

MPs knew of fraud claims

Courier Mail - Chris Griffith, 10 Oct 2000

THREE serving Labor MPs, a former party president, and two former assistant state secretaries were aware of claims of electoral fraud involving party members, it was claimed yesterday.

In the Shepherdson inquiry into vote rorting yesterday:

PARTY returning officer Joan Budd said she told former state secretary Mike Kaiser two forged electoral commission white cards had been used in an attempt to enrol ALP members for a pre-selection vote in East Brisbane council ward in 1993.

KURWONGBAH MP Linda Lavarch also was named as a recipient of a letter in October 1993 from then assistant state secretary Lindesay Jones concerned about "unprecedented" electoral stacking in the ward.

Ms Budd said she had told Deputy Premier Jim Elder former AWU faction member Lee Bermingham allegedly had asked Brisbane party member Ross Musgrove to put his numbers into Mundingburra for the 1996 election. She interpreted this as a request to transfer Labor members on the roll.

Ms Budd said she believed Mr Bermingham was the person responsible "because of talk I heard around".

"I tried for years to get direct evidence on Lee and I was never able to do that."