



Speech by

MIKE KAISER

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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ELECTORAL FRAUD

Mr KAISER (Woodridge—ALP) (6.44 p.m.): Several days ago the Leader of the Opposition referred to the CJC a complaint about this matter and called for an inquiry. The CJC is indeed inquiring. What does the CJC need to do to satisfy the Opposition? The CJC has all the powers of a standing royal commission, and I have no doubt that it intends to use them.

However, as the Attorney-General says, this motion calls on us to do exactly what the Opposition did when it got into a spot of bother before the Carruthers inquiry. This motion calls on us to nobble the CJC—to set up an inquiry, as the Attorney-General has said, which would be on a collision course with the CJC. We will not do that. That is the contrast between the Labor Party and the Opposition. We have nothing to fear from this CJC inquiry because of the standards that we set. As the Premier has said, if there are rotters within the Labor Party, if there is anyone with anything to fear, then they should be very fearful indeed. That is the standard that is set by us.

The member for Indooroopilly had the hide to rise on a point of order and say that the Attorney-General had spoken some untruth for claiming that the member had suffered the indignity of a successful motion of no confidence being brought against him in this House for his role in the Connolly/Ryan inquiry, which was found by the Supreme Court to have been biased and set up for the purposes of nobbling the Carruthers inquiry. It was not the Attorney-General's assertion; it was the assertion of the Supreme Court of Queensland that that inquiry was set up, at a cost of \$14m, to nobble the Carruthers inquiry. That is the contrast between that side of the House and this side. We will not do that. If there is anyone within the Labor Party with anything to fear from this CJC inquiry then, as the Premier has said, they should be very fearful indeed.

I also heard the member for Merrimac claim that there had been a cover-up, that we were all denying that there was anything wrong within the Labor Party. Nothing could be further from the truth. The Labor Party does not run a police force. The National Party is the party that fantasises about running police forces. We do not. We did what we could within the forums of the Labor Party to reform our rules, knowing that the Federal Police were doing their job in terms of the corruption that they were investigating. We never sought to hide that. In fact, in 1999, with reference to branch stacking within the Labor Party, my report to the party's State conference—a public document—states—

"This cancerous activity not only brings great shame on the Party, but also dilutes the say of genuine long-term Party members who suddenly find themselves in a minority.

...

We should take recent activities in and around Townsville as an early warning sign that something must be done to prevent the stackers and rotters from seriously distorting policy and preselection outcomes in the Queensland branch."

That is a public document that acknowledges the problems that we had.

I contrast that with the actions of the Leader of the Liberal Party, who has his head in the sand over problems with rotters that are occurring in the Liberal Party, which recently preselected a senator for Queensland. There was no public acknowledgment on his part of those problems.

In 1998, in the minutes of the administrative committee, which is not a public document, and therefore there is no reason for me to be backward in coming forward about what was said in those administrative committee meetings, I stated under the heading "Court Case"—

"Court case has raised the question of the reliability of our membership in Townsville.

Party needs a process to deal with the matter and this process needs to be made public."

Those are the standards that we set: acknowledge the problem and deal with it. In fact, the matter was raised publicly by me in a press release that I issued on 8 February 1999, which reads in part—

"Concerns have been raised in recent times over certain membership issues and the ALP Administrative Committee is moving to maintain public confidence in the integrity of internal Party procedures."

That was all made public, and all acknowledged publicly by us. The difference is that we have done something about it; the members opposite are still languishing in the rot and the rorts that exist within the Liberal Party. The difference is: National Party, Denis Hinton, prosecuted, re-endorsed; Labor Party, Karen Ehrmann, charged—at the time, not yet prosecuted—disendorsed. That is the difference.

Time expired.
