



Speech by

**Mr R. QUINN**

**MEMBER FOR MERRIMAC**

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Hansard 16 March 2000

### **TEACHERS**

**Mr QUINN** (Merrimac—LP) (Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party) (6.25 p.m.): For this motion before the House or, indeed, the amended motion as proposed to be successful, there will have to be a change in mind-set by both parties involved, because both parties—both the Queensland Teachers Union and this Government—have been experts in deceiving teachers for a long period.

On one side there is the Premier who craves popularity. He will say and do anything to achieve it. That is why, when the teachers went on strike last time, we heard him in this place saying, "We would have given teachers something decent." That is why he went outside and stood on the back of a truck and described the 4% pay rise being offered by the coalition as "peanuts." What does he do now? He turns around and offers 3%! He says that 3% is something decent but that 4% is peanuts. That is the way this Premier thinks. As I said, he will say and do anything to be popular. On one side we have a Government that will deceive teachers all the way down the line.

On the other side we have the Queensland Teachers Union, which has refined the act of misleading its members to an art form and, of course, raises their expectations to unbelievable and unrealistic levels. That is why at the time of the previous negotiations that union said that teachers deserve a 10% per annum wage rise. Has anybody ever heard anything so ridiculous? I repeat: 10% per annum, a 30% wage rise over three years. This time it is down to 8%. Let us see what they have done this time.

One of the points made in the editorial of the Queensland Teachers Journal recently, written by the secretary, John Battams states—

"The QTU was proven to be correct during the last round of EB negotiations when the then Director-General, Minister and Premier were wrong."

Let us see who is telling the truth. Is it the Queensland Teachers Union version or is what, in fact, happened what I relate here tonight. As I said, the coalition's offer last time was 4%. We had two strikes and then we went to the Industrial Relations Commission. What was the outcome? A tick over 4%. In 52 of the 54 teacher classification categories, the wage rise was 4%. A vast majority of teachers got exactly what the coalition offered. In other words, the Industrial Relations Commission determined that our offer was fair and reasonable. In the other two categories, one was a 4.1% rise and the other a 4.4% rise.

As I said, this is another organisation that really is expert at deceiving teachers and unrealistically raising their expectations. Who are the victims here? Unfortunately, it is the teachers who are caught in the middle. On one side they have a Government and a Premier who will do anything and will say anything to get votes, irrespective of the outcome further down the track, and on the other side they have a QTU, a union organisation, that really thrives on misleading its members and raising their expectations when it knows full well what a fair and reasonable outcome is but keeps on demanding more and more.

For meaningful negotiations to occur, there will really have to be a change in mind-set. I do not see it. We have the same industrial organisation out there again raising expectations—a whole list of demands that it knows cannot be fulfilled. No-one could possibly accede to them all, yet it trots them out. Then on the other side we have a Premier who says that 3% is something decent when he criticised 4% as being peanuts. Where is the justice in that? No wonder the teachers are angry when that sort of thing has gone on in the past! As I said, for this motion to be successful, there really will have to be a change in mind-set, and I do not see it happening.