



Speech by

Hon. R. E. BORBIDGE

MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

Hansard 9 November 1999

APEC TECHNOMART

Hon. R. E. BORBIDGE (Surfers Paradise—NPA) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.19 a.m.) This Government has done just about all it can to destroy Queensland's hard-won international reputation, particularly in the field of information technology. What we heard this morning is that this Government is a pack of collective techno duds. Those opposite are an embarrassment to the State of Queensland. We had an incredible 15-minute apology from the Deputy Premier over Technomart. He admitted to the House this morning that he first became aware of concerns in respect of the possible organisation of this convention, where Queensland's coat of arms, Queensland's Premier and Queensland's reputation were on the line, as early as mid August.

But what happened in mid October? On 8 October 1999—not 8 August—the Premier issued a press release which read—

"Premier to be super salesman for smart state and Technomart

Premier Peter Beattie will use his trade trip to Japan next week to act as a super salesman for Queensland's emerging high tech research and industry which will be on display at Australia's biggest ever technology conference and expo in November.

'APEC Technomart on the Gold Coast from November 1-6 will be an ideal showcase for Queensland's achievements and potential in high tech development,' said Mr Beattie."

However, this morning we had the revelation that the Premier's loyal deputy knew in mid August that there were problems, but that his loyal deputy was happy for the Premier to travel to Japan to promote this shonky event.

Mr ELDER: I rise to a point of order. I did not say that this morning. I ask that it be withdrawn. The statement clearly articulates that I was informed in October. I ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr BORBIDGE: What statement does the Minister find—

Mr ELDER: It is incorrect.

Mr BORBIDGE: The Deputy Premier said that he was made aware in mid August.

Mr ELDER: I find the comments made by the Leader of the Opposition untruthful and I ask them to be withdrawn.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The Leader of the Opposition will withdraw.

Mr BORBIDGE: Mr Speaker, if the Deputy Premier finds it offensive, I withdraw. His department knew about it and he did not know. That is a bigger indictment!
