



Speech by

**Hon. P. BRADDY**

**MEMBER FOR KEDRON**

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Hansard 9 November 2000

### COOKE INQUIRY

**Hon. P. J. BRADDY** (Kedron—ALP) (Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations) (6.14 p.m.): I move the following amendment—

"Delete all words after 'House' and insert the following—

'congratulates the Government on its fair and balanced industrial relations legislation (through the Industrial Relations Act 1999) which included those recommendations from the Cooke Inquiry which were fair and practicable. Further, that this House acknowledges the provisions of the Industrial Relations Act 1999 relating to the conduct of ballots in industrial organisations are entirely consistent with the unanimously supported recommendations of the tripartite Industrial Relations Taskforce.'"

We are really back to old times when the member for Caloundra and the member for Surfers Paradise are in duet again—both of them incapable of telling the truth in this place.

**Mrs Sheldon:** How unkind!

**Mr BRADDY:** But how accurate. First of all we had the speech from the member for Caloundra, who made the claim that we had not implemented any of the Cooke recommendations, which of course was then contradicted by the member for Surfers Paradise, who said that we had implemented some. The truth is that we did implement significant numbers of the Cooke recommendations—first of all in Goss Government legislation and then in the legislation which I brought into this place. I will list 12 of the most important recommendations.

The recommendations that were adopted by the Goss Government and then reinstated by the Beattie Government are as follows: limiting those who could be auditors of industrial organisations to those who are registered company auditors under the Corporations Law and who are not employees or officers of the organisation; requiring the Electoral Commission to conduct elections for officers in industrial organisations—a fairly important thing to do if we want to have honest elections; increasing penalties for unauthorised interference in union elections; requiring amalgamation ballot papers to be kept; and requiring the Electoral Commission to conduct amalgamation ballots. This in turn was reversed by the coalition Government in its much-vaunted legislation.

The Beattie Government has kept all of these provisions in the Industrial Relations Act which I introduced to this place, as they are fair and practical and reflect community standards. This Government has also adopted a requirement that financial accounts of industrial organisations be prepared in accordance with Australian accounting standards. The coalition Government, on the other hand, did not adopt that Cooke inquiry recommendation. By contrast, the Industrial Relations Regulation 2000 that we introduced actually requires organisations to comply with Australian accounting standards. It actually achieves the purpose of requiring organisations to comply with the accepted accounting practice contained in Australian accounting standards so that organisations are accountable to their members.

The Government also adopted a number of other Cooke inquiry recommendations. These include prohibiting organisations from using their resources to support a particular candidate in a union election, requiring additional security measures to be taken in elections of industrial organisations and

making it an offence to interfere in an amalgamation ballot. We did not implement any of the sensible inquiries of the Cooke inquiry? I have listed them!

The member for Caloundra knows so little about her shadow portfolio that she has come into this place and misled the Parliament—I believe by accident, because she does not know what she is talking about. Then we had the statement by the member for Surfers Paradise, who demonstrated by that statement just how biased Nelson Marshall Cooke was. I know that gentleman. He and I were doing law at about the same time. He is one of the most Right Wing Liberals ever elected to the Federal Parliament. He was a true precursor of the other former Liberal who did an inquiry for the coalition, Peter Connolly—another biased ex-Liberal member of Parliament, whom they call upon in time of need to do their dirty work for them. Nelson Cooke is a man incapable of being fair.

**Mrs Sheldon:** Marshall.

**Mr BRADDY:** Nelson Marshall Cooke is his real name. He is incapable of being fair to the Labor side of politics. The comments quoted by the member for Surfers Paradise show how unfair he is, because Nelson Marshall Cooke said that most of the members of the Labor side of politics cut their teeth in the union movement. We have done a quick count. On this side there are eight of us, not including me, who are former union officials—and there are a lot more than eight of us on this side of the Parliament. That shows how little Nelson Marshall Cooke knew about the Labor Party—how biased he was.

The master of the half-truth, the member for Surfers Paradise, repeated the defamation that we all owe our livings to the union movement. What a load of nonsense! It is about time those opposite got their facts straight. We have adopted many of the fair recommendations of the Cooke inquiry. We rejected the others. We have been vindicated in many instances. A report prepared for the Federal Government by Blake Dawson Waldron—

Time expired.

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