



Speech by

Mr S. SANTORO

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

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PRIVATISATION OF TAB

Mr SANTORO (Clayfield—LP) (6.45 p.m.): It is a real pleasure to be able to participate in this debate tonight. The honourable member for Moggill and others in this place have shown conclusively that members opposite are captives of forces that are well and truly outside this place. The challenge before this Parliament tonight is very clear. Queensland's racing industry is under threat. It is under threat from the already privatised TAB in New South Wales and Victoria. But all is not gloom. In fact, all is very positive. There is an answer, and everyone knows this, including all honourable members opposite—including the Premier and his Racing Minister. The answer lies in the privatisation of the TAB, and the racing industry is unanimous in its call for this.

Other members on this side of the House have already outlined just how important the racing industry is to Queensland, both in financial and recreational terms. This is not something that we can afford to jeopardise. The Premier and his Racing Minister have been outspoken in their support of TAB privatisation. Only a few days ago, they were going around the State saying that they supported privatisation. But it seems very odd that they have now decided to can the whole proposal. It is not only odd but, as other members on this side of the House have said, it is very telling. It is a very telling sign that this Premier and the Minister are unable to control the union heavyweights that lurk up and down the corridors of 100 George Street. The real facts are that Janice Mayes, a senior executive of the ASU—

Mr Cooper: He hates her.

Mr SANTORO: She absolutely hates the Minister, and the Minister hates her because she rolled the Premier and the Minister for Racing. I heard the honourable member for Mansfield quoting all sorts of metaphors relating to the

racing industry. All that I can say is that, in racing terms, the Honourable the Premier, the Honourable the Minister and all members opposite have been well and truly gelded by Ludwig, the Left and all the union heavyweights.

It is a very telling sign of how much weight and credibility the Premier has with his own rank-and-file and ALP members. He has absolutely none. The honourable member for Toowoomba North, the shadow Minister, travelled throughout the State of Queensland and along the coast encouraging honourable members opposite to support their Premier and to support the Minister. But each and every one of them said absolutely nothing in support of the Premier or the Racing Minister. That shows the lack of support that the Premier has from his backbench.

The amended motion states—

"This House notes the commitment given by the Premier this morning that he and the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing will continue to have discussions with the racing industry ..."

"Discussions"—after the enormous amount of good work that the honourable member for Crows Nest did as Minister. He had the industry at the table.

Mr Healy interjected.

Mr SANTORO: Yes, the Minister himself said that the issue was dead. But all of a sudden there are more discussions.

Another point is proven by this amendment: that Mr Beattie, the Premier and his Government talk a lot but they do very little. They are all talk and absolutely no action, particularly when the union movement and the union heavies stamp their feet and say, "You are not going to do what is ideologically against our interests."

Mr Borbidge: The Labor Party has the

industry offside from one end of Queensland to the other.

Mr SANTORO: I accept that. That is another good horse analogy from the member for Surfers Paradise. From one end of one horse to another, from one end of Queensland to another, the industry is offside.

Queensland is beginning to awake to the fact that this is a do-little Government. It is all talk and absolutely no action. People are realising that it is not a Government that is in control of its own destiny, let alone the destiny of Queensland. The tragedy is that it is destroying a racing industry that provides so much wealth, employment and recreational pleasure and activity for Queenslanders. That is all because this Government does not have the guts to come into this House and tell its union mates, "We are in charge of policy and in charge of Queensland, not you." Members opposite know that, if they went onto the floor of the convention with a policy to privatise the TAB, they would be thrashed. What an additional embarrassment that would be! However, they are prepared to sacrifice all the good in the racing industry to satisfy the ideological bent of their union mates who themselves are bent in relation to the racing industry. For that the Premier will pay a very high price.

Time expired.
