



Speech by

Dr DAVID WATSON

MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

Hansard 21 June 2000

THE CONSULTANCY BUREAU

Dr WATSON (Moggill—LP) (Leader of the Liberal Party) (10.24 a.m.): Queensland is now being run on political favours and downright deceit. Remember Peter Forster and The Consultancy Bureau. Three months ago the Premier claimed—

"They've won consultancies on their merit through an independent process for \$35,000 since we've been in office, hardly the basis of a retirement plan".

The Premier later claimed that he was referring only to contracts awarded by his own department, but even that was blatantly untrue. My office has now secured documentary evidence that the total value of work awarded by the Premier's Department to that time was at least \$150,000. The Premier's list released to journalists failed to include at least three contracts approved last year worth \$117,000. The running total of work awarded to The Consultancy Bureau by the whole Government is now more than \$485,000 and climbing.

We know that despite the fact the Premier's Department is still refusing to hand over more than 700 documents captured under freedom of information. We know that, despite the fact the Premier and most of his Cabinet have refused to answer our questions. Just three Ministers have provided the details we requested. Eleven have refused, and we are still to hear from four of them. So much for open and accountable government. We believe the total value of work awarded to The Consultancy Bureau could be as high as \$1m, or nearly \$10,000 a week since Labor won office. At that rate, Mr Forster may well be able to retire in another 12 months. The Premier has again shown that his is a Government of the mates, by the mates, for the mates.
