



Speech by

Hon. R. E. BORBIDGE

MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

Hansard 23 March 1999

SUN METALS DISPUTE

Hon. R. E. BORBIDGE (Surfers Paradise—NPA) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.16 a.m.): All Queenslanders should be very concerned this morning by reports from Townsville that the Sun Metals Corporation is considering suspending the \$530m Korea Zinc project unless the unions obey the law. I read into the Hansard record in part the following Sun Metals statement—

"Sun Metals will continue to obey the law and honour the ... certified agreement which was signed in good faith and is legally binding on all parties until February 2000.

However, if the certified site agreement continues to be broken and the laws of Queensland are not upheld by the appropriate authorities, SMC will have no choice but to suspend the project."

This particular project, to the credit of the Goss Government, was negotiated by Labor. When the coalition came to power, we honoured that agreement to the letter. Indeed, I visited Korea to assure the Choi family that the new coalition Government appreciated the worth of that project and would continue to honour it.

However, we have a situation where the company is now in a position where that \$530m project may be suspended because of union lawlessness and because of a row between Left Wing and Right Wing unions. Increasingly, people are asking the question: why do we have two sets of laws in Queensland: one set of laws for the unions and one set of laws for everyone else?

The reality is that the Goss Government honoured its undertakings to Korea Zinc. The Borbidge Government honoured its undertakings to Korea Zinc. However, we have a situation where this can't do Premier and this can't do Government, by their inaction, are placing at risk a \$530m investment in this State.

Time expired.
