



Speech by

Hon. R. E. BORBIDGE

MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

Hansard 10 March 1999

GORDONSTONE STRIKE

Hon. R. E. BORBIDGE (Surfers Paradise—NPA) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.12 a.m.): This morning we saw the incredible announcement by the Premier that the taxpayers of Queensland will be funding the Gordonstone strikers to the extent of \$200,000 through a new community-based trust. What we have seen announced are special programs, special assistance, special favours for special Labor mates.

Let us have a look at the record of some of the hardened professional strikers who are protesting at Gordonstone. There are some 17 professional strikers who are leading the charge up there at Gordonstone. Most of them are receiving an income of up to \$600 per week. In respect of former employers and employees of that particular mining project, the former employees were paid out. There was a settlement.

Mr Johnson: \$4.6m!

Mr BORBIDGE: It was \$4.6m, as the honourable member for Gregory reminds me.

But what we see in this place today is a further indication of the side that the Government is taking in this dispute. Not content with the performance of the honourable member for Fitzroy, the Premier today seeks to announce \$200,000 of Government funds to support the very people who are placing investment strategies in this State at risk. Through this fund, he is supporting people who are being given special favours, special assistance, where that level of support is not made available to other Queenslanders.

What about the businesses in Emerald that are close to bankruptcy as a result of these 17 hardened strikers whom the Premier is seeking to re-employ and deploy in the Emerald area? What we see time and time again from this Government is how it is continuing to side with the Gordonstone strikers.

Time expired.
