



Speech by

**Hon. R. E. BORBIDGE**

**MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE**

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Hansard 7 September 2000

**ELECTORAL FRAUD; CJC INQUIRY**

**Hon. R. E. BORBIDGE** (Surfers Paradise—NPA) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.02 a.m.): It is becoming increasingly clear that what the Premier says and what the Premier does in regard to the electoral corruption scandal that is engulfing his Government amount to completely separate things. We had a promise from the heart by the Premier that he would not seek to interfere, he would not seek to influence, the outcome of the CJC's deliberations. What happened? He got the Labor Party organisation to brief a QC to argue that the Labor Party should not be investigated.

**Mr BEATTIE:** I rise to a point of order. That is not true. It is wrong; it is misleading and I ask for it to be withdrawn.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I ask the Leader of the Opposition to withdraw.

**Mr BORBIDGE:** If the Premier finds it offensive, I will withdraw. He stood by as parliamentary leader while the Labor Party organisation argued by way of a legal brief to the CJC that the Labor Party should not be investigated. He said he would not interfere, yet we had him last night and this morning saying that Mr Shepherdson should complete his investigations by Christmas and that the CJC should get on with the job so as not to interfere with the Premier's time frame for a State election. He is now seeking to interfere in terms of how long the CJC takes—how long the commissioner takes—in respect of these particular inquiries.

He said that he would stand aside any members who are implicated in respect of this particular episode, the scandal of corruption that now threatens to engulf his Government. Yesterday, in respect of the member for Townsville, he said, "Where? Where? Where? Where? Where?" It is here, here, here, here and here. I table for the benefit of the Premier relevant comments in respect of the recent report of the court proceedings, uncontested, in Townsville.

Time expired.

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