



Speech by

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ETHNIC BRANCH STACKING

Mr MICKEL (Logan—ALP) (10.14 a.m.): Advertisements for the American Express card used to say "You shouldn't leave home without one." The shameless ethnic branch stacking in the Ryan and Moreton Federal electoral divisions shows that one does not even have to leave home to become a member of the Liberal Party in Queensland, Australia or the world. One simply nominates which branch one wants to belong to and, regardless of where one lives, one becomes a member. It is a rort, and some members have been making a welter of it.

For example, the Centenary branch of the Liberal Party has recently grown from 32 members to 230 members, whilst about 300 new members have been suddenly enrolled in the Federal division of Ryan. Sources within the Liberal Party tell me that up to one-third of these new recruits are not even Australian citizens and are ineligible to vote in State or Federal elections.

The worst aspect of this disgraceful undermining of the legitimate interests of hard-working Liberals is the do-nothing attitude of the Liberal Party administration and President, Mr Con Galtos. One simply had to listen to the AM program on the ABC yesterday to realise that there will be no salvation under Mr Galtos. As a result, the Liberal Party development committee has given the green light to ethnic branch stacking in Ryan.

August was declared membership month for the Liberal Party. The prize was taken out by none other than the Ryan FEC. The prize was a \$2,000 contribution. It is something similar to Reader's Digest—"Send no money, we'll bill you later." In other words, the \$2,000 means more funds so that Michael Johnson and the member for Clayfield—that great betrayer of ethnic communities with his One Nation deal—can continue to pay the Liberal Party memberships of the branch stackees. John Moore is already on the hit list, the Federal member for Moreton is next.

Time expired.
