



Speech by

**Mrs D. PRATT**

**MEMBER FOR BARAMBAH**

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Hansard 31 May 2000

**NATIONAL COMPETITION POLICY; DEREGULATION**

**Mrs PRATT** (Barambah—IND) (10.16 a.m.): We have heard Mr Beattie state on many occasions that the State of Queensland is moving forward under this Government's leadership. Well, Mr Beattie is right on one thing, that is, the State is on the move, and most of it is moving against this Parliament. We have seen more people marching the streets of Brisbane during protests against this Government than has ever been seen before. We have seen the timber industry, which opposed the RFA; the rural property owners, who oppose the vegetation legislation; the steel workers, who lost hundreds and hundreds of jobs; the transport industry took to the road to protest against this Government; the miners; the pork industry; the students; and, yesterday, the dairy farmers. The teachers are not happy with this Government's performance either, so it will not be long until they are on the move. So Mr Beattie is right: this State is on the move, but for many it is backwards.

Industries across-the-board are being decimated by this Government. On Friday, 3 March, Mr Beattie was quoted as saying—

"State Governments need to band together to stop the trend of deregulation. We've got to face up to the fact that the so-called benefits from deregulation have not happened. We've got to revisit the economic dogma and simply ask: where is the benefit? No State can do it alone."

These were Mr Beattie's own words, and he is right: no State can do it alone, but one State has to start. I am asking Mr Beattie on behalf of Queensland industries to stand up and say, "Not now. Let's slow down. Let's look at this again." Would Mr Beattie accept a reduction in his income of \$80,000 plus per annum and not fight to keep it? Don't allow the flawed ideology of NCP and deregulation to pauperise the State's farmers and other industries.

No Government should put the people in the position that the dairy farmers found themselves in yesterday, a position where violence looked like the only alternative to get the Premier to talk to them. This Government continually gloats about the number of jobs it has created but never says—

**Mr BEATTIE:** I rise to a point of order. I find those remarks offensive. They are untrue. Yesterday I met two delegations of dairy farmers, and I will continue to talk with them. I seek the withdrawal of those remarks.

**Mrs PRATT:** This Government continually gloats about the number of jobs it has created but never says how many it has lost.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The member's time has expired.

**Mr Beattie:** Did she withdraw?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The Premier asks the member to withdraw the words he found offensive.

**Mr BORBIDGE:** I rise to a point of order. Mr Speaker, I refer you to your ruling of last week in respect of the member for Clayfield.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will finish this point of order first. If a member is asked to withdraw something offensive, that member has to withdraw it.

**Mr BORBIDGE:** I rise to a point of order. Mr Speaker, I refer to your ruling in this place relative to the member for——

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I am talking to the member for Barambah. The Leader of the Opposition will resume his seat. The member for Barambah named the Premier.

**Mrs PRATT:** I withdraw, but the truth is the truth.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! You cannot say that. You just withdraw unequivocally.

**Mrs PRATT:** I withdraw the truth.

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