



Speech by

Mr J. HEGARTY

MEMBER FOR REDLANDS

Hansard 19 November 1998

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Kimberley College

Mr HEGARTY (Redlands—NPA) (10.10 a.m.), by leave: Yesterday, in response to a question from the member for Merrimac, the Education Minister selectively quoted from correspondence from the previous Education Minister to me regarding Kimberley College. The inference from the Minister's statement was that the member for Merrimac, when Minister, was personally intervening in the due process which all applicants requesting private school status underwent. If the Minister had read the letter in full, it would have been clear to him that Mr Quinn was endeavouring to expedite the assessment of that school's application, not overrule the due process that its application had to undergo.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Is this a personal explanation or are you defending Mr Quinn?

Mr HEGARTY: I am just getting to it.

Furthermore, the Minister referred to a local newspaper article in which I made a comment on the Labor Party's backing for an open-ended secondary trial of a multi-age learning process. The then shadow Education Minister, Steve Bredhauer, said that an ALP Government would invite surrounding State high schools to take on a multi-age program. He further said that the pilot could be ready for the start of the 1999 school year. He then went on to say that the trial would coincide with the application by the Kimberley College steering committee to open a private high school.

Interestingly, the newspaper article goes on to discuss how Education Queensland had already authorised the establishment of a trial multi-age Year 7/8 class at nearby Springwood State High School, and the Kimberley Park school community was encouraged to take up that offer. It was in relation to this issue that I said that the Labor Party was offering nothing more than what was on offer at that time and not what the Minister implied—that the member for Merrimac was prepared to override due process, as the current Education Minister now seems prepared to do.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! This does not appear to be a personal explanation.

Mr HEGARTY: Like any member of this House, my intention was to support the Kimberley Park school community to achieve its education aims whilst working within the guidelines established by Education Queensland. I hope that this misrepresentation by the Minister is just another oversight as he struggles to come to grips with his portfolio and that it is not a blatant attempt to mislead the House.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! That is not a personal explanation.
