

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Council**

**THURSDAY, 13 JUNE 1872**

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## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

*Thursday, 13 June, 1872.*

Privilege—Non-payment of Council Expenditure.

## PRIVILEGE—NON-PAYMENT OF COUNCIL EXPENDITURE.

Upon the Order of the Day being read for the consideration of the President's communication respecting the non-payment of the Council salaries and expenses for the month of May, 1872,

The Hon. H. B. Fitz, said: Honorable Gentlemen—I moved, yesterday, that this matter be taken into consideration to-day. I

am not quite sure, and was not, at the time, that it was not the duty of the Postmaster-General to have taken that step, as the matter is one affecting the Government; because, we are supposed, in this House, not to know what has taken place in the other House. We only feel the difficulty by supplies not having been granted. I am pleased to find that it is at an end, and that supplies will be voted. But I think that this is a matter which should be referred to the Standing Orders Committee, so that in the case of a similar difficulty arising some time hence, it will have been provided for. My own opinion is, as I before stated, that if this Council is to be an independent House of Legislature, our supplies should be provided for by an Act. I cannot see why Ministers, and other matters, should be provided for by Act, and this House, which is supposed to be a much more independent portion of the Parliament than Ministers themselves, should not be so provided. I shall therefore move—

That the matter therein mentioned be referred to the Standing Orders Committee for report thereon.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL said he agreed with what his honorable friend, Mr. Fitz, had stated as to the Standing Orders Committee; but thought it his duty to explain to the House also—as what he had done had been called in question—the reasons he had for allowing another honorable member to undertake his duties. In the first place, under the circumstances, he was in a very peculiar position; but he never thought or had any intention of shirking the duties which devolved upon him, either as a member of the Council or as a member of the Ministry. He hoped he always shewed himself fit for his duties, and ready to fulfil any duty for the good of the House. But, really, he had thought that it would come so much better from his honorable friend, Mr. Fitz, than from himself, in his double capacity, to make a motion upon the communication of the President, that he had gladly left it in the honorable gentleman's hands; especially, when he happened for once to agree with him. He was generally antagonistic to the honorable gentleman, and he had wished to have his full say upon the matter. This was not so necessary, now, as he had thought it would have been; but there was the reason he had not taken the matter up at first. He had thought it best to let the matter come on as it had come. But, if he had erred, it was not from any disinclination to fight the battles of the Council; but because he had thought he saw a better way than if he moved, by leaving it to the honorable member to take the matter up. He hoped the House would understand him in what he had done. One or two gentlemen had commented upon his letting the matter pass; but he had thought it best for the House that, in his position, he should do so.

Question put and passed.