




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR KAWANA

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MOTION: SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (6.12 pm): Nothing surprises me in these debates now when we have an issue of union bullying, thuggish behaviour and all of those sorts of corruption allegations in the royal commission. And who do those opposite bring out? They bring out the union officials to defend the Labor Party's connection with the CFMEU. They bring out the member for Brisbane Central and the good Nurses' Union. I bet you they bring out the member for Mirani. He will be out later with his CFMEU links. If he is not on the speaking list he ought to be on the speaking list—or his good mate sitting next to him Jo-Ann Miller, the member for Bundamba, with her good CFMEU links. They should all declare a conflict of interest with regard to voting on this motion, because I put it to members that they should not. They will bring out the member for Springwood—another good union official—and then they will bring out the member for Kallangur, who is mouthing off at me. He will be out next because we know his roles in the ETU. Not reflecting on the member, but you would not want to see him on a construction site. You would not want to meet him on a construction site in opposing the union.

I do not often quote the Labor Party in this House, but let me quote the Labor Party hierarchy and let me tell members what they think about the CFMEU. The first is a quote from Bob Hawke. A lot of those new members over there are not Labor luminaries and probably do not know who Bob Hawke is, but what did Bob Hawke say about the CFMEU? An article states—

Bob Hawke has called on the Labor Party and the ACTU to consider cutting ties with the scandal-plagued Construction Forestry Mining and Energy Union, while Paul Keating has warned that trade union influence inside the party must be reduced.

It continues—

'The unions need to clean up their act and get their house in order,' Mr Hawke said. 'It just is appalling. I mean, I wouldn't tolerate it. You know what I did with the Builders Labourers Federation—I would throw them out.'

That was a quote from Bob Hawke. What did Peter Beattie say? He said—

'All these allegations and revelations are damaging but honest Labor Party people and honest unionists don't support any improper or criminal behaviour,' Mr Beattie told Sunrise ...

'I think eventually what will happen is the Labor Party will have to issue a show cause to the CFMEU why they shouldn't be disaffiliated.'

And here is the key—

'Most people will judge this in terms of how the Labor Party responds' ...

If we learnt anything from the member for Brisbane Central, it is that we know how they respond. And, of course, let us not forget the wannabe premier and the wannabe leader of the Labor Party, the health minister, sitting there with not a care in the world because he knows that he would love to vote for this motion tonight because he has spoken against the union influence in the Labor Party. This is what Cameron Dick said—

The question remains, in my view, as to which model remains relevant and contemporary to an Australia where only 15% of the Australian workforce is unionised ...

Outside Parliament House in Brisbane Queensland Council of Unions General Secretary Ros McLennan said that Mr Dick's comments were 'not-so-subtle grandstanding'. She said—

'Cameron's musings about unions in the ALP and the timing of those appear to be more about jockeying and blatant self-interest than any sincere concern,' she said.

'If Cameron Dick is throwing down a challenge to Labor to ensure its structure is relevant and contemporary then I'd recommend a good place to start is to stop navel gazing, get on with the job of governing because there's an impressive and important reform agenda ...'

So we have the health minister saying that the Labor Party should dissociate from the unions and get rid of the unions, but enter Deputy Premier Jackie Trad. What did the Deputy Premier say about the unions? An article says that the Acting Premier, Jackie Trad, has backed the CFMEU and backed Michael Ravbar, saying that Labor should not take action against the union boss because there is insufficient evidence to back the allegations. The article states further—

In an exclusive interview with The Courier-Mail, Ms Trad also defended the CFMEU itself, saying the union as an organisation should not be punished over the actions of individuals.

The Deputy Premier, the member for South Brisbane, is blinded by her own ambitions in this regard. She is blinded by her own ambitions, and this morning there was talk about the Deputy Premier wanting to jump into the driver's seat. I yelled out—no-one heard it—that she would have to jump over Cameron Dick first. He is sitting in the middle of the car before the Deputy Premier gets there. So we have the health minister saying that Labor should dissociate with the unions and dissociate with the CFMEU and we have the Deputy Premier congratulating the relationship saying how great it is. It is time for the Premier to act against the CFMEU. Who can forget why she will not act, because I have here a picture of Dave Hanna and the Premier's cosy relationship!