



Speech by

Mr M. HORAN

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH

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PRISON OFFICERS

Mr HORAN (Toowoomba South—NPA) (10.20 a.m.): Whilst the Premier talks about jobs, jobs, jobs, the prisons Minister is talking about sackings, sackings, sackings. About a hundred recruits in the prison system have been put on the scrap heap—put in the casual pool—when they were promised permanent jobs within prisons. They all attended interviews and were told that there would not be a problem in getting permanent jobs, but now they have been put on the scrap heap.

Mr Speaker, how would you like to be sitting by the phone all day, all week, all fortnight, hoping you might pick up one shift per fortnight as a casual? Call that a job! These people have come here from all over the State in good faith to undertake a nine-week recruitment course. Many of them have been working as temporary permanents at places such as Sir David Longland. Now they have been put in the casual pool to spend their lifetimes sitting by a phone.

There is nothing more callous than this mismanagement and bungling that has occurred under Minister Barton. For example, at Sir David Longland, 26 temporary permanent recruits have been working since earlier this year and have now graduated from the course. Twenty-one of them finish up this Friday and of that 21, only three have a chance to be able to find some sort of job at that particular prison. The five who have been offered a job at the moment have only been given a three-month job in that prison. Up to about 60 recruits at the Wolston prison have been given notice that they will lose their jobs. Around another 20 at Moreton A and B will be losing their jobs.

This number of around 100 is actually double what the Labor Party promised—50 new recruits—during the last election campaign. So put 50 on and sack 100. The Premier calls that "jobs, jobs, jobs". That just typifies the bungling, bungling, bungling that has occurred in the Corrective Services Department ever since Minister Barton got his hands on the levers. It is about time this Government did something for these people. They are good, genuine Queenslanders with families and they need a permanent job.

Time expired.
