



Speech by

Dr DAVID WATSON

MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

Hansard 23 August 2000

ELECTORAL FRAUD

Dr WATSON (Moggill—LP) (Leader of the Liberal Party) (10.14 a.m.): It is time for the Premier to put up or shut up. In recent days he has tried to suggest that the proven electoral corruption within the ALP is somehow comparable with the unproven assertions of rule infractions within the Liberal Party. There is no comparison.

Three ALP officials have pleaded guilty to 79 criminal offences. One has been jailed. The others have received suspended sentences. The unsubstantiated allegations involving a recent ballot in Ryan do not involve any suggestion of official misconduct or criminal behaviour. There is no suggestion that the laws were broken or that any crime was committed. If the Premier believes otherwise, I challenge him to refer the matters to the Criminal Justice Commission. I will even pay the cab fare to Terrica Place.

Better still, let us have a full, open and judicial inquiry to investigate any allegation of electoral corruption within any political party. The Premier claims that he welcomes the chance to clean the body politic. This is his chance to prove it. I challenge him to call a full and open judicial inquiry today. I challenge him to put up or shut up. The coalition will happily support the broadest possible terms of reference to investigate any allegation of electoral corruption. The Premier wants an inquiry; we want an inquiry. Let us do it. What is he waiting for? We have a demonstrated need for an inquiry, we have unanimous bipartisan support for an inquiry and we have a growing public expectation of an inquiry, but we have the Premier running scared.

The Premier will not call for an inquiry because he knows where it will end. It will lead right up to the Executive Building in George Street. That is why the Premier will not support our call for a full, open and independent judicial inquiry.
