



Speech by
**Mr DENVER
BEANLAND**

MEMBER FOR INDOORROOPILLY

Hansard 18 August 1999

TAB PRIVATISATION

Mr BEANLAND (Indoorroopilly—LP) (6.37 p.m.): Having Labor anywhere near gambling in this State is like putting a fox in charge of the fowl house. That is exactly the situation that prevails when we have Labor anywhere near gambling. It has a long history in relation to gambling in this State. One has only to look at its connection with Jupiters Casino right from the outset.

Further to that, now we have the ALP Treasurer in a position on the TAB board whereby he can be a recipient of information and knowledge. I listened to members opposite raise this matter. But at no stage did the Premier, the member for Capalaba or the member for Bundamba indicate that board member Mr Bird would not be a recipient of knowledge. This is all about who has the knowledge. It is the knowledge that counts. We have seen that over and over again, and anyone who knows anything about the operations of the marketplace would know that.

Not many days ago, in one of the southern States, a case of knowledge allowed a former Macquarie banker to carry out insider trading. It is knowledge that counts. It is not something else. It is not going out and carrying out transactions; it is having that knowledge. The member for Capalaba cannot get away from that. He likes to froth at the mouth and carry on. But the point is that it is knowledge that counts—nothing more and nothing less.

In recent days, we have seen the Premier trying to extricate himself from the situation of Gocorp licences, Internet gambling, Jupiters and the TAB. But nowhere will he be able to do this while there are such close connections between the Labor Party and gambling.

Fancy taking a senior partner from a firm of probity auditors to South Africa. How foolish can the situation become? The legislation is an attempt by the Labor Party to extricate itself from the mire. The member for Capalaba knows that.

We heard a great deal from the member for Bundamba but, of course, he added nothing new. He tried to pretend that Labor Holdings may not be able to buy shares and that that was the end of the story. Of course, it is not the end of the story—it is the start of the story. We also had a prima donna performance by the Premier. We have seen similar performances in recent days where he has been skittering around and has avoided answering questions. He sits in the Chamber and laughs, but he knows that it is quite inappropriate to have the treasurer of his political party involved in the float of the TAB. That is why the Premier is making every effort to introduce legislation. He is also carrying on in the House. However, these actions by the Premier will not overcome the situation, which speaks for itself.

The Labor Party in this State has a very close connection with gambling. We have seen evidence of that connection for some decades. Labor members make statements indicating that they are concerned about gambling. However, when we look at their connections with gambling in this State we become aware of Labor's hypocrisy.

At the end of the day Labor members are all about making a quick buck. Labor members are all about Labor greed and Labor mates. The gambling area is where Labor is at its best. The Premier knows that and that is why he is working overtime in an attempt to extricate the Labor Party from this situation. However, no amount of squirming and weaseling will overcome this difficulty.

The ALP State Treasurer, Mr Bird, is on the board of the TAB. The indication is that he will remain on the board throughout the float. Therefore, during the float Mr Bird will gain vital information for the Labor Party.

Time expired.
