



Speech by

Mr ALLAN GRICE, OAM

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

Hansard 21 July 1999

CHILD ABUSE; FORDE INQUIRY RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr GRICE (Broadwater—NPA) (6.37 p.m.): I, too, would like to support the comments made tonight supporting the inquiry carried out by Mrs Forde. I think it was very well done considering the terms of reference, the short time available and the budget that was provided. Considering those restrictions, she did an extremely good job.

The sadness of it all is that it was only necessary because of that famous old bugbear of the Labor Party that will continue to haunt them: the destruction of the Heiner documents. If that had come out and been assessed properly at that time, there would have been no cause for this debate, because those were the very instances that initiated that inquiry all that time ago. It was Ms Warner in Opposition who on Sunday, 1 October 1989 spoke about the very same incidents of abuse that Commissioner Forde examined nine years after the lot opposite shredded the evidence to cover it up.

There is one thing that people have to say about the Labor Party if they want some illegal activity covered up. One thing that I admire about the Labor Party is the way they stand together shoulder to shoulder to cover it up. If people want some shredding—illegal activity—to cover it up, call the Labor Party. If they want some child abuse covered up, they should call the Labor Party. If they want some sexual abuse, committed all those years ago that was investigated and looked at in the Heiner inquiry covered up, they should call the Labor Party; it is expert at it. Day after day that is becoming more apparent.

On 5 July, former Police Commissioner Newnham said quite clearly on ABC Radio that a substantial amount of evidence had been uncovered to show that the assertions were accurate. He said—

"We had the Connolly/Ryan inquiry, which was quashed. Some evidence was produced before that to show that the CJC had not properly investigated those allegations and the CJC went so far as to say ... that had they conducted a full and proper investigation ... they might not have reached the premature conclusion that they did."

I now refer to the motion I moved, which was narrowly defeated by the sycophantic Premier's pet from Nicklin. Members of the other side may jump up and down about it, but we all saw former Minister Warner on the Nine Network Sunday program, lying through her teeth. As I said in Opposition, she spoke about the very same incidents of abuse that were reported to the Heiner inquiry and ultimately illegally destroyed.

There are three things I would like those opposite to understand. We all have to pay taxes, we will all eventually die and all will eventually come out about the Heiner documents and that illegal destruction. It has been covered up over and over. Even the Courier-Mail is now stating the obvious. On 14 July 1999, in a feature article written by Mr Michael Ware, it was stated that the shredding and the cover-up have never—I repeat, never—been thoroughly investigated. In other words, the Courier-Mail has called the Premier a distorter of the truth.

Members opposite should read the documents I tabled on 10 June. Premier Beattie stated that EARC investigated the shredding, but a former EARC commissioner, Mr Brian Hunter, has put it in writing that EARC never investigated the shredding. The Premier said that the police investigated it. There is now evidence coming from Assistant Commissioner Graham Williams, the head of the State

Crime Operations Command, that the police never investigated the shredding. The evidence is stark and it comes out more and more all the time.

The 10 inquiries claimed by the Premier to have been held never took place. The motion I moved in this place was lost, as I said, only by the presence of the snivelling member for Nicklin, who saved the Labor Party and those Ministers then, as he did again today. I promise the Government that the issue of the Heiner inquiry will never go away. It will haunt those opposite. The day will come when the truth will be uncovered and those five Ministers will be in enough trouble to bring this Government down.
