

*Education Amendment Bill — Third Reading - 6 May 2010*

Hon Sir ROGER DOUGLAS (ACT): I want to make just one or two points on the Education Amendment Bill, and I will certainly not speak for more than 2 or 3 minutes.

I want to make it clear that the ACT Party will be voting for this bill at its third reading. But I want to make it clear, as a member of the Education and Science Committee, where I stand on the issue that Trevor Mallard raised in reference to the validation of some expenditure that King's High School, in Dunedin, had incurred, and its desire to pay that debt off out of its future capital grants. I believe, irrespective of what the situation is or what the rules are, that the school should be allowed to do this. I think that for three basic reasons: firstly, it will not cost the Government one extra dollar in terms of expenditure; secondly, the Government does not need to spend one dollar earlier than it would otherwise spend it; thirdly, I believe that the board of governors is better equipped, because it is closer to the action, to determine how that money should be spent than some bureaucrat in Wellington. I for one simply cannot understand the attitude that the Ministry of Education takes and why the Minister does not simply tell the ministry to pull its head in.