




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

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MOTION

Liberal National Party, Political Donations

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.50 am): What an interesting debate for the Deputy Premier to bring on at this time. The Deputy Premier asks, ‘Where is the opposition leader?’ Well, I am right here. My question is: where is the Premier in terms of moving this motion? If she is so outraged, why is the Premier not standing up, instead of hiding behind the Deputy Premier? Who is running the show in this government? That is what the people of Queensland want to know. Who is running the tactics, the strategy and the cabinet? The people of Queensland know that it is not the member for Inala. They know that it is not Evan Moorhead, the former member, down there at Trades Hall. We know that the person running this government is the member for South Brisbane.

If this Premier had an ounce of leadership she would have taken up the charge, she would be answering the questions and she would be delivering. We know that this Premier has no authority. If this Premier had any authority, would the member for Pumicestone still be sitting in this House? If this Premier had any authority, would the member for Yeerongpilly have survived as long as he has and still be sitting in the back of this House? We know that the member for Yeerongpilly is polishing the shoes of the member for South Brisbane. If the Premier had any authority, she would be talking to the Minister for Police and asking, ‘Why did you treat the Pullens in such a shameful way?’ Instead, when approached by a journalist at the Ekka the Premier ran and hid.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. I call the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr NICHOLLS: I can remember an ALP candidate for the seat of Wynnum at the last election, Mr Cheverton. Where was the Premier on that one? She ran and hid.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am pretty liberal when it comes to allowing debate in this House. I have allowed a good two minutes for the Leader of the Opposition to address the motion before the House. I know that the Deputy Premier touched on a range of issues in her contribution, but they all came to the core issue of the motion before the House. Mr Speaker, I ask you to provide some guidance at least to the Leader of the Opposition to come to the matter before the House.

Mr SEENEY: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The nonsense from the Leader of the House cannot go unchallenged. The Deputy Premier spent most of her contribution questioning the authority of the Leader of the Opposition. He is perfectly entitled—

Mr HINCHLIFFE: Mr Speaker—

Mr SEENEY: Sit down my friend. You will get your chance. Sit down. You know the rules. Just because it is not going the way the government wanted—just because the debate is going somewhat pear shaped, as the Leader of the Opposition—

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Callide, there is no point of order. What was your point of order?

Mr HINCHLIFFE: My point of order was that there was no point of order from the Leader of Opposition Business.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you. Resume your seat.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I equally reiterate that the Leader of the Opposition has not used the word 'donation' indeed.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, members. I urge all members to ensure their submission relates to the motion before the House.

Mr NICHOLLS: I think the Leader of Opposition Business was dead right: this has gone pear shaped. This has gone mango shaped!

What about the calls for transparency and openness that we heard from the Deputy Premier in her role as acting leader of the Labor Party in this place? What about the openness and transparency when this government changed the rules on voting with 18 minutes notice? So much for openness, transparency, accountability and listening to the concerns of Queenslanders! So much for listening to and respecting the will of the parliament! So much for listening to and respecting the will of the people of Queensland!

What else have we seen over the years in respect of the leadership of this Premier? Of course, this was the Premier who, when the member for Yeerongpilly was finally found to be under a cloud of a reasonable suspicion of corrupt conduct, despite all their protestations about 1 William Street, went and hid on the top floor of 1 William Street for something like six hours. She would not come out, would not face the media and would not answer a question. When she was finally tracked down, when the media must have used the Find My iPhone app, what was the excuse? 'I was feeling a bit sick.'

Mr BAILEY: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The motion is very clearly about electoral donors and revealing who electoral donors are in relation to the law. The Leader of the Opposition has not addressed the motion—not a single word in four minutes. I ask that he address the motion and tell us what he is doing about this issue.

Mr SPEAKER: I urge all members to speak to the motion before the House.

Mr NICHOLLS: When the Deputy Premier pretends that she is concerned about openness, transparency and accountability, when she pretends to be a paragon of virtue, all Queenslanders know that it is a pretence.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, members. You have had a pretty good go, Deputy Premier.

Mr NICHOLLS: When we look at the events of today and last night and at the embarrassment this government is suffering, we wonder why this motion is being put to the House right now. The confected indignation of the member for South Brisbane, who as deputy party secretary of the ALP was very happy to take \$5,000 from Eddie Obeid—that is well known—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I am going to ask members who speak to the motion to ensure their contribution relates to the motion and is not an open-ended opportunity to say whatever they want to say.

Mr NICHOLLS: In terms of talking about compliance with the Electoral Act, we have in front of us in the form of the Deputy Premier someone who raised the issue of donations, having taken donations from a convicted fraudster of the Labor Party in New South Wales—without question. Well may one ask: what did the Deputy Premier, in her role at that time, expect to have to deliver in response to that donation?

Today what we have seen from the Deputy Premier is a statement of self-serving claims that would do any conspiracy theorist proud. She must be taking advice from the former member for Greenslopes—the member for Woodridge now. He moved his bar practice chambers out to Woodridge eventually. These extraordinary revelations are nothing more than the Labor Party repeating its own statements. There are no facts, there is no evidence and there is no claim. There is only a tawdry attempt at yet another stunt by a dysfunctional Labor government internally riven, at war with itself, led by a Premier who does not have the authority that is needed to even get projects off the ground, who has to check every decision with the union bosses, whether it is Ravbar or whether it is someone from the Together union or someone from the AMWU or any one of the conga line of—

Mr BAILEY: I rise to a point of order. It is eight minutes into the debate and this motion has not been addressed by a single word from the Leader of the Opposition. I call on him to address the motion: reveal the donors.

Mr SPEAKER: There is no point of order. Leader of the Opposition, do you have anything you want to add?

Mr NICHOLLS: Not only does he troll you online; he trolls you in this place as well—and the contribution is about as useful. How those opposite wish he was back over there! The Deputy Premier is short a number in cabinet at the time being. Let no-one be under any misapprehension as to the motives of the Deputy Premier and the Labor Party. With no policies of their own, with no plan of their own, with nothing more than smear and innuendo they seek to raise this motion. It deserves to be recognised for what it is. It deserves condemnation for what it is. It is false. It does not stand up. It has no bearing and no relevance to the lives of Queenslanders, who are paying more for their power, who are taking longer to get home, who are not getting the services they need and who realise that the only party in Queensland that can help deliver and build a better Queensland for them and their families is the LNP.