



Speech by

**Dr DAVID WATSON**

**MEMBER FOR MOGGILL**

---

Hansard 5 October 2000

#### **ELECTORAL FRAUD**

**Dr WATSON** (Moggill—LP) (Leader of the Liberal Party) (10.19 a.m.): Mr Speaker, consistent with your ruling last night, I wish to canvass broadly the way in which the Premier and his Labor mates are playing a double game to hoodwink the people of Queensland about the full extent of electoral corruption within the ALP. While the Premier is proclaiming his commitment to cut out this cancer, he has the rest of the team doing everything possible to blunt the blade of public scrutiny. First, they tried to avoid it altogether. While the Premier was telling everyone he would welcome an inquiry to clear the air, Labor lawyers were lobbying the Criminal Justice Commission to rule out an inquiry. They did not deny that electoral corruption was rife in the ALP, they simply argued that the CJC did not have the power to investigate. They said, "Don't worry about the cancer; it's big enough and ugly enough to look after itself."

While the Premier has been telling everyone that Labor rorters should go to jail, the ALP has set up a massive legal slush fund to keep them out of jail. The ALP admits to half a million dollars, but we have been told the real figure is about \$3.5m. The actual amount does not matter, but the objective is clear. Three Labor rorters have already been convicted on 79 counts of electoral corruption and this slush fund is a desperate attempt to stop any more going to jail.

We do not need \$3.5m or even half a million dollars to defend the innocent. This slush fund has been set up to bankroll the legal manoeuvres of the guilty. Over the past two days, we have seen the Premier and his ministerial mates ducking and diving behind the Speaker's rulings to pick and choose the questions they answered. So much for open and accountable Government! The ALP has corrupted the electoral roll, the Electoral Office and the Parliament.

---