



Speech by

**JULIE ATTWOOD**

**MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY**

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Hansard 27 August 1998

**MR R. ATTWOOD**

**Mrs ATTWOOD** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (2.31 a.m.): Today the member for Southport made certain allegations against my husband. I would like to correct some errors of fact that he made in his statement. The first point that the member for Southport got wrong concerns my husband's employer. Ron does not work for the Minister for Emergency Services. He is not on the Minister's staff. He is actually employed by the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority, receives his fortnightly pay cheque from the authority and accrues his leave and other entitlements in the same way as any other authority employee. As to the question of whether he took leave or not: yes, he did take leave. He was assisting me to remove one of the member's colleagues from his position in this House.

With respect to the member for Southport's allegation that my husband's conduct was investigated—yes, he was subjected to an investigation by the Criminal Justice Commission following an allegation made in April this year. The CJC investigation failed to find any substance to the allegation and referred the matter back to those who made it. The CJC wanted no more to do with it and proposed no further action in April—well before the election. Then an internal departmental investigation revealed that any Fire Service employee in Forbes House could have obtained a copy of documents through the computer system. The member for Southport should note that—any Fire Service employee in Forbes House. The internal investigation failed to link Ron to any documents. He had no computer. The plug was pulled on the investigation.

It is a serious matter when employees are persecuted for their beliefs and because they remain friends with members of this side of the House and with former employees of the department. That is what I believe happened to my husband, and attempting to discredit Ron and other public servants will only do harm to the reputation of the member for Southport.

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