



Speech by

**Hon. R. E. BORBIDGE**

**MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE**

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Hansard 22 July 1999

**AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY STATE PRESIDENT**

**Hon. R. E. BORBIDGE** (Surfers Paradise—NPA) (Leader of the Opposition) (7 p.m.): I rise to express the gravest possible concern at what would be one of the most obscene acts of political cronyism, if the media reports tonight are correct, and that is the pending appointment by the Beattie Labor Government of the State President of the Australian Labor Party in Queensland to the State Industrial Commission. A number of weeks back, this matter was raised in this place. Of course, at that time the Government fudged the issue. I can imagine the outrage that we would have seen from the Labor Party benches if Joh Bjelke-Petersen had given Bob Sparkes a job or if I had appointed David Russell to a position. The position pays \$160,000 a year and, if one is lucky, one stays there until one is 70.

In my 19 years in this Parliament, I cannot recall such a blatant act of political cronyism. It will debase and devalue the institution of the State Industrial Commission in Queensland. It is morally wrong and repugnant. If Mr Brown has a shred of decency, he should refuse to accept the appointment. If he does so, he will not have used the presidency of the Labor Party to try to give himself a job for life.

This is typical of the arrogance, contempt and the jobs for the boys and the jobs for the girls under the Beattie Labor Government, whether it is appointments to the courts, appointments as magistrates, or, as now, appointments to the State Industrial Commission. But of all the shabby, shonky appointments that Labor has presided over, never before have they appointed their State president to a position of influence in this State.

Time expired.

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