



Speech by

**Hon. R. E. BORBIDGE**

**MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE**

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Hansard 24 August 2000

**ELECTORAL FRAUD; MS K EHLMANN**

**Hon. R. E. BORBIDGE** (Surfers Paradise—NPA) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.17 a.m.): Today the Beattie Labor Government stands accused from within its own ranks of having indulged in and presided over electoral corruption. The question that needs to be answered is this: why did it take the Federal Police breathing down the collective necks of the Labor Party before the Leader of the Labor Party and the member for Woodridge changed the rules? The reality from evidence given in the Karen Ehrmann case is that there have been allegations from within the Labor Party that Karen Ehrmann's ghosts may well have participated in the Mundingburra by-election, in the 1995 general election and in the 1998 general election—not claims made by the Opposition but claims made from within the Labor Party against the Labor Party in respect of practices that have been described as widespread and endemic.

Let us look at the engulfing cloud of the large number of members of the Labor Party in this House who have now been implicated. We have the situation in which Mr Don Brown, a State Industrial Relations Commissioner, presided over a corrupt Labor disputes hearing when he was president of the Labor Party. We have the situation in which the returning officer for the corrupt preselection was employed by the Deputy Premier and factional head of the AWU. We have the situation in which the State Secretary of the Labor Party, who presided over this corruption, now sits in this House.

**Mr ELDER:** I rise to a point of order to put the record straight. Joan Budd is the general returning officer of the party, not the Townsville returning officer, or the Mundingburra returning officer, or the Thuringowa returning officer.

**Mr BORBIDGE:** I accept the Deputy Premier's assurance: she may have presided over more than one corrupt election.

Time expired.

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