




Speech By
Tarnya Smith

MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY

Record of Proceedings, 2 November 2016

MOTION: CFMEU, WORKCOVER QUEENSLAND

 **Mrs SMITH** (Mount Ommaney—LNP) (6.24 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion moved by my colleague the member for Kawana. If you have to give the Minister for Industrial Relations credit for one thing it is that she holds dear to her heart the old adage ‘you don’t bite the hand that feeds you’. We know who is feeding this minister. It is none other than her union mates and her union masters, especially the CFMEU.

The minister asked why former CFMEU state secretaries should not get this role—a plumb Public Service role. Let us look at the types of characters that run with the CFMEU. I refer to what came to light last week about what Joe McDonald and his mates said. I know that the member for Sandgate loves to monitor Twitter. He might like to look at YouTube, because it is there for everyone to see. Do members know what they said? They said—

... we all know how we’ve felt for a long time about the ALP but what we’re actually going to do is take ownership of the ALP.

Frankly, I think I have missed something. Everybody on this side of the House finds it extremely important that since 2000 the unions have donated over \$55 million to the ALP. Now we find out that over \$156,000 was contributed to the Queensland ALP from January to June this year. I do not think that was for a Christmas party; I think it was just another payout to secure a public role. That is not buying influence; it is owning a political party. Each and every one of the 42 members on the other side of the House is owned and controlled by the unions.

Let us look at why CFMEU officials are not appropriate appointments. Brian Parker and Darren Greenfield are accused of consorting with underworld criminal figures; using standover men, bikies and career criminals; engaging in intimidation; and making death threats—and the 42 members opposite say, ‘There’s nothing wrong with that.’ Who can forget what happened on 8 September, when Jade Ingham is quoted as saying, ‘We just like a [expletive] blue.’ At that very same rally, which disrupted the whole of Brisbane, Michael Ravbar is quoted as saying, ‘I love a [expletive] revolution.’ On a side note, I do not think that language is necessary.

Time and time again we have seen corruption, even within the membership of the ALP. There was Bill Shorten and the \$40,000, and Cesar Melhem signing up the Australian netballers. What about the Deputy Premier’s very good friend Eddie Obeid? What happened to Eddie? I think there was a \$5,000 donation to the Deputy Premier, but we do not want to talk about that, do we? Apparently when the minister meets Michael Ravbar there is nothing going on and nothing to see. What about the 113 officials before courts? Those officials are from one organisation and one organisation only: the CFMEU. There are some 1,100 charges but, ‘No, there is nothing to see here!’

It is a sad situation for government members that at the end of the day they cannot make a decision, they cannot deliver any benefits for their electorates and they cannot represent their constituents because they are beholden to the unions. Why is the minister making the final decision on such an important appointment? We all know why.