



Speech by

VAUGHAN JOHNSON

MEMBER FOR GREGORY

Hansard 20 July 2000

UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr JOHNSON (Gregory—NPA) (6.35 p.m.): Tonight it is a great pleasure to speak on the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition in relation to the paltry job creation record of the Beattie Labor Government. The real issue is the productivity factor that is applicable to people from all walks of life, no matter what industry or what career path they pursue. What we need is a consolidation of jobs and purpose for the people in jobs. Over the past two years of the Beattie Labor Government we have not witnessed a consolidation of jobs. Under the Borbidge Government, going back two years ago—

Mrs Edmond interjected.

Mr JOHNSON: I will come to the Minister in a minute. No, I will not come to the Minister in a minute; I will come to her right now. Health Ministers in the previous Labor Government procrastinated over a capital works program for hospitals in this State. Barcaldine, Emerald and Clermont are three classic examples. It took the member for Toowoomba South to deliver on that policy as Health Minister in this State. Labor Ministers never had the chaff and they just rolled it over. Ken Hayward, Jim Elder and the honourable member rolled it over.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr JOHNSON: Peter Beattie did nothing. He cooked the books.

Mrs EDMOND: I rise to a point of order. He may fool his backbench, but he does not fool one other person in Queensland. It was a 1992 election commitment by the Goss Labor Government and we are proud of it.

Mr SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

Mr JOHNSON: The Minister should be thrown out; she is a waste of time.

Mr Seeney: He'd throw me out if I did that.

Mr JOHNSON: If I did it, I would get thrown out, too.

As I said, the real issue is job consolidation. Under this Government there is no job consolidation. The former Borbidge Government created some 3,000 jobs with the implementation of the Pacific Motorway program. I note that the Minister for Transport is grinning. All of those big contracts are coming to an end. Those contractors are now asking the question: where will jobs be created in the future? Tonight Dr Watson spoke about policy implementation. Labor does not have a policy on infrastructure. It came to the Treasury benches without Transport and Main Roads policies. When the Deputy Premier was the Opposition spokesman on Transport he did not have a policy, and he knows it. He continued our policy.

Mr Purcell: And where is it mostly being spent?

Mr JOHNSON: If the member shuts up for a minute, I will tell him a few home truths.

In relation to Queensland Rail, the Government is looking at throwing another 1,200 people in jobs to the wolves—the real people with purpose in QR, such as the track maintenance people, the plumbers, the boilermakers and all of the other people in workshops, including the diesel fitters, the sheetmetal workers and the electricians. QR contracts are going out of the State and overseas because this Government will not tender for them. And Government members claim to stand up for the worker.

The honourable member for Bulimba is probably the only member opposite who does stand up for the worker.

Mr Borbidge: How many jobs are going in QR?

Mr JOHNSON: About 1,200, and the boys out there know it. They come to me every day asking how they can save those jobs.

We talk about the wealth generation capacity of primary industries and the mining sector. The primary industries sector of this State is one of the most important areas in which we have to maintain those jobs. Jobs in that industry have flow-on effects to the eastern seaboard. That is why we have to have a good railway and a good road transportation system in place.

The Premier said tonight that this Budget contained a \$760m road program. We had a \$2.31 billion road and transport program in our last Budget, or 43.8% of the Capital Works Program of this State. They were real jobs that we retained and we built on them. If this Government is going to have growth in this State that creates real jobs, that creates prosperity, it has to make sure that our infrastructure development is set in granite. However, it does not have a policy of infrastructure set in granite.

Time expired.
