



Speech by

Mr SANTO SANTORO

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

Hansard 16 September 1999

LABOR PARTY CRONYISM

Mr SANTORO (Clayfield—LP) (10.26 a.m.): On Tuesday, I made some statements regarding the sorting of the Public Service selection processes by the Beattie Labor Government. What I outlined was factually correct and not contradicted by anything said in this place this morning. The people whom I named in this place on Tuesday have been appointed without going through the proper selection process based on merit. Those people did not—I repeat: did not—go through a selection process based on merit and did not have to compete for their jobs after the Government changed in 1998.

It should be noted that in July 1998, after the appointment of the Beattie Labor Government, the Acting Public Service Commissioner, Mr Brian Head, issued two directives exempting his position and that of all other chief executives from being advertised and giving the Premier the power to avoid a selection process. In other words, it gave the Premier of the day the power to appoint whomever he likes without the process or safeguards.

The advice that I have been given is that the following persons were appointed as chief executives without any advertising, without any selection panel and for five-year terms: Glyn Davis, from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet; Gerard Bradley, from Treasury; Ross Rolfe, from the Department of State Development; Jane Macdonnell, from the Department of Justice and Attorney-General—

Mr FOLEY: I rise to a point of order. The honourable member is misleading the House. Ms Macdonnell was selected and appointed on merit and shamelessly sacked by the previous Government without cause and without reason.

Mr SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

Mr SANTORO: The list goes on: Ken Smith, from the Department of Families, Youth and

Community Care; Margaret O'Donnell; and Brian Head.

In some of these cases, the persons appointed without merit had never previously been associated with the department that they now head. That is the point: they have not gone through the merit selection process. The public record—

Mr BEATTIE: I rise to a point of order. The honourable member is misleading the House. They did go through the process. I have already explained that to the House.

Mr SANTORO: I note for the record that the Labor Party has been outed in this matter. I thank the Premier and the Attorney-General for raising the issue which, because of East Timor and the Budget, was missed on Tuesday. I stand by everything that I have said and there is more to come.

Time expired.
