



Speech by

JEFF KNUTH

MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN

Hansard 25 August 1998

MEMBERS FOR KEDRON, BUNDAMBA, IPSWICH, CHATSWORTH AND MURRUMBA

Mr KNUTH (Burdekin—ONP) (6.41 p.m.): The Constitution Act of 1867 deals with the powers and privileges of Parliament, in particular section 41.

Mr Lucas: We have not been legal since we went off the gold standard, you know.

Mr KNUTH: That is true.

The Premier tabled some of the Cabinet documents on 30 July 1998. The Premier did not table all of the documents related to the Heiner issue, despite telling the House on the same night at 2.41 a.m.—

"I go one step further and I table all these relevant Cabinet documents, because when they are examined the people of Queensland can see the precise advice on which Cabinet acted."

Let me ask the Premier again: what happened to the attendance register of those three Cabinet meetings on 12 February, 19 February and 5 March 1990? It is fair and truthful to say that the member for Brisbane Central misled the House on 30 July 1998. Did he have them all? The Premier did not table all of those documents. If the Premier had been listening he would have observed the content of the amended motion moved by the member for Caboolture that night. He said—

"... authorising the release of all relevant Cabinet papers and documents pertaining to such destruction (the privilege documents); and tabling those documents immediately with the Speaker of Parliament."

I seek leave to table a secret, highly protected CJC report dated 11 November 1996, the same day as that known as Remembrance Day in Queensland and across Australia.

Leave granted.

Mr KNUTH: This report was prepared under direction from the Director of the Official Misconduct Division of the CJC, Mr Mark Le Grand, by Mr Michael Barnes, the Chief Officer of the Complaints Section at the CJC. The subject matter of this report refers to the summing up by the CJC of the report by Messrs Morris and Howard into allegations by Mr Kevin Lindeberg. The report was requested following a letter dated 6 November 1996 from the Director-General of the Department of Family Services, who notes that the Morris and Howard report found official misconduct against departmental officers. The CJC in its own words says—

"The report also contains an analysis of information previously considered by the Commission but comes to different conclusions to those of the Commission."

We all know from the statements made in this House that the CJC cannot be relied upon to be impartial. During the Premier's address to Parliament on 30 July 1998, he referred to the recent Senate committee of inquiry conclusions, and then had the audacity to plausibly say—

"That is clearly not a party political person from our side of the fence. It is clear that an independent Senate chairman reached that conclusion."

One Nation will not tolerate lies in this Chamber.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Those words are unparliamentary and I ask the honourable member to withdraw them.

Mr KNUTH: I withdraw those words. The so-called independent Senate chairman that the Premier was talking about is none other than Senator Robert Ray. Senator Ray is a renowned hatchet and numbers man for the ALP. Now let us not forget what the Premier has said, and I will put it in the truthful context of what he should have said—

"Clearly it is a person from our political side of the fence, and he cannot be judged as an Independent, as he has represented the ALP for many terms in the Senate, and he would be biased in his conclusions as the Privileges Committee did not view the evidence submitted, except for the chairperson."

The secret CJC report then says—

"If the conclusions of Messrs Morris and Howard are correct"—

Time expired.
