



Speech by

Lawrence Springborg

MEMBER FOR SOUTHERN DOWNS

Hansard Wednesday, 6 October 2004

PREMIER, COMMENTS

Mr SPRINGBORG (Southern Downs—NPA) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.26 a.m.): In the last week Queenslanders have been subjected to a rather extraordinary bout of theatrical paranoia from the Premier. We have had the Premier running around this state accusing his cabal of Labor mates of turning on him. We have had the Premier quoted in the newspaper as saying that if you raise concerns against him he is going to sue you. He has also said and has been quoted in the newspaper that, if you raise concerns against him, Brisbane is a very small city and he is going to find out about it.

I thought, 'Is this a one-off event on the part of the Premier or is this an episodic thing from him? Is this bout of paranoia something which is exclusive to the last week or is it something that has been the hallmark of Mr Beattie's tenure in this place and prior to that?' So I did some research and, lo and behold, I found that when Mr Beattie was the chairman of the Parliamentary Criminal Justice Committee he was running around and talking about these forces of evil and how he would have to stand against them and save the world alone. This forced Premier Goss to write to Mr Beattie. This is what he said—

Peter, we are all subject to pressure and criticism from time to time, but we do not work ourselves into a lather and talk about resigning, we get on with the job—and I suggest you do the same. Peter, let me assure you that the only person talking about your resignation or removal from your position on the committee is yourself.

But what did the honourable member for Rockhampton say at the time? I quote—

Another Government member of the Parliamentary Criminal Justice Committee, Mr Schwarten, said yesterday he knew nothing of any move against Mr Beattie. 'This is the first I've heard of anybody wanting Peter Beattie's head on a platter.'

That sounds familiar. That is the sort of paranoia that we have come to know and understand from Mr Beattie—the paranoia that was displayed—

Time expired.