



Speech by

Hon. R. E. BORBIDGE

MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

Hansard 18 May 2000

MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Hon. R. E. BORBIDGE (Surfers Paradise—NPA) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.19 a.m.): Serious questions need to be raised about the involvement of the Minister for Local Government and other representatives at a secret meeting in Mackay on the sixth of this month which was exposed by the Opposition. The facts are as follows. The Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing controls the Labor Unity faction in Rockhampton. The Minister for Local Government and Planning and other things is the Labor Unity powerbroker in the Queensland Cabinet and the Labor Party caucus. The fact is that an alliance between Labor Unity and the Left denied the AWU candidate the right of preselection in the Federal seat of Capricornia and a deal between the Left and Labor Unity gave Kirsten Livermore the numbers, the preselection, the endorsements and the job.

Mr ELDER: I rise to a point of order. The AWU does not have any numbers in Capricornia.

Mr BORBIDGE: The AWU candidate, Mr Nyland, was locked out of the equation, and what we saw on 6 May was a meeting between the faction members who controlled the future of Kirsten Livermore, the Federal member for Capricornia. The question that needs to be raised is whether the Minister for Local Government and Mr Slowgrove, representing the Left, were part of a deal with the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing to put pressure on Mr Brown to withdraw the charges of assault against the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing to protect the ongoing endorsement of the Federal member for Capricornia, Mr Brown's wife.

Time expired.
