



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**MATTERS OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

**Economic Leadership**

**SPEECH**

**Wednesday, 16 March 2016**

BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## SPEECH

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**Speaker** Kelly, Craig, MP

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**Mr CRAIG KELLY** (Hughes) (16:20): What a fantastic pleasure it is to follow the member for Bendigo and also the member for Lilley! The member for Lilley said, 'It keeps coming back to me.' It certainly does! I remember, several years ago in this very same chamber, that we had the member for Lilley standing at that dispatch box and telling us about the four years of surpluses he announced that night.

**Dr Leigh interjecting—**

**Mr CRAIG KELLY:** That was your work, was it also, the member for Fraser, down there at the dispatch box squawking like a duck? He said, 'This budget delivers for the coming year, on time, on promised surpluses year-on-year, strengthening.' That is what keeps coming back to the public of Australia.

The member for Lilley and also the member for Bendigo went on about Labor's great job-creation record. So let us just have a look at that quickly for a minute. In the 2013-14 year, in that entire 12 months, only 7,200 new jobs were created in the economy. And you know what? There was a loss of 90,000 full-time jobs. Full-time jobs went backwards. We were only able to get that small 7,200 job increase because we had a transfer of jobs from full-time people going into part-time employment.

Let's have a look at the coalition's record over the last 12 months. There were 298,300 new jobs created in this economy.

**Dr Leigh:** What about the effects test?

**Mr CRAIG KELLY:** I am sure the member for Fraser, sitting at the table, does not want to hear that this coalition government has created 300,000 new jobs in the economy in the last 12 months. As we know, economic growth in the last 12 months has been three per cent. It exceeds any G7 nation. We are leading the world. The economy is heading in the right direction.

The dangers are what we hear from this Labor government. We also need to remember how hamstrung the coalition has been in creating those 300,000 new jobs and getting that level of growth above the G7 nations. You know what? This government has to find \$13 billion, every year, just to pay the interest on the debt that you guys ran up. Every month, we have to pay a bill of \$1 billion in interest—because of your waste and reckless spending. That money could have gone to schools, to education, to kids with disabilities, to roads and to hospitals. We cannot use that.

It all has to go to paying interest on the debt from Labor's reckless spending. Yet we have this good record so far. What should really concern every single Australian is that if this Labor government were ever in power they would simply give more power to their union masters. We saw the story today about their mates in the ACT Labor government doing a secret deal.

**Dr Leigh:** Let's hear about the effects test.

**Mr CRAIG KELLY:** I am sure you will speak against this, member for Fraser. I will be very interested in your opinion about this secret deal that was done to give unions the right to veto tenders. What a disgrace! We have seen exactly the same thing with the decision by Labor to create a road safety tribunal. It has nothing to do with road safety—nothing whatsoever.

They have put a burden on independent owner-truck drivers, people who are the salt of this earth, who simply want the economic freedom to be independent and work for themselves. When this Labor government was in government it put these people at a competitive disadvantage that would force them out of business or force them into unionised employment. That is a disgrace! To use the excuse of road safety is offensive. This coalition

government has a good record. We have things on track. The real danger to this country, should these people ever get back into government— (*Time expired*)

The DEPUTY SPEAKER ( Mr Goodenough ): It being 4.25 pm the discussion has concluded.