



Speech by

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AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY

Mr LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—Lib) (10.04 pm): A leopard never changes its spots—and the Australian Labor Party hates successful people who it tries to destroy when they enter this parliament. On Friday night on *Lateline* we witnessed the remarkable scene of the Premier trying so hard to be a statesman in the wake of Cyclone Larry, swearing like a navvy—unlike that true statesman John Howard—and likening himself to Jesus Christ.

But let us look at the Premier's record in dealing with his fellow man. How does it compare to Jesus Christ? Would Jesus Christ have said to a group of doctors last year, 'You are the same as the aristocracy before the French revolution'? Would Jesus Christ have carried out such a shameless smear on the shadow Attorney-General, the member for Caloundra, as Premier Beattie did in this parliament in the last sitting week? This highlights an alarming trend noticed by outsiders and commented on to me by government members as well as those of us in the opposition—the politics of personal denigration—as this government finds itself under pressure. A Labor member said to me that he has never seen it as bad as it is now.

These true colours of the Australian Labor Party—the masterful exponents of the politics of envy—were exemplified by the former member for Werriwa, Mark Latham, and are typified in this place by the Minister for Energy, the member for Logan, or, as I think we should rename him, the member for Logan Latham. Maybe we should just call him Noddy. The Minister for Energy cannot decide whether he wants to be a minister or a muck-raker, a Labor thug or a potential leader. I have not been here long but I reckon that you need more than a smart mouth and a chip on your shoulder to be a leader in this state. His interjections since I have been in this place include, 'What car do you drive?' And one he often uses is, 'Do you bulk-bill?', which he thinks is very clever. But when one of his staff needs a doctor, who do they call for? My friend the member for Moggill, who is a doctor—similarly when medical attention was needed for the member for Mudgeeraba; the previous Speaker, the former member for Redcliffe; the member for Mulgrave, the minister for communities; and the member for Kallangur and former transport minister.

The member for Mudgeeraba last week asserted that the coalition candidate for Gaven should be bulk-billing, when she knows nothing about the business the candidate is operating or the profile of his patients. More doctor slugging and the poor bloke is not even in this place! But why am I not surprised? This is the example given to the backbenchers: a Premier who rejected the recommendation of the all-party Members' Ethics and Parliamentary Privileges Committee that members of parliament who are dentists and doctors be allowed to help out the Queensland Health system.

I say to members opposite: keep up these personal attacks on us all the way to polling day, as I think the people of Queensland want something more from their politicians and do not like to see themselves reflected in politicians who carry out the vicious politics of envy. Do you know what they want, Mr Deputy Speaker? They want a health system that takes care of them, a transport system that gets them to work and play, and an education system that teaches their kids; they do not want a bunch of haters who are the very antithesis of everything Jesus Christ ever stood for.