



Speech by

Mr S. ROBERTSON

MEMBER FOR SUNNYBANK

Hansard 24 March 1999

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

Mr ROBERTSON (Sunnybank—ALP) (10.18 a.m.): Yesterday the member for Clayfield made a number of scurrilous, offensive and unsubstantiated allegations against not only the Government but also the Taiwanese community in Queensland. In response to an article printed in the China News, he alleges a Labor Party plot. Well he might be offended by an article that he self-identifies with as a politician with links to Australia's white supremacist anti-Asian party. The honourable member's speech in this House not only condemns himself as that person but also is an attempt to divide the Asian community, and particularly the Taiwanese community, in this city and this State.

The member for Clayfield tries to allege that the Taiwanese community is not the solid structure that we know it to be. Though not interested in his petty politics or the division that he attempts to create, they are interested in being part of the rich and vibrant community that has been provided under Labor Governments in this State. They have come here to invest in Queensland, to provide jobs and to promote business partnerships that benefit not only our State but also our nation. Their children are educated here to ensure the continuity of their dream to live and work in a State that provides them with new opportunities and allows all of us to enrich our culture.

More than that, they make a substantial contribution to the welfare of all Queenslanders. As a community, they strive to assist many worthwhile causes in this State. Were it not for the efforts of the Taiwan Womens League and the Taiwan Friendship Association, our hospitals and community facilities would be poorer places for every Queensland citizen. Yet in the face of this, the member for Clayfield seeks to divide this community on partisan lines. He seeks to take issue with the report of his and his party's activities during the extremely successful Asia-Pacific cities conference. I will leave it to our Asian community to provide him with the condemnation that he so richly deserves.
