



Speech by

Mr SANTO SANTORO

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

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LIBERAL PARTY MEMBERSHIP

Mr SANTORO (Clayfield—LP) (10.22 a.m.): During the past 14 months, the Liberal Party has worked very hard to re-establish links with the ethnic communities in Queensland. There can be no doubt that the Liberal Party has been very successful in doing so. That success is demonstrated clearly not only by the very public record but also by statements made by honourable members in this place. However, before they continue to denigrate the efforts of the Liberal Party and those many hundreds of members of the ethnic communities who are joining, they should be very, very careful not to insult those people who are joining the Liberal Party of their free will and with an intent to become involved in the affairs of the Liberal Party.

Perhaps the Government should heed the comments of the Australia Day Council Executive Director, Alan Tayt, who said in the South West News that, while his organisation was apolitical, he supported any move to induce community participation and increase national pride. In relation to Michael Johnson, Mr Tayt stated—

"I liked what Michael has to say about the Chinese community understanding the need to be proactive.

The Australia Day Council is all about people's freedom and right to be part of an organisation or party—their rights of being part of a community."

Those are the comments of the Executive Director of the Australia Day Council. The members opposite can keep bleating. However, members of the ethnic communities will continue to join the Liberal Party in far greater numbers than what has been the case previously. They are joining the Liberal Party and not the Labor Party. The members opposite will be the losers, because the more they talk about it, the more insulted they feel.

Mr ELDER: I rise to a point of order. But they will join in numbers if the member keeps paying their fees.

Mr SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

Mr SANTORO: That is another scurrilous allegation and untruth by the Honourable the Deputy Premier.

Time expired.
