




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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MOTION

Labour Movement

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (2.47 pm): I am very pleased to rise on International Workers Day to support this important motion moved by the Minister for Industrial Relations. I associate myself with the comments made by all speakers of the government, including the Minister for Industrial Relations who is doing an outstanding job representing, protecting and supporting the workers of this state. I am pleased to follow the member for Moggill who had his own experience representing workers. So appalling was he that his own membership sacked him as president of the AMA. That was his experience of representing workers: failing to represent effectively salaried medical officers and they removed him from office. The LNP rewarded him by giving him a seat in parliament.

It is worth reflecting, on this important day for the Labor movement, on those historic moments and how those things that we often take for granted have not been granted.

Mr Molhoek interjected.

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the member for Southport. Only three members of the opposition out of 16 have the guts to stand up and put their money where their mouth is.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Woodridge, that is unparliamentary language.

Mr DICK: I withdraw. Only three of them have spoken. They are happy to interject from the cheap seats, but they are not willing to stand up and put their views on the parliamentary record, led principally by the interjections of the member for Southport.

In campaign after campaign, battling on the shop floor, marching in the streets, arguing in the courts, the union movement has taken up the hammer of social justice and pounded the metal of the nation's identity into the form of modern Australia. The 38-hour week, workers compensation, sick leave, long service leave, penalty rates, pay equity for similar work, equal pay for women—a difficult concept for those members opposite—maternity and paternity leave, protection from sexual harassment and racial discrimination, protection from unfair dismissal and exploitative work practices, the award based wage system itself and the right for workers to collectively bargain have all been delivered by the Australian labour movement with the strong support and in partnership with the mighty Australian Labor Party. We have worked together, urging the nation forward towards the light on the hill; a nation where everyone gets a chance and the opportunity to be the best they can be; a society and a nation for everyone, not just the privileged few. As Paul Keating said, ours is a party of conviction, our movement is a party of conviction, while the Liberal National Party is a party of convenience. That is the difference between both of us.

What did we see today in the parliament? What is the one thing that the LNP promised? We heard it from the member for Kawana. The one thing they promised was another royal commission. That is the promise from the members opposite today. I say this to the members of the LNP: there has

been a series of royal commissions into the trade union movement in this nation and in three hours the banking and financial services royal commission found more egregious behaviour, more criminality and more fraudulent behaviour in banks and financial institutions in this nation than any royal commission into the trade union movement has ever found. We say to the member for Kawana: bring it on again. If they want another royal commission, we are ready to appear. We are ready to represent and defend workers and so are our trade unions, because that is all those opposite have to offer.

Today we have not heard one word from any opposition member respecting the contribution that the workers have made to the building of this state and country—not one word. All we have heard about is their manic obsession, dribbling forth, on and on, attacking workers and attacking their representatives in their ideological obsession with trade unions. That is the divide. It is a short path between the members of the government and the members of the opposition, but it is an ideological gulf because we will always stand up to preserve, protect and defend workers and their representatives.

They will stop at nothing. There is no power they will not exercise. There is no criminal power they will not exercise. There is no prosecution they will not seek to pursue. There is nothing they will not do to undermine trade unions in this state and nation. However, the trade unions of this nation and state know that the Australian Labor Party will always stand with them. We will keep fighting. Workers of this state and nation have never needed unions more. They have never needed the Australian Labor Party more. We will stand with them. We will continue to stand with them, as we have since those workers first gathered under a tree 128 years ago in Barcaldine. I urge all members of this House to support this motion.

(Time expired)