



Speech by

Mr L. SPRINGBORG

MEMBER FOR SOUTHERN DOWNS

Hansard 29 May 2003

MR W. T. D'ARCY

Mr SPRINGBORG (Southern Downs—NPA) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.28 a.m.): Last night, the Governor-General of Australia apologised for his mishandling of child abuse allegations made within the Anglican Church. Similarly, today the Premier of Queensland should apologise for his mishandling of child abuse allegations relating to a senior frontbench member of his party over a number of years.

This issue is simply a matter of leadership. It is simply a difference in leadership between what this Premier says that he believes in and what this Premier has actually done. Yesterday, the Premier came into this parliament and tabled copious documents in an attempt to give the impression that he acted as soon as he possibly could with regard to this matter, that he acted appropriately and that he acted consistently.

A check of the media transcripts and a check of the *Hansard* record will highlight many inconsistencies in the way in which this Premier handled this issue. I table 10 documents, two of which were tabled by the Premier yesterday, which outline his inconsistent handling. Not only that, I also table transcripts of this place where on 143 occasions this Premier relied upon the vote of the now convicted paedophile Bill D'Arcy to support his minority government. No less than 143 votes! I ask members to contrast this Premier's actions with the actions of the then Labor Leader, Kim Beazley, who would not accept the vote of Mal Colston in the Senate, who was under investigation for travel rorting.