



Speech by

Dr DAVID WATSON

MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

Hansard 22 August 2000

ELECTORAL FRAUD; MS K. EHRMANN

Dr WATSON (Moggill—LP) (Leader of the Liberal Party) (10.22 a.m.): Electoral corruption within the ALP is not confined to the rank and file in Townsville.

A Government member interjected.

Dr WATSON: Later today, I will be providing the Criminal Justice Commission with a copy of a document that purports to be an internal discussion document prepared by the Socialist Left in 1994. I am sure that the Minister would be pleased about the Socialist Left's part in this.

Among other things, that document alleges that electoral fraud has corrupted local preselections for council wards and State electorates right here in Brisbane. The submission states—

"... forging of enrolment cards, false address enrolments and suspected alteration of ballot papers clearly demonstrate that there are elements in the party who are prepared to go to the extremes of committing criminal offences in an effort to win ballots."

The document goes on in some detail about systematic vote rigging within the ALP through the indiscriminate issuing of multiple ballot papers and letterbox pilfering. It states further—

"Most union officials would be aware of these types of tactics, as some of the most colourful examples of this type of rorting has occurred in union elections."

Elsewhere the document alleges that "a substantial number of ALP members were strategically stacked into certain wards" ahead of the Brisbane City Council election in 1994. The document also raises serious concerns about the "incorrect and untenable decisions" of the ALP's disputes tribunal in dealing with complaints of electoral fraud. That is the same tribunal that cleared Karen Ehrmann of any wrongdoing in Townsville, despite the fact that she was later sentenced to three years' jail on multiple counts of rorting the system.

I do not really expect the CJC to investigate these allegations, because that would be out of character, but at least it can act as a pigeonhole pending a full and open judicial inquiry.
