



Speech by

**Dr DAVID WATSON**

**MEMBER FOR MOGGILL**

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Hansard 7 September 2000

**MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES**

**Dr WATSON** (Moggill—LP) (Leader of the Liberal Party) (10.06 a.m.): Two weeks ago, I provided the Criminal Justice Commission with a document which purported to be an internal discussion paper prepared by the Socialist Left. Yesterday, Mr McMurdo confirmed that this document created a reasonable suspicion of electoral corruption in East Brisbane and Morningside. Among other things, the document referred to the forging of enrolment cards, false electoral addresses and suspected alteration of ballot papers. It stated that some members of the ALP were prepared to go to the extremes of committing criminal offences in an effort to win ballots. It went into some detail on systematic vote rigging through the indiscriminate issuing of multiple ballot papers and letterbox pilfering.

The document did not name the alleged perpetrators, but it is a matter of public record that the president of the local ALP branch at that time was the member for Greenslopes. I am not aware of any evidence that the member for Greenslopes was involved in the alleged corruption, but nor am I aware of any evidence that he was not. The fact is that until this commission of inquiry is concluded, we just do not know. That is why he must stand down as Chairman of the Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee. The member for Greenslopes cannot continue to chair LCARC's inquiry into electoral integrity when there are serious allegations about the electoral integrity of his own branch. His position is untenable. There can be no public confidence in his chairmanship while the jury is out.

The member for Greenslopes is entitled to the presumption of innocence, but he is not entitled to create public doubt about the proper administration of his parliamentary committee. What store can we put in LCARC's recommendations on electoral integrity when the Chair of LCARC is himself under a cloud? The member for Greenslopes must stand down.

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