



Speech by

GARY FENLON

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

Hansard 15 November 2000

LEGAL, CONSTITUTIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Report

Mr FENLON (Greenslopes—ALP) (10.10 a.m.): I move—

"That Report No. 28, the Prevention of Electoral Fraud Interim Report, be noted."

The committee report has recommended that electoral fraud audits backed by a Queensland controlled electoral data system be established as a strong response to the matters that have been before this Parliament and the wider community. The report is a response to the reference given to the committee by Parliament on 22 August. We were asked to report back on 14 November. That deadline was achieved.

The integrity of the roll relies upon proof of identity and proof of residence. Who we are and where we live is proven by a set of information that citizens leave behind in the normal conduct of their lives like footprints in sand. When this information is collated by electoral authorities, it creates a data web which a person intending to commit electoral fraud will find very difficult to navigate. The proposed State data system provides this information and it provides a capacity to undertake enhanced electoral fraud audits. I welcome the Premier's initial response to this report, suggesting a national ID card, as a positive contribution to the evidence and to the conclusions that the committee has reached.

The clear evidence is that there is no single piece of ID that reasonably satisfies the necessary requirements of proof of identification and proof of location of residence. Clearly, a national ID card will go a long way to satisfying the first of these requirements, but I suspect that it will also need to be backed by a data system similar to that advocated by the committee. We must now move on to further debate in this area to deal with the other matters that the committee considered on the wider agenda of electoral reform. We must now ensure that this debate does not degenerate into the politically banal by reducing the entire matter down to the proposition that it is easier to hire a video than to register to vote.

This morning I called my local video store and checked just what sort of ID is required to hire a video. I was told that a driver's licence with photo ID plus a Medicare card or a keycard are needed. The proprietors of the video store told me that this results in some people being denied hire of a video. If we apply the same sort of criteria to the entitlement to enrol to vote, there is one simple conclusion: people will be denied their franchise; they will be denied their capacity to vote. But let us keep an open mind about measures pertaining to the future establishment of IDs. Let us keep an open mind in relation to those matters. As the Premier has pointed out, there are other appropriate propositions.

Time expired.
