Hansard 4 March 1999

HEINER DOCUMENTS

Mr BEANLAND (Indooroopilly—LP) (10.27 a.m.): The issue of the Heiner documents is one that has now plagued the Labor Party for nine very long years. It is an issue borne out of contempt and one which will continue to smell until the Beattie Labor Government is prepared to establish a full independent inquiry that gets to the bottom of this whole sorry saga.

In Government, the coalition commissioned barristers Morris, QC, and Howard to investigate whether it was in the public interest to conduct a public inquiry into the Heiner affair. Those barristers, in expressing the need for such an inquiry, also stated that the then Opposition Leader, Mr Beattie, had stymied their investigations by failing to give them access to relevant Goss Government Cabinet documents. In refusing access, Mr Beattie joined a long line of Labor Party members who have been seeking to cover up for the maladministration of the first Goss Labor Government.

Labor has been hoping in desperation that Heiner would go away. Like all rotten carcasses, the stench of this will never go away. It has taken the confessions of a former Labor Minister, Pat Comben, on an episode of the Nine Network's Sunday program to once again draw attention to the smell that has been wafting around Labor corridors since the beginning of 1990. Neither Premier Beattie nor any of his colleagues can ignore the fact that Mr Comben has given credibility to the suspicion that by shredding the Heiner documents the Goss Labor Government covered up for child abusers and paedophiles.

The coalition wants this matter resolved once and for all. The coalition supports the establishment of a full independent commission of inquiry to determine once and for all whether the Labor Party covered up this matter. Mr Beattie and his 44 parliamentary Labor colleagues owe it to the people of Queensland to come clean and resolve this issue in the interests of accountability and good honest Government.

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