



Speech by

PHIL REEVES

MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

Hansard 3 March 1999

MINISTER FOR RACING

Mr REEVES (Mansfield—ALP) (6.53 p.m.): If the Queensland racing industry should have anyone in its sights it is the coalition and the current and former leaders of the Liberal Party. I know that the club industry and the hotel industry also have them in their sights.

The member for Moggill presided over one of the most scandalous and irresponsible decisions ever undertaken by any Government. As Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer, Dr Watson gifted a Queensland gaming licence to TABCorp, the giant privatised TAB, for a paltry \$250,000. In effect, Dr Watson's decision gave TABCorp a licence to print money from poker machines in Queensland pubs and clubs in direct competition with our own Queensland TAB. It was done against the best advice of the coalition's own TAB without any consultation with the Queensland racing industry.

Mrs SHELDON: I rise to a point of order. The legislation is before the House. It should not be referred to in this current debate on the racing industry.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr D'Arcy): Order! There is no point of order, but I refer the member to the motion before the House.

Mr REEVES: They did not listen to the TAB. There was no consultation with the Queensland racing industry—

Mrs SHELDON: I rise to a point of order. It is an amendment to a Bill that is currently before the House. It was put in by the Treasurer, Mr Hamill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Yes. I ask the member to refer to the motion before the House. He should not be referring to a Bill that is before the House.

Mr REEVES: This decision to support TABCorp created a major problem for the Queensland TAB. The Queensland TAB should have had the rights to gaming machines in Queensland. That decision made by the former coalition Government has allowed the money to go to the Victorian TAB instead of the Queensland TAB. As a result, the Victorian racing clubs are benefiting from the money of Queensland consumers. The money paid by Queensland consumers is not going into our rural and regional racing clubs. If it was it would create employment and continue the 25,000 jobs that are already in the industry. This money would have facilitated the improvement of facilities at rural racetracks which those opposite are supposed to support. All those opposite are interested in is the top end of the racing industry, not the rural or regional towns. Those opposite keep championing in this House that they support those towns. Last night the coalition did the same thing to the miners. This afternoon they are doing it to the racing clubs. The coalition is attacking the workers. Those opposite are attacking the farriers, the stablehands and the jockeys. They are not supporting the people who count. All they care about is the top end of town—the multinational companies and the Queensland Principal Club. They do not really care about regional or rural towns.

Time expired.
