



Speech by

JEFF SEENEY

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

Hansard 9 December 1999

SOUTH BURNETT MEATWORKS

Mr SEENEY (Callide—NPA) (10.22 a.m.): In question time yesterday, the Deputy Premier continued to peddle his untruths concerning his assistance to the South Burnett Meatworks and the 600 jobs it provides in the town of Murgon. In answer to a question from the member for Barambah, the Deputy Premier said—

"We have endeavoured to make sure that the community gets support by putting money into the care and maintenance program."

He went on to say—

"We have put money into the plant to ensure that they do not lose that opportunity."

Those claims are in direct contradiction to an answer that the Deputy Premier gave to my question on notice No. 1549, which was answered on 25 November. I asked how much money the department had actually paid, to whom it had paid it and when the payments were made. The Deputy Premier's answer was short and very telling. He said—

"No payments have been made by the Department of State Development ..."

That was a direct contradiction to his answer yesterday. One would have to wonder which answer is right. Did the Deputy Premier deliberately mislead the House yesterday, or did he deliberately mislead the House on 25 November? It has to be one or the other. It would appear to me that the Deputy Premier deliberately and blatantly misled the House yesterday. He provided wrong information to the member for Barambah in his—

Mr ELDER: I rise to a point of order. I find the remarks untrue and offensive and I ask that they be withdrawn.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The member will withdraw.

Mr SEENEY: That is a joke, but I withdraw. The Deputy Premier provided an answer to a question on notice that proves beyond doubt that he was indulging in untruths yet again. He has sought continually in this House to create the impression that he has provided assistance to the South Burnett when, in effect, he has provided none. The evidence is there in the answer to my question on notice, and that answer has been confirmed by reports of the administrator of the South Burnett Co-op. The Deputy Premier has deliberately misled this House, and he has deliberately misled the people of South Burnett again and again.

Mr ELDER: I rise to a point of order. The remarks are offensive and untrue and I ask that they be withdrawn.

Mr SEENEY: That, too, is a joke, but I withdraw. The Deputy Premier has been exposed as a fraud by his own words. He has been caught out yet again. He has been exposed as a fraud yet again.

Mr ELDER: I rise to a point of order. I find the remarks offensive and untrue and I ask that they be withdrawn. In Government, members opposite had the opportunity to help the South Burnett, and they walked away from a \$6m—

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The member will withdraw.

Mr SEENEY: I withdraw, but I direct members to the parliamentary record. The evidence is there for all to see.

Time expired.