



Speech by

Hon. R. E. BORBIDGE

MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

Hansard 24 March 1999

GORDONSTONE MINE DISPUTE

Hon. R. E. BORBIDGE (Surfers Paradise—NPA) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.16 a.m.): Today we have seen further evidence of this can't do Government with the decision to import Bob Hawke from down south to do the work that should be done by the Government of this State. What we have is an incredible situation in which we are faced with the prospect not only of mothballing a \$530m zinc refinery but also the fact that Stage 2 may not proceed, which means that Townsville will not get a base load power station, which will then impact on the Chevron pipeline, which will then impact on Comalco in this State.

This Government is establishing two sets of rules. We have a Premier who has abrogated his responsibilities to the people of Queensland by seeking to import Bob Hawke to do the job that he and his Government should be doing themselves. The simple fact—and what the Koreans cannot understand—is that if the law is broken, why is the law not enforced?

This great strategy of the Premier can be likened to a bank robbery when the police know who the bank robbers are and where the bank robbers are located, and they appoint a negotiator to go along and talk to the bank robbers about how much money they will refund. That is precisely the strategy that is being embarked upon by the member for Brisbane Central, who presides over the first Government in the Western World to adopt a hands-free approach to public administration.

The people behind Korea Zinc and Sun Metals and those who are suffering at Gordonstone have every right to believe that the laws of Queensland will be enforced. We have a Premier and a Government who are going soft on the law-breakers. We have the news this morning that the unions are ready to embrace Mr Hawke.

Time expired.
