



Speech by

Lawrence Springborg

MEMBER FOR SOUTHERN DOWNS

Hansard Wednesday, 19 August 2009

ACCOUNTABILITY IN GOVERNMENT

Mr SPRINGBORG (Southern Downs—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.35 am): It is absolutely clear from the last two days of parliament that this government not only does not have a moral compass but also has absolutely no judgement of what morality and integrity are in any way whatsoever. Indeed, when the Premier has been asked if she will now direct the Labor Party to repay money which it has received from a person who has been charged with political corruption, an amount of \$2,450—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hoolihan): I would remind the member for Southern Downs of the previous ruling of the Speaker in relation to that. Be very careful where you go with it.

Mr SPRINGBORG: I will not talk about the case in particular. The receipt of a donation of \$2,450 from somebody who has been charged with political corruption is indeed a failure of the leadership test if the Labor Party is not prepared to repay that. For one moment just imagine what would have happened in 1989 if the National Party at the time had received a political donation from Hector Hapeta, from Gerry Bellino or from Eddie Kornhauser. This Labor Party would have been jumping up and down and having conniptions, but today it is absolutely silent because, as far as it is concerned, where there is money around—it does not matter the circumstances—it will just rake it in.

We really need to ask the question: does the Minister for Sport now have the confidence of the Premier after that performance in the parliament this morning? I simply remind members of parliament that on 23 June 2009 Chris Bombolas said this, and it was reported in the *Courier-Mail*—

I know a lot of members of Government, I know many bureaucrats and I'll be leaning on some of those to try to work out some deals for the club.

Hardly the actions of a person who understands the ministerial code of conduct on post employment obligations! We will not stop here. We will keep digging on this issue.

(Time expired)