

**CORRUPTION AND CRIME COMMISSION — MISCONDUCT INVESTIGATION**

*Statement*

**HON DR STEVE THOMAS (South West — Leader of the Opposition)** [6.43 pm]: A fairly momentous event occurred today in the hearings of the Joint Standing Committee on the Corruption and Crime Commission, which was a public hearing, so I can make reference to it. What was presented was an answer to a question about a fairly salacious episode that I like to entitle, “Phil Edman’s laptop”. The commissioner was asked what was happening with the investigation of Phil Edman’s laptop. The commissioner said that that investigation is “effectively closed” and that the contents of the laptop “did not live up its hype”. He went outside then and said in a quote to the media —

“I haven’t seen anybody that needs to be buried with the contents ...

Members might remember, particularly those who were around for the last parliamentary term as well as this one, the enormous furore that occurred over the contents of Phil Edman’s laptop. Some poor devil in the Corruption and Crime Commission had to sit there and go through the contents of his laptop, which must have been one of the most disturbing and possibly disgusting things that they had to do, but the end result has been that there is nothing to see here, or certainly nothing that impacts the operations of the Corruption and Crime Commission. I make this note because I remember the enormous amount of television, media, newspaper and radio coverage. The salacious nature of this laptop was in the media constantly. The issue of the laptop was the cause of enormous debate and discontent in this Parliament.

**Hon Kyle McGinn** interjected.

**Hon Dr STEVE THOMAS:** I am not defending him for an instant, member.

**Hon Kyle McGinn:** Do you know what he said? He said that there was enough on that laptop to bury people.

**Hon Dr STEVE THOMAS:** He did, and it was obviously rubbish. As the commissioner himself said in a public hearing today, it did not live up to the hype.

I will probably have a few more things to say about this because I think careers were damaged. I am not interested in the careers of the people mentioned in the investigations, but within this house people stood up for what was right and were damaged in that fight. As it turns out, the laptop in question did not live up to the hype. I am looking forward to some media coverage on that, because all the salacious media coverage suggesting all these things was over the top.

**Hon Kyle McGinn:** He suggested it.

**Hon Dr STEVE THOMAS:** That is right; he suggested it. I am not arguing. He suggested it, but it got enormous coverage. I am hoping there is a bit of equivalency here. I am hoping to see the media outlets say, “Despite what Phil Edman himself said, the laptop did not live up to the hype and the investigation is effectively closed.” I think there is a message for everybody that when we buy into that hype, we probably embarrass ourselves, and ourselves as a chamber, but we also injure and damage people, including people on the other side of the house. Let us be very cautious and careful about what we throw around on this one and take note, because I think there will be some follow-up on this issue that caused enormous concern and discontent. It put people in this house at odds, and the result is that it has not lived up to the hype. We need to very carefully look at ourselves, our house, the way we have behaved through this process and, in particular, the media before we go down this path again.