



Speech by

Dr DAVID WATSON

MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

Hansard 14 November 2000

ELECTORAL FRAUD

Dr WATSON (Moggill—LP) (Leader of the Liberal Party) (10.09 a.m.): I draw the attention of the House to a report in Saturday's Sydney Morning Herald under the headline "ALP loses zeal to halt branch stacking". The Premier has been rabbiting on for months about Labor's determination to clean up electoral corruption, but as usual the truth is very different. The report, written by political correspondent Laura Tingle, stated—

"The ALP's national executive has secretly dumped anti-branch stacking measures announced in July when the party declared war on the practice ...

The national executive unanimously agreed on Friday last week to 'not support the establishment of a national membership database at this time'— succumbing to fierce resistance from State party organisations jealously guarding their control of membership records."

Let me repeat the last line: "succumbing to fierce resistance from State party organisations jealously guarding their control of membership records". A cynic might have written "jealously guarding their capacity to continue corrupting the democratic process".

Ever since the July resolution, Labor has been claiming its brand-new rules would break the back of electoral fraud in the ALP. As recently as September the Federal leader, Kim Beazley, had this to say—

"... the problems that were associated with the branch stacking in Queensland have been dealt with by us. Dealt with by us at the Queensland level with proper branch rules. Dealt with by us at the national level now, with rules that I have put in place at the last national conference of the Labor Party."

Those new rules have now been thrown on the scrap heap. They are gone, gone, gone. The ALP has returned to its roots and electoral corruption is alive and well. The Premier and his Federal leader have been exposed as dishonest, deceitful political frauds. They did not even have the political integrity to set the public record straight. They tried to cover it up. So much for our open and honest Labor Premier.
