



Speech by

**HARRY BLACK**

**MEMBER FOR WHITSUNDAY**

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Hansard 25 August 1998

**MEMBERS FOR KEDRON, BUNDAMBA, IPSWICH, CHATSWORTH AND MURRUMBA**

**Mr BLACK** (Whitsunday—ONP) (6.11 p.m.): I have pleasure in seconding this motion to restrict the five ALP members representing the electorates of Bundamba, Ipswich, Chatsworth, Kedron and Murrumba from voting for their own survival. This debate leads me to the point of disgust and bewilderment. I am horrified to think that, with the audacity of these five members imposed upon us, they would even consider compromising the applied status of the other 84 members of this Chamber by voting on this motion.

If we compare the voting status of other areas of society to the Standing Orders in this place, then we have a real problem. The problem is that, if a person faces a court to defend himself from allegations, that person is not entitled to sit in judgment to determine whether the same person is guilty or not guilty of an offence. In this place under the Beattie Government rules, everybody is assured of a vote.

In most cases, especially with matters personally involving one or more Cabinet Ministers during a submission before Cabinet, it is expected of the personally affected Ministers to uphold the traditions of the Westminster system by declaring their conflicts of interest and abstaining from voting. In private enterprise and within public companies, it is an obligation of all directors by law to declare their conflict of interest and to abstain from voting on an issue personally affecting them. But not in this place, according to the Beattie Government! The upholding of integrity and trust does not count. It is a very similar policy to the agenda held by most unions throughout the State.

Basically, the ALP and union patterns of deception have four characteristics that prevent people within organisations from voicing their concerns. Today, the member for Caboolture has stated that One Nation is interested only in maintaining the integrity of the Legislative Assembly and Queenslanders' demand for honesty and trust in Governments. The four characteristics of deception are the form of attack that the Beattie Government will adopt to beat this motion. The first is denial, including misrepresentation of the facts; secondly, by delay in answering pointed questions to unearth the deceit; thirdly, the brunt of the attack is to divide and conquer followed with a summary of discrediting a person for exercising the right to ask proper questions about the conduct of the fatal five members.

The critical success factors include those in responsible positions in Government having knowledge of the deception, going along with it and ignoring it. It is the Government's claim for nine years that the Heiner inquiry was not properly constituted and that there was no legal protection for Mr Heiner or the witnesses who were giving evidence. On 30 July 1998, the Premier told us that the National Party Government got it wrong. He said—

"That is a fact. There is no argument about it. None of the people briefing the One Nation members will argue about that. That is fact one."

I have to say to Mr Premier that he has it wrong. That is a fact. There is no argument about it. Just to prove it, which one must do or be accused of deceptive conduct, I now seek leave to table a signed statement by Mrs Beryce Nelson, a former Minister for Family Services, who established the Heiner inquiry in October 1989 and set out the terms of reference for that inquiry. Mrs Nelson has signed this statement before a former Police Commissioner of Queensland, Mr Noel Newnham. It is dated 15 May 1998. This statement reveals the real truth about why the Heiner inquiry was established.

Before I continue, I must ask whether the Premier is going to attack the integrity of these two well-respected citizens who have done a lot and continue to do a lot for the communities within Queensland. Mrs Nelson says that she became aware of very serious problems at the John Oxley Youth Centre which, incidentally, is the same place that Daniel Alderton was housed under State Government care. The former Minister for Family Services says that she is very concerned in a number of ways about the manner in which these problems surfaced. They included information from staff members and constituents and reports in the press, including reports alleging regular cases of children absconding from the centre and committing illegal acts whilst away from the centre. However, over and above that were numerous disciplinary reports indicating that some staff were not doing a reasonable job and that they were not being held accountable for their work. Mrs Nelson states that it was the last straw for her when she became aware of a case where one staff member at John Oxley Youth Centre——

Leave granted.

Time expired.

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