



Speech by

GRANT MUSGROVE

MEMBER FOR SPRINGWOOD

Hansard 9 November 1999

LIBERAL PARTY MEMBERSHIP

Mr MUSGROVE (Springwood—ALP) (10.24 a.m.): I rise to tell the House about a disturbing incident that has occurred and been reported to me by my local ethnic Indian community. Recently, that community was approached by a Mr Michael Johnson, who I understand purports to be in the Liberal Party and a candidate for the seat of Ryan. Mr Johnson approached the leaders of my local Indian community and asked them if they would like to join the Liberal Party. Not only did he ask them whether they would like to join the Liberal Party but also he told them that they would not have to pay. When the Indian community in my area said, "Mr Johnson, thank you very much for the invitation but we live in Springwood and Sunnybank; we do not live in Ryan", they were told, "That does not matter."

This morning we heard on 4QR a fellow from Darwin proudly touting his membership of a branch somewhere in Surrey Hills. This whole situation is a bit like what the Demtel man says—"Don't send any money"—the people do not have to pay for their membership and they do not have to live anywhere near the branch of which they are going to be a member to be part of the Santo stack.

It has been aired publicly that the stack is on. Where is the member for Moggill in all of this, because the membership in his own area has been stacked by the member for Clayfield? That is all we in this House need to know. However, my local Indian community has told me that they found being used as pawns of the Liberal Party deeply offensive. The Liberal Party could well learn from experiences elsewhere in other jurisdictions that this sort of behaviour will come back to bite them.

Time expired.
