LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF QUEENSLAND

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

NO. 44

SECOND SESSION OF THE FORTY–EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 3 DECEMBER 1996

CONTENTS

Acts Interpretation Amendment Bill 1996 .................................................. 415
Adjournment .......................................................... 417
Attendance .......................................................... 417
Auditor–General – Reports .................................................. 412
Electoral Amendment Bill 1996 .................................................. 415
General Business – Matters of Public Interest ........................................ 415
Government Papers .......................................................... 413
Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee – Paper .......................... 414
Matter of Privilege .......................................................... 412
Meeting of the House .......................................................... 412
Members’ Ethics and Parliamentary Privileges Committee – Paper .......................... 414
Ministerial Response to a Petition .................................................. 413
Ministerial Statements—
  Business Co–operation Agreement with New Caledonia .................................. 413
  Merger of Suncorp, Metway and QIDC .................................................. 413
  Queensland Tourism and Travel Corporation ........................................ 414
  Recent bushfires in Queensland .................................................. 414
  Upgrade of water infrastructure in Queensland ........................................ 414
Notice of Motion .......................................................... 414
Notice of Motion – Rural Fire Brigade Budget ........................................ 416
Papers tabled during the recess .................................................. 412
Personal Explanation .................................................. 414
Postponed Order – Government Business ........................................ 415
Private Members’ Statements .................................................. 414
Queensland Law Society Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 1996 .................. 415
Questions without notice .................................................. 414
Quorum .......................................................... 417
Scrutiny of Legislation Committee – Paper ........................................ 414
Statutory Instruments .................................................. 413
Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders—
  WorkCover Queensland Bill 1996 .................................................. 414
  WorkCover Queensland Bill 1996 .................................................. 416
1 MEETING OF THE HOUSE

The House met at 9.30am pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (Honourable N J Turner) read prayers.

2 MATTER OF PRIVILEGE

Mr Grice rose on a matter of privilege and made the following statement—

"The Courier-Mail this morning blew the whistle on conduct by the Criminal Justice Commission which I believe goes to the heart of the ability of this Parliament to operate free of coercion. Honourable members will recall that I made allegations in the House some little time ago – allegations which cast doubt on the fitness of the head of the CJC’s Official Misconduct Division to carry out his important duties in the best interest of this State and its democratic institutions.

We now find that the CJC has reacted in a manner entirely predictable for an organisation which has set itself above all of our democratic institutions. Evidence given to the Connolly/Ryan commission shows that the CJC began an investigation into me and Mr Nichols the day after I exercised my right and obligation as a parliamentarian to raise matters of grave concern about Mr Le Grand. The CJC, which should be servant and not master of the Parliament, set out to investigate a Member of Parliament, and presumably to launch a prosecution in defence of one of its bosses. Conduct such as this can have only one purpose – to muzzle any parliamentary comment on the CJC.

The CJC realises the only possible check on its excesses exists in a Parliament which is unafraid of the persecution of its members by an outside body with a frightening range of powers. The attack on me and on Mr Nichols would not have been revealed but for evidence given by the CJC chairman, Mr Frank Clair, to the Connolly/Ryan commission.

Who knows how many Members of this House have been so investigated before, and what use was made of any evidence gathered against them? Who knows what pressure has been brought to bear against individual Members of Parliament by a body which sets itself above the elected Parliament of the people? I call on the Privileges Committee to demand answers to questions such as the means used to obtain evidence to smear me and to subvert the inquiry set up by this Parliament.

Has the CJC used listening devices? Has it held secret investigatory hearings where it can bully and compel witnesses? Has it seized evidence which might otherwise have gone to the Connolly/Ryan commission? The last, at least, seems certain, given the reports on yesterday’s hearing from AAP. I also believe the PCJC should now demand that both Mr Clair and Mr Le Grand should stand down from the powerful positions they are so obviously prepared to abuse, at least until the Connolly/Ryan commission has considered my original allegations.

In conclusion, Mr Speaker, I will be urgently writing to you, asking for your consideration to refer these matters to the Privileges Committee for urgent report."

3 AUDITOR–GENERAL – REPORTS

Mr Speaker informed the House that he had received the following reports—

Auditor–General—
First Report on Audits performed for 1995–96

4 PAPERS TABLED DURING THE RECESS

The Clerk informed the House that the following paper, received during the recess, was tabled on the date indicated—

2 December 1996—
5 Statutory Instruments

The following statutory instruments were tabled by The Clerk—

Commissions of Inquiry Act 1950—
Commissions of Inquiry Regulation (No. 2) 1996, No. 360
Consumer Credit (Queensland) Act 1994—
Consumer Credit Amendment Regulation (No. 4) 1996, No. 349
Local Government (Planning and Environment) Act 1990—
Local Government Court Rules Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 1996, No. 351
Mineral Resources Act 1989—
Mineral Resources Amendment Regulation (No. 8) 1996, No. 350
Public Service Act 1996—
Proclamation – certain provisions of the Act commence 1 December 1996, No. 361
Public Service Regulation 1996, No. 348
State Financial Institutions and Metway Merger Facilitation Act 1996—
State Financial Institutions and Metway Merger Facilitation Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 1996, No. 359
Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994—
Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Exemption Regulation (No. 28) 1996, No. 357
Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Exemption Regulation (No. 29) 1996, No. 358

6 Ministerial Response to a Petition

The Clerk tabled the following response to a petition, received during the recess—

Response from the Minister for Environment (Mr Littleproud) to a petition presented by Mr Healy, from 21 petitioners, regarding properties built on a former dump site in the suburb of Wilsonton, Toowoomba

