



Speech by

Lawrence Springborg

MEMBER FOR SOUTHERN DOWNS

Hansard Thursday, 30 September 2004

ENERGEX

Mr SPRINGBORG (Southern Downs—NPA) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.23 a.m.): The Labor mates network is coming apart at the seams. This morning, there are wide media reports that the former Labor Party Treasurer in Queensland, Keith De Lacy, has been extraordinarily critical of Mr Beattie and the Labor Party's handling of Energex in Queensland and its handling of its former chairman, Don Nissen.

It is quite obvious when we look at the comments of Mr De Lacy that there are some serious rifts developing between him and senior members of the Labor Party in this state. A newspaper article states—

... Mr De Lacy, a former chairman of government owned power utility Ergon Energy and, since 1998, a director of the Government's Queensland Investment Corporation Ltd, described Mr Nissen as a highly respected and popular member of the Queensland business community.

...

'Don Nissen has been good for the (Beattie) Government because of his credibility among business people,' Mr De Lacy said.

'His departure in this manner can't do other than damage the Premier in his relations with business. It seems there's no loyalty these days.'

In the eyes of Mr De Lacy, there is no loyalty these days. It is also quite obvious that in the eyes of Mr De Lacy and many others in Queensland in the Labor Party and outside the Labor Party Mr Nissen has been used largely as a scapegoat to quarantine and to shield the government from the negative fallout of Energex and of Greg Maddock's death. There can be nothing more obvious.

As I said yesterday, there are many unanswered questions. As we saw from the news reports last night, many of those questions must continue to be asked and many of those questions must be answered by this government, including the concerns that were raised by Mr Nissen when he was speaking with those Treasury investigators about the health of Mr Maddock. We have to ask the question: why was not something done at that stage? These are the questions that are being asked in the business community. These are the questions that are being asked by the likes of Mr De Lacy, a person who is a widely respected former Labor Party Treasurer and company director.

Time expired.