



Speech by

Hon. R. E. BORBIDGE

MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

Hansard 6 September 2000

ELECTORAL FRAUD

Hon. R. E. BORBIDGE (Surfers Paradise—NPA) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.13 a.m.): It is now clear that a spectre of criminality hangs over this Government. What we have seen today is some of the most serious allegations that can be made against politicians anywhere, anytime. And the Premier gets up in the Parliament today and talks about the proud heritage of Queensland Labor! Is a proud heritage rorting and cheating your way into office? Is a proud heritage rigging the electoral rolls? Is a proud heritage campaigning for people who are convicted of electoral fraud? This proud heritage will return to haunt the member for Brisbane Central and his Government.

The Premier said in his ministerial statement to the Parliament this morning that when all this happened he was not the Premier. No, he was not the Premier; he was the Leader of the Opposition. He was the parliamentary leader of the Labor Party. Before he was the parliamentary leader, he spent more than half a dozen years as State Secretary of the Queensland Labor Party. Yet he expects us to believe that Mr McMurdo could uncover in two weeks what he could not uncover in four and a half years as parliamentary leader and half a dozen years as State Secretary of the Labor Party!

It is now a matter of public record that, despite the fact that Mr Beattie says he fixed the problems immediately, the rule changes at the Labor Party conference went through in only 1999, after the 1998 election—in fact, over three year and a half years after the 1995 election. Mr Beattie was well aware of the stench of electoral corruption that was singeing and destroying the Labor Party in Townsville. The Premier cannot dodge responsibility. He cannot plead the Sergeant Schultz defence.

Time expired.
