



Speech by

Dr DAVID WATSON

MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

Hansard 24 August 2000

MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

Dr WATSON (Moggill—LP) (Leader of the Liberal Party) (10.21 a.m.): There is an old saying that "it takes one to know one", and the Treasurer is a walking, talking testament to its enduring truth. Yesterday he summoned up all the moral outrage he could muster to accuse an interstate trucking company of roting the public purse. Talk about the pot calling the kettle black! This is the same bloke who rorted his parliamentary travel entitlements. This is the bloke who would not even own up when asked a direct question by his boss at the time, former Premier Wayne Goss. I will refresh the memories of the Treasurer and everyone else with a quote from Tony Koch's belated exposé in the Courier-Mail last year. It stated—

"... the examination concluded that it"—

meaning the report—

"referred to Hamill who ... had claimed travel expenses for a driving trip to Shute Harbour ... on Labor Party business. His travelling companion was the ALP's then-state secretary Beattie.

When ... Ministers were asked by Goss to acknowledge any reference to them, Hamill remained silent."

Mr HAMILL: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Moggill has made claims which are false and offensive and I ask for them to be withdrawn.

Dr WATSON: I am not surprised—

Mr SPEAKER: Order! You will withdraw.

Dr WATSON: I will withdraw whatever he finds offensive. I refer to the article published in the Courier-Mail of 31 July 1999. Those opposite ought to read it again. It states—

"When ... Ministers were asked by Goss to acknowledge any reference to them, Hamill remained silent. He knew he had been named because he had the report.

...

"Labor people hold the view that Hamill's silence was a less than honest ... response. He sat back and let his colleagues pay the price ..."

So much for his self-righteous outrage and finger pointing yesterday. There is an interesting footnote to the story. Again Tony Koch states—

"... soon after it became known in political circles that Hamill and Beattie had not put up their hands, the whole matter was dropped like a hot brick.

Sir Max made a public statement"—

Time expired.
