



Speech By
Rob Molhoek

MEMBER FOR SOUTHPORT

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MOTION

Labour Movement

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (2.58 pm): Today in the House we have heard some great fairy stories. We have heard tales of the good old days of Labor and the great achievements of the past 150 years, but, sadly, the Labor Party that sits in this House today is not the Labor Party of 50 years ago or 100 years ago. They are not the people who went out and fought for the rights of workers. The Labor Party of old was all about a job for everyone. I remember it well when I lived and worked in Broken Hill for five years. It was about a job for everyone. However, the Labor Party of today is all about jobs for their mates. They are all about better benefits for their mates and their members.

This morning there were some issues around a flier being held up in the House. The truth is that Labor governments of the past sold Queensland assets, and who did they sell them to? In principle they sold them to their own Labor controlled union funds which then turned those business opportunities around and sacked workers to optimise the profits of those funds so they would have better benefits for their members.

Today we heard the Minister for Local Government introduce the Belcarra stage 2 legislation, which talks about councils not being able to accept political donations from the development industry, but there was not one word in that piece of legislation about councillors like former candidate Penny Toland taking money from the CFMMEU. There were no restrictions on council candidates or Labor candidates getting money from the unions. The double standards demonstrated by this lacklustre group of Labor members across the other side of the House when it comes to defending workers' rights is absolutely appalling. To stand there and try to take credit for the achievements of 100 years ago and of some of the old Labor stalwarts of 50 years ago is an absolute disgrace. We heard some great accounts from some Labor members trying to take credit for things that occurred before they were even born. In fact, I think it was the member for Cairns who was standing up there. We are getting a history lesson. We are not getting anything from those on the other side of the House about what they will do to improve the lot of workers today. We are not hearing any ideas about—

An honourable member interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stevens): Order!

Mr MOLHOEK: We are not hearing any great, fresh ideas from those opposite about how to reduce the worst unemployment figures in our nation or to get Queenslanders back to work. No, we are not hearing that. All we are hearing from them is history lessons—basking in their reflected glory from the past. It is interesting that nobody wants to remember the glory days of Anastacia Palaszczuk when she was selling off Queensland assets.

Mr STEWART: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member on his feet referred to the Premier and is using the incorrect terms. I ask him to use the correct title.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sorry, I missed the terminology. I ask that the member withdraw the terminology.

Mr MOLHOEK: Sorry, I should have referred to the 'Premier' and not 'Annastacia Palaszczuk'.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please use the correct terminology, member for Southport.

Mr MOLHOEK: From the other side of the House we also hear some fairly disingenuous proposals. Last year, the member for Springwood mounted this great fight for fairer pay for the subcontractors of Queensland, and what did we end up with? Legislation that just looks after people who work on government contracts worth over \$10 million. We have seen nothing actually to help the subcontractors of Queensland even though that is what the whole pitch was about.

It is an absolute sham for those on that side of the House to stand today and give us a history lesson about the great achievements of Labor and how fair Labor was. Many years ago, my parents were members of the Labor Party but changed sides because they were so disappointed in how Labor had let them down. The Labor Party of today is not about a job for everyone: it is about a better job and better benefits for their mates, about advancing the cause of Labor and about fleecing the labour unions to support their campaigns.