



Speech by

Hon. R. E. BORBIDGE

MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

Hansard 23 August 2000

ELECTORAL FRAUD

Hon. R. E. BORBIDGE (Surfers Paradise—NPA) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.10 a.m.): As the Labor rorts in Townsville unfold, it is becoming increasingly evident that these particular misadventures have been going on for a long, long time and have been more than happily tolerated by a whole range of people until such time as the Australian Federal Police started to close in. We have the admission by the current Premier in his own book where he bragged about the electoral corruption within the Labor Party. We have a situation in which the current Premier, as State Secretary of the Labor Party, presided over this electoral corruption. We have a situation in which the Premier, when he was Leader of the Opposition, presided over this electoral corruption.

Mr BEATTIE: I rise to a point of order. This man would say or do anything to get into Government. Those comments are untrue, they are dishonest and I ask for them to be withdrawn.

Mr SPEAKER: The Premier asks for those words to be withdrawn.

Mr BORBIDGE: Mr Speaker, I will withdraw whatever the very sensitive Premier finds offensive, and I will make the point that he bragged about these rorts, he bragged about the electoral corruption in his own book.

Mr BEATTIE: I rise to a point of order. That is untrue, it is offensive and I seek it to be withdrawn. It is untrue.

Mr BORBIDGE: Mr Speaker, I will withdraw the comment and say that the Premier was so proud about the anomalies in regard to the Labor Party preselection process that he had to dedicate a page in his book to it. I refer the Premier to his own book and his own words. I ask: when did they change the rules? Not because they wanted to: they got around to changing the rules only when the Australian Federal Police were investigating the electoral corruption in Townsville. Up until then, they were happy to preside over the rorts and the corruption.

Time expired.
