



Speech by

Mr L. SPRINGBORG

MEMBER FOR WARWICK

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE DEVELOPMENT

Mr SPRINGBORG (Warwick—NPA) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (6.28 p.m.): Tonight the Parliament must reject the amendment moved by the Premier and seconded by the Deputy Premier, because it tries to get away from the original motion that was moved in this place. That motion effectively censures this lame-duck controversy-driven Minister for his maladministration of his department. Have we not seen some of that over the last few weeks? For example, over the last couple of weeks the situation with Technomart as been lucidly pointed out by Opposition members. It is very fair to say that that fiasco has set back the reputation of this State by maybe 30 or 40 years in the eyes of many overseas investors. There is no doubt about that, and the Deputy Premier knows that.

We also have a situation where the Deputy Premier, either complicitly or through ignorance—I do not know—has used some very good and long-serving public servants as scapegoats to cover up his maladministration.

Mr ELDER: I rise to a point of order. I find those remarks offensive and I ask for them to be withdrawn. D-Gs administer departments; I administer policy. I find the remarks offensive and I ask for them to be withdrawn.

Mr SPRINGBORG: I withdraw, but I find it extraordinary that the Minister did not have some idea of what was going on.

I turn to the blues with the AWU. The Deputy Premier is supposed to be the factional leader for the AWU, but what have we seen? Over the last 12 or 18 months he has been at loggerheads with Bill Ludwig. We have seen him at loggerheads over greenfield sites. We saw a really embarrassing situation for the Deputy Premier at the lead-up to this year's State Labor Party conference, particularly in the lead-up to the vote on the TAB.

Also, what is happening with respect to the Nathan dam? That was given a tick in April 1998. When the Deputy Premier came to Government, he indicated that he wanted to revisit all of the EISs because he said that our process was flawed. He is supposed to be the Minister for grunt—the person who is able to move these things along. What has happened? We are now eighteen months down the track—

Mr ELDER: I rise to a point of order. The environmental management plan, EMP, has been undertaken by SUDAW.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! There is no point of order.

Mr SPRINGBORG: The Minister gave a tick to the EIS that we put in place, although he questioned the methodology when he was in Opposition. However, 18 months down the track, notwithstanding the financial closure issues and so on, the Nathan dam has not been delivered. In Wayne Goss' own words, that project, in conjunction with other projects in central Queensland, was going to create 100,000 jobs for Queenslanders. What has the Government been doing? Absolutely nothing has happened in 18 months.

A moment ago the Premier spoke about all of the things that his Government had apparently done or not done. What was the first action of his Government? It lost Expo—something that was going to deliver so many jobs for Queenslanders. It knocked that on the head. The Premier told us that he

jettied over to Paris to save it, but he went over there and spiked it. What happened to the gardening expo?

Millmerran was mentioned a moment ago. Millmerran has been around for ages. It has just come to a conclusion. It went across three administrations. It is a bit similar to DanPork. Obviously, I appreciate anything that this Government or our former Government was able to do with respect to DanPork. In 1994, when we had the first meeting, I took three councils and also Andrew Gormley down to Sydney to discuss that issue. That is how long it has been going on. It went across three administrations. It is very pleasing to see that it looks like something is finally being concluded. It was taking time to bring all of the water issues to a closure.

We spoke about Millmerran earlier. Do honourable members know what I am hearing about Millmerran? A lot of the things that are essential to bring that power station to fruition are now being imported directly from overseas. The Minister should speak to some of the people who supply the essential and basic infrastructure and find out what they think about this. It is a good project. But I am saying—

Mr Elder: Be careful.

Mr SPRINGBORG: The Deputy Premier should be careful. There is some concern among the local business community about the unrealised investment potential and advantages for businesspeople. The Minister should be careful about this. We have 8.7% unemployment in this State. The figure differs depending on whether we quote trend figures or seasonally adjusted figures. The other day the Premier questioned the figures. There has been no change in unemployment during the time he has been in Government, and certainly no change trending downwards towards 5%. What is happening? Nothing other than smoke and mirrors! There is more smoke and mirrors with respect to the regional forest agreements. A lot of people are waking up to his handling of that issue.

Time expired.
