



Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Liberal National Party, Performance

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (3.05 pm): What an extraordinary week we have seen in Queensland politics. At the centre of this circus and this debacle has been the LNP. We saw a member of the LNP parliamentary team publicly admonished in the Legislative Assembly of Queensland. We see the Leader of the Opposition running a protection racket for his chief of staff. That is exactly what he is doing. We have seen opposition MP after opposition MP jumping ship. They cannot wait to get off the good ship Lawrence Springborg. Why? Because they can smell the way the wind is blowing and they do not like the stench that is coming from the Leader of the Opposition and his office. How could we forget the two greatest strategic minds in the parliament—perhaps the two greatest strategic minds of their generation—the member for Chatsworth and the member for Buderim? We cannot forget their contribution to who should lead the LNP. What a debacle. We have had nothing from them about policy. They are an absolute policy vacuum.

This government is getting on with its legislative program and making Queensland a healthier place through its tobacco legislation, which increases the number of smoke-free zones. There is more of that to come this week. We are getting on with the agenda. But we have heard nothing from those opposite.

Why would that be? Because they cannot even read their own report. What did Borbidge and Sheldon say? They said that the LNP integrity paper should be updated. I, too, was surprised that there was an integrity paper from the LNP. It is as thin as tissue and as small as a postage stamp, but it has to be updated. How should it be updated? Borbidge and Sheldon say it should be updated in this way—

That the LNP in government or opposition be required to adhere to the principles which include ... corruption and lack of accountability will not be tolerated ... the institutions of state must be respected.

We have seen none of that from the opposition.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, we are not going to have a shouting match across the chamber.

Mr DICK: We have the protection racket being run by the Leader of the Opposition in relation to his chief of staff. When will he stand up for once and demonstrate some integrity? When will he act to sideline this pernicious force in the LNP? He knows that half of his backbench, half of his parliamentary room, know the destruction that that individual causes to their political cause. It is about time the Leader of the Opposition stood up for something—stood up for integrity and stood up for respecting this institution.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the Leader of the Opposition, Minister for Health, you used the words 'stench leading from the Leader of the Opposition' or words to that effect. I find those words unparliamentary. Will you withdraw?

Mr DICK: I withdraw unreservedly

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you.