



Speech by

Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

Hansard Wednesday, 25 November 2009

MOTION: CRIME AND MISCONDUCT COMMISSION INQUIRY; GOVERNMENT GRANTS

Hon. CR DICK (Greenslopes—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Industrial Relations) (5.43 pm): I move—

That all words after “Following” be deleted and the following words inserted:

“the establishment by the Crime and Misconduct Commission of an inquiry into sports grants, that this House:

- notes that no requests for additional resources have been made to the government in relation to this inquiry;
- notes the government’s significant financial support for the CMC, including record funding of \$43.2 million this financial year;
- notes the independence of the CMC and its capacity to initiate its own inquiries, and
- reaffirms its support for and confidence in the important role undertaken by the CMC.

Let me start where the member for Clayfield finished. He wanted to talk about ministerial advisers. Let us talk about the daddy of them all. Let us talk about Miles Jordana. I read from an article published in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on 19 August 2004. What did it say about Miles Jordana, the senior adviser on international affairs to the then Prime Minister, John Howard. It states—

A senior adviser to the Prime Minister, Miles Jordana, was told in early October 2001—almost a month before the last election—that photographs purporting to show asylum seekers throwing their children overboard were misrepresented.

That is the sort of stuff we get from the opposition. What did this government do? This is the government that referred this matter to the CMC. We respect the CMC; we respect its processes; we respect its independence and its ability to investigate misconduct. That is what we do on this side of the House.

The motion moved by the opposition is, frankly, a disgrace. Once again, the opposition has demonstrated that the independence of public office in this state means nothing to it. The Crime and Misconduct Commission is an organisation tasked to be the independent watchdog over public office and the conduct of public officers in Queensland. The importance of the independence of that role is clearly stated in the Crime and Misconduct Act in section 57. It states—

The commission must, at all times, act independently, impartially and fairly having regard to the purposes of this Act and the importance of protecting the public interest.

The establishment of the Crime and Misconduct Commission and its predecessor, the Criminal Justice Commission, was a direct response to the cronyism and corruption that infected this state under the corrupt leadership of the National Party when those members opposite were in government. What did they do when they came back? As soon as they came back into government under the Borbidge government—and a number of members of that government now sit in this parliament—they nobbled the CMC; they set up the Connolly-Ryan royal commission, a commission that was struck down for ostensible bias. That is their attitude to the CMC. The minute they get back on the treasury benches they will do it again. They cannot wait to nobble the CMC. It is in their DNA. It has been 20 years and they have never respected the independent watchdogs in this state.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DICK: It is too much for those opposite. They want to turn the intelligent, vigilant watchdog into a mindless, rabid attack dog for their own political purposes. For them, independence is a dirty word that stops them getting their grubby hands on the levers of the political influence to perpetuate their own soiled scheme. They do not want independence; they want rank and rotten partisan dependency. That is the only way they can prove their allegations. They do not want facts, due process, proper investigations or common sense. They do not want any of those things getting in the way of their fairytale of spin.

What do we see in this motion? It is a fairytale; that is all it is. Where are the allegations of misconduct in respect of other grants in other departments? Where is the allegation? Not one matter has been brought before this parliament. Not one matter has been referred to the CMC, yet they say the CMC needs money to further expand its investigations. This is a body that has the full support of this government. We give it whatever resources it needs to do its task. It is a fairytale that those members opposite perpetuate. What would we expect? They come in here day after day perpetrating fairytales and fantasies and dropping smears on individuals and organisations—smears on the member for Bulimba and smears on the member for Sunnybank, who are giving evidence before the CMC as all people should quite properly and quite rightly do. They have no respect.

Let us look at the confiscation of profits of crime. This year the CMC has passed an important milestone. That body has recovered \$100 million through the confiscation of profits of crime. You would not believe that if you listened to those members opposite, including the ridiculous speech—the fantasy perpetrated by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition in his response to the bill before the House relating to bikie gangs—and I will have more to say on that at another time.

This is an incredible motion that the opposition has put before the parliament. This government stands in the House tonight to support the CMC, congratulate it on its work and reassure all Queenslanders that we will resource it as necessary and let it get on with its important and independent work.

(Time expired)