense of normality and a sense of respect to this great State of Queensland and to Australia. I again say: listen. Listen to what One Nation has said today to assist in raising the prospect of employment in this great State. Listen.
