



Speech by

HARRY BLACK

MEMBER FOR WHITSUNDAY

Hansard 21 October 1998

UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr BLACK (Whitsunday—ONP) (6.48 p.m.): I support the motion that this House notes the deteriorating jobs situation in Queensland and the failure of this Government to make any progress towards its stated 5% unemployment target. It really boggles the imagination how this Beattie Labor Government is going to get unemployment down during depressed times when previous Governments with boom conditions overseas could not dent this deplorable unemployment scourge. The Premier is treating Queenslanders like fools when he grandstands about jobs, jobs and more jobs. Asia is in turmoil and he no longer has Hanson to blame for this. Japan is falling on hard times, and they are not going to help us get out of the trouble that successive Federal and State Governments have got us into.

This Government is trapped between the failing globalist policies of successive Federal and State Governments and the economic rationalist disasters visited upon Asia. Successive Federal and State Governments have placed all of Australia's goodies into the Asian community and it is being paid back in economic turmoil, unstable markets and falling exports.

The Premier continues to globe trot about Asia, spouting motherhood and God declarations like an oracle, but none of his grand pronouncements appear to be bearing fruit. But wait! I do the Premier wrong. One of the Asian enterprises is bearing fruit in a big way, that is, the illegal drug trade being organised out of Hong Kong. One must ask what the Premier is doing about this. Did he even raise the issue when in China recently? If he did not, the Premier simply is not fair dinkum on this or anything else—and that includes jobs, jobs, jobs.

Jobs are still exported by Government design. What a sham! Australian industry is still being sold out to foreign multinationals. Australians are still being ripped off by excessive taxes to allow the foreign multinationals to live literally tax free, and Australians are still being entertained by the razzle-dazzle of the shadow-boxing between Liberal and Labor in Canberra and here, without any solutions being produced.

How the Beattie Labor Government can create jobs, jobs, jobs in such an environment only Premier Beattie would know, because he must be a magician to pull jobs out of an empty economic barrel that is already void of any job-creating talent. He has about as much chance of achieving his target on jobs as an ice cube has of surviving in a blast furnace in hell.

My suggestion to the Premier is this: dump the failed policies of economic rationalism, stop selling off the national estate, put Queenslanders instead of Asia first, stop getting into ruinous debt and set up a people's bank to deliver low-cost finance to allow workers to own their own homes, small businessmen to own their own businesses and farmers to own their own farms. The Premier scoffs at this, no doubt, but this is the policy of a previous Labor Government—a Government in which men like King O'Malley were really dinkum about jobs and which led the way to economic recovery and prosperity; two vital elements that Labor has long forgotten. I endorse this motion, with the observation that the only way Premier Beattie will obtain his much lampooned 5% unemployment target is if the level is now 4%.
