




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

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MOTION

Trade Unions

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (6.16 pm): The reason we do not have debate in relation to industrial organisations and transparency for employer organisations is that employer organisations were not subject to royal commissions because its members were going with company credit cards and cab charges to visit prostitutes and brothels. We have not had allegations raised about employer groups like we had in relation to Craig Thomson.

While we are talking about Craig Thomson from the federal parliament, let us go to the member for Ferny Grove. Every time the member for Ferny Grove gets up in this place I count the minutes until he mentions something about the federal parliament. I suspect he still has deprecation syndrome from the big red chamber. I think he has. It is just as red as he is going now. I suspect when we all go to bed at night—

Mr Furner interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock! Member for Kawana and member for Ferny Grove, direct your comments through the chair, please.

Mr BLEIJIE: I imagine when we all go to bed at the night the member for Ferny Grove sneaks down to the red chamber just to sit in the chair and reminisce about the good old days of the red chamber in Canberra. I suspect he does that. He was not wanted down there. The Labor Party got rid of him. We have him up here now—no problem.

There was a member yesterday—and I cannot remember who it was—who said that they were proud to be associated with union thugs. Believe it or not, one of them particularly said, 'I am proud to be associated with union thugs.' I take from that that they are proud to be associated with the thugs who were subject to a royal commission.

I do a bit of gardening. I hire a trailer from time to time to get rid of the rubbish. If one wants to get rid of evidence subject to a royal commission, you do not hire a 6 x 4 box trailer. You do not hire a trailer with a cage that you can see through. What do you hire? You hire a horse float. That is what they did. They hired a horse float to get rid of seven tonnes of documents that were going to be subject to a royal commission. They said that they were not hiding evidence or anything. They forgot to say why they put the rag over the CCTV camera.

Mr Mander: It's a coincidence.

Mr BLEIJIE: It was a coincidence that they flicked a tea towel over the CCTV camera. It was just a coincidence that they had access to a horse float. Why are the members opposite, like they said yesterday, happy to be associated with union thugs? I will tell you why, Mr Speaker. The ECQ have just released the donations for the last few months on their website. Let us look at this. Remember,

honourable members, that these are the organisations that protect the most vulnerable in our society, the workers in our society. United Voice just wrote a cheque for \$175,000 gift in kind; the AMWU, \$90,000 out the window to the Labor Party; the AWU, \$95,000; the Australian Services Union, \$66,000; the CFMEU—

Mrs Frecklington: Out of the pockets of the workers.

Mr BLEIJIE: Yes, out of the pockets of the workers. The CFMEU, the great construction workers union we just talked about, took out of their pockets \$124,000. United Voice, as we just said, was \$175,000 and there was another one a month later of \$156,000—that is nearly \$400,000 in five months. The Australian Workers' Union gifted another \$157,000. Today we saw the Minister for Industrial Relations announce the change to the public holidays at Easter. It just so happens that the shop, distributive and allied employees' union just gave \$178,000 to the Labor Party. Here we go: the Community and Public Sector Union—the community union—just wrote a cheque for \$38,000; and the CEPU, \$80,000.

I suspect the millions of dollars in Labor donations from the unions would be better put in the pockets of the workers. It would be better put to building more social housing in Logan. It would be better put to building social housing in the member for Woodridge's electorate and my electorate. Millions of dollars have been given by the union movement to the Labor Party and they claim no conflict of interest. If \$1,000 is given by a businessperson to the LNP, they are corrupt, but you can give millions of dollars to the Labor Party. You do not have influence; you buy influence and you own the Labor government when you have that money.