



Speech by

Jann Stuckey

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

Hansard Wednesday, 24 February 2010

MOTION: AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY STATE CONFERENCE

Mrs STUCKEY (Currumbin—LNP) (5.39 pm): I rise to second the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition and honourable member for Surfers Paradise. 'You can count on me,' the Premier said, hand on heart, as she forced an early election upon the decent folk of Queensland. 'You can count on me,' said a Premier so desperate to become Queensland's first elected female Premier that she sold out the people of this great state.

This debate is about honesty and truthfulness—two words used very loosely by members opposite. Just like the words 'open' and 'transparent', they fall from Labor members' lips with insincere frequency and alacrity. So long had the Premier been tutored by the greatest spin doctor of them all—Beattie—she had forgotten what they meant. Fanfare, spin and a stunt a day kept voters at bay for a whole decade. But just as they were cottoning on to this vaudeville act of Beattie and Bligh, Beattie up and left before the tricks he and Bligh played on Queenslanders were revealed, before he could be blamed—

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I do not want to interrupt the creative flow of the honourable member, but you will refer to the Premier by the correct title. That way, we will maintain dignity in the debate.

Mrs STUCKEY: The former Premier left before the tricks the current Premier and Mr Beattie played on Queenslanders were revealed, before he could be blamed for plunging Queensland into a black hole of debt. The new Premier simply picked up where he left off. But rather than jump into shark tanks and other flashy stunts designed to draw the media, she preferred to don a hard hat—a hard hat here, a hard hat there, a hard hat everywhere, even when they were not warranted for safety purposes. Tony Fitzgerald's ferocious public attack on the Bligh government's 12 years of secrecy, cronyism and corruption in July last year, stating that Labor considered accountability to be 'collateral damage' in its fight to retain power, was so much of a close call for the Bligh government that the Premier was forced to hastily react to the accusations by issuing discussion papers and new legislation.

Again in August last year the Premier was telling Queenslanders they could count on her—this time to clean up the mess created by pay-per-view politics involving Labor linked lobbyists. 'I know that tackling these issues means taking on some pretty powerful players,' she said. Now that was close to the truth, but she did not mention these were players she played with often—players who knew the game rules and knew that if they did not pay then they did not get a say. It was Labor's way or no highway, no railway, no resort. On 21 January this year the Premier said with regard to the sale of assets—

I do not shy away from any form of debate on this issue either in the Labor Party or outside of it.

She should have added 'unless I can control the outcome', as was the case at last year's Labor state conference when, curiously, there were voting members absent for a crucial vote on asset sales.

People are not stupid. They are working out for themselves that they were tricked by this government at the last election, and they do not like it! No-one likes to be made a fool of, even less so when they place trust in someone or something such as the Premier and the Labor Party. They do not like losing the fuel subsidy. They do not like vehicle registration hikes. They do not like paying crippling costs

for their electricity or their water. They do not like filling in sustainability declaration forms. They do not like being denied access to discounted solar hot-water systems. Most of all, they do not like having Queensland's assets sold off, and particularly at bargain basement prices.

Amidst all this unrest Mike Kaiser popped into the spotlight again, hand-picked by the Premier after the fall of Morris Iemma in New South Wales. Kaiser, a self-confessed rorter from the Shepherdson inquiry, was given a plum job and a plum salary to assist the Queensland Premier. But before long Kaiser got a whiff that the Premier's popularity was tumbling, so he jumped ship to work for the NBN project under circumstances that have raised questions of integrity. No wonder the Premier is worried about her job. Even Kaiser has deserted her!

In May 2008 then Premier Morris Iemma overturned 117 years of ALP history on sanctity of conference by introducing legislation into New South Wales for the partial privatisation of the state's power industry. For his arrogance he fell on his own factional sword. By announcing legislation to allow asset sales of state owned entities before taking it to a state conference, the Premier was considered by some to be in breach of her own party policy. Perhaps the Premier has a case of the nervous Nellies. After all, look what happened to Iemma. She started talking about herself in the third person—a sure sign of delusional behaviour! So self-absorbed, she is no longer able to connect with the world around her. Failure to oppose moves to cancel or postpone the ALP state conference would highlight these incompetencies further and deny rank-and-file members their right to vote.

(Time expired)