



Speech by

Mr R. QUINN

MEMBER FOR MERRIMAC

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CENSURE OF MINISTER FOR MINES AND ENERGY

Mr QUINN (Merrimac—LP) (Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party) (6.45 p.m.): The member for Ipswich talks about hypocrisy. There can be no greater hypocrite than a person who stands in this Chamber and gives us lectures about the salary packages of CEOs when he has approved the salary package of the highest paid CEO in this State. The CEO of the QIC is on a salary package of some \$577,000, which was all approved by that man there.

Mr HAMILL: I rise to a point of order. The salary package to the former coalition appointed Under Treasurer used the same methodology that was applied in the QIC under the former coalition Government.

Mr QUINN: There is no point of order, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I will make that decision. There is no point of order.

Mr QUINN: That is not what the Premier said this morning when he presented his first draft of the salary packages of the CEO, and undoubtedly we will get the third draft tomorrow morning and subsequent ones will dribble out after that. The first draft contains up to five major amendments. There is no greater hypocrisy than a Treasurer standing in this place and giving us lectures on the salary packages of CEOs, when he approved the salary package of the highest paid CEO in this State, which is a package worth \$577,000.

What we have seen today in Parliament has been a complete farce. This morning the Premier walked in here and tabled a list of all the salary packages of the CEOs, only to return tonight, draw it back and put another list on the table saying, "Oops, there has been a small typographical error. I missed a couple here. I missed the highest paid one by about \$200,000 and some other ones by the by. I will table them in the Chamber to keep the record accurate." As I said, we have no trust in this document. We have no doubt that other mistakes will be found, because the Premier has treated the Parliament with contempt.

The Premier did not have to whip this list up in a couple of hours. This list has been sitting on the Premier's desk for the best part of a couple of days. When this issue broke loose, the Premier told the media that he had called for the list of salary packages of all CEOs. He said, "I am not satisfied with this. Please come and show me what they are." The list that was tabled in Parliament this morning is a considered list. It was not whipped up within a couple of hours. We have been treated to high farce. We have been treated with contempt. The Parliament has been debased by a Premier who cannot put the truth on the table. He was challenged to do so and he tabled one version, only to come back later on with another version. Undoubtedly we will see a third version down the track.

What is their defence? Their defence is that the salary increases occurred under the previous coalition Government. When one goes through the document, there have been salary increases for CEOs. However, if the Government was not satisfied and thought that the salary packages were too high, the question has to be asked: why, over the past 12 months, has this Government increased the salary packages within every Government owned corporation in Queensland?

Mr Bredhauer: That's not true.

Mr QUINN: We know it is true. If we go through the document, we see that almost everyone has received an increase. As I said, this has been a day of high farce. Here we have the Premier putting on

the table a document which has no basis in fact. He crawls in here later on, amends it and expects us to take it at face value.

Mr Borbidge: It's the first novel that's had a sequel written within five hours.

Mr QUINN: The Leader of the Opposition is right.

The Minister for Mines and Energy deserves the condemnation of this House. Over the past two years he has had a record of unmitigated disasters.

Time expired.
