



Speech by

Mr G. HEALY

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA NORTH

Hansard 21 October 1998

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Toowoomba Clydesdales Rugby League Team

Mr HEALY (Toowoomba North—NPA) (9.52 a.m.), by leave: Yesterday in this House the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing made some absolutely outrageous and totally untrue statements alleging that I have been involved in some sort of negotiations with the Victorian TABCorp in relation to sponsorship of the Toowoomba Clydesdales Rugby League team. He insinuated that it was not right for the shadow Minister for Racing to be involved in such negotiations whilst chairman of the Clydesdales board. Let me put the record straight.

My capacity as Clydesdales board chairman effectively ended, as did that of my board, on 17 August when the Toowoomba Rugby League voted not to continue as the auspicing body for the team. My board was a subcommittee of the Toowoomba Rugby League. Consequently, the Queensland Rugby League then called for expressions of interest from any organisation to administer the Clydesdales from next year. Several expressions of interest were received. One expression came from the south-west division of the QRL. That expression of interest was successful and on 15 October a new chairman and a new board were appointed by the division. I repeat: my involvement as Clydesdales board chairman ceased on 17 August. Therefore, I have not been in any position to enter into any negotiations with any potential sponsor for the Clydesdales, and I have not.

For his information I can tell the Minister that I am also advised that no deal has been signed with TABCorp by the Clydesdales board and that the article that appeared in the Toowoomba Chronicle on 14 October was nothing more than pure speculation. Had the Minister done his homework he would have received any of this information. He could have done that by simply making a few phone calls. He could have phoned me and I would have told him. I am just as concerned as the Minister is about the aggressive methodology of TABCorp in securing market share in Queensland, hence the urgency for the privatisation of the Queensland TAB so that it can be out there competing with TABCorp and anyone else for a share of the gambling and wagering dollar.

The accusations that the Minister made yesterday in this place about me were serious and yet completely untrue. Therefore, I request that Mr Speaker consider that the matter be brought to the attention of the Members' Ethics and Parliamentary Privileges Committee.
