



Speech by

Dr DAVID WATSON

MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

Hansard 8 November 2000

ELECTORAL FRAUD; SHEPHERDSON INQUIRY

Dr WATSON (Moggill—LP) (Leader of the Liberal Party) (10.29 a.m.): The administration of the Australian Labor Party reminds me of the old joke about the Bronx in New York, that a person can walk two blocks without leaving the scene of a crime. In the Queensland ALP it is two decades. The Premier has been strolling past a succession of crimes for the best part of 20 years without seeing a thing. These days he even repudiates his own account of the Redlands by-election campaign in 1985. In his autobiography *In the Arena* he asserted that the address of a female party member was listed as a vacant lot but that she later voted in the party preselection process. He now claims it was all a mistake and that he was set straight by that paragon of political virtue, the current member for Bowman, Con Sciacca.

The only problem with their belated alibi is its total demolition this morning on ABC radio by a former true believer, Joyce Webb, who was secretary/treasurer of the executive committee for the ALP in Redlands during the 1980s. She confirmed the Premier's original admission—the admission he has since retracted—that some voters were listed on vacant blocks and other addresses and that streets were non-existent. Joyce also revealed that some of these funny listings were actually located in the sea off Cleveland. They were offshore.

An Opposition member: Offshore voters.

Dr WATSON: They were offshore voters. People were not only voting from the grave, they were not only living in post office boxes; they were also dwelling at the bottom of the harbour.

I will be asking the Criminal Justice Commission to investigate these allegations with a view to pursuing them through the Shepherdson inquiry. I look forward to hearing the Premier's latest explanation on oath.