7 Government Papers

The following papers were tabled—

(a) Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for the Arts (Mrs Sheldon)—
(b) Minister for Mines and Energy (Mr Gilmore)—
Report on visit to North America from 11 to 25 October 1996
(c) Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (Mr Perrett)—
Annual Reports for 1995–96 and Explanations for late tabling—
Department of Primary Industries
Queensland Fruit and Vegetable Growers
Australian Quality Egg Farms Ltd
Report on visit to New Zealand, September 1996
(d) Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Mr Johnson)—
Statement concerning late tabling of Annual Reports
Rockhampton Port Authority – Annual Report for 1995–96

8 Ministerial Statements

(a) Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for the Arts (Mrs Sheldon), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House that on 1 December 1996, the merger between Suncorp, Metway and QIDC was completed.
(b) Minister for Economic Development and Trade and Minister Assisting the Premier (Mr Slack), by leave, made a ministerial statement relating to the signing of a Business Co-operation Agreement with New Caledonia.
Paper: Mr Slack, during his statement, tabled the following paper—
Report on visit to New Caledonia, 19 to 23 November 1996
(c) Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry (Mr Davidson), by leave, made a
ministerial statement relating to the future of the Queensland Tourist and Travel
Corporation.
(d) Minister for Natural Resources (Mr Hobbs), by leave, made a ministerial statement
relating to an upgrade of water infrastructure in Queensland.
(e) Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (Mr Veivers), by leave, made
a ministerial statement relating to the recent bushfires in Queensland.

9Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders – WorkCover Queensland Bill 1996
Leader of Government Business (Mr FitzGerald), by leave, moved – That so much of the
Standing and Sessional Orders be suspended to enable the adjourned Second Reading
Debate on the WorkCover Queensland Bill to resume at this day’s sitting.
Question put and passed.

10Personal Explanation
Ms Edmond made a personal explanation.

11Scrutiny of Legislation Committee – Paper
Chairman of the Scrutiny of Legislation Committee (Mr Elliott) tabled the following
paper—
Scrutiny of Legislation Committee—
Alert Digest No. 13 of 1996

12Members’ Ethics and Parliamentary Privileges Committee – Paper
Chairman of the Members’ Ethics and Parliamentary Privileges Committee (Mrs Warwick)
tabled the following paper—
Members’ Ethics and Parliamentary Privileges Committee—
Information Paper No. 1 – Citizens Right of Reply in the Queensland Legislative
Assembly

13Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee – Paper
Chairman of the Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee (Mrs Gamin)
tabled the following paper—
Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee—
Report No. 4, December 1996 – Truth in Political Advertising

14Notice of Motion

15Private Members’ Statements
Private Members’ statements were made.

Paper: Leader of the Opposition (Mr Beattie), during his statement, tabled the
following paper—
Newsletter No. 5 – Coalition for Crime Prevention – December 1996

Paper: Mr J Sullivan, during his statement, tabled the following paper—
Signatures regarding petition about the Caboolture Caravan Park and the
noise level of the Pacific Highway

16Questions without notice
Questions without notice were asked.
Papers: Minister for Public Works and Housing (Mr Connor) tabled the following papers—

Questions continued.
Questions concluded.

17 **GENERAL BUSINESS – MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

The following Members addressed the House—

Leader of the Opposition (Mr Beattie), Messrs Elliott, Hamill, Lester and Pearce and Mrs Warwick

*Paper:* Mr Pearce, during his speech, tabled the following paper—
Advertisement in Chinese regarding business opportunities in Queensland

18 **ELECTORAL AMENDMENT BILL 1996**

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Mr Beanland), by leave, moved – That leave be granted to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the *Electoral Act 1992*. Question agreed to.

Bill and Explanatory Notes presented by Mr Beanland, Bill read a first time and ordered to be printed.

Mr Beanland moved – That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate ensued.

Mr Foley moved – That the debate be now adjourned.

Question agreed to.

Resumption of the debate ordered for tomorrow.

19 **QUEENSLAND LAW SOCIETY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1996**

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Mr Beanland), by leave, moved – That leave be granted to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the *Queensland Law Society Act 1952*, and for other purposes.

Question agreed to.

Bill and Explanatory Notes presented by Mr Beanland, Bill read a first time and ordered to be printed.

Mr Beanland moved – That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate ensued.

Mr Foley moved – That the debate be now adjourned.

Question agreed to.

Resumption of the debate ordered for tomorrow.

20 **ACTS INTERPRETATION AMENDMENT BILL 1996**

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Mr Beanland), by leave, moved – That leave be granted to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the *Acts Interpretation Act 1954*.

Question agreed to.

Bill and Explanatory Notes presented by Mr Beanland, Bill read a first time and ordered to be printed.

Mr Beanland moved – That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate ensued.

Mr Foley moved – That the debate be now adjourned.

Question agreed to.

Resumption of the debate ordered for tomorrow.

21 **POSTPONED ORDER – GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

Leader of Government Business (Mr FitzGerald) moved – That Government Business Order of the Day No. 1 be postponed until a later hour of the sitting.

Question put and passed.
22  **WorkCover Queensland Bill 1996**

Order of the day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (Mr Santoro) – That the Bill be now read a second time.

Debate resumed.

**Paper:**  Leader of the Opposition (Mr Beattie), during his speech, tabled the following paper—

| Article from The Courier-Mail entitled “Premier warns of $1b compo hole” |

Debate continued.

Debate adjourned on the motion of Mr Campbell.

**Ordered** – That the resumption of the debate be made an order of the day for tomorrow.

23  **Notice of Motion – Rural Fire Brigade Budget**

Mr Schwarten, pursuant to notice, moved – That this House—

1. notes the Borbidge Government has slashed $2m from the State’s Rural Fire Brigade budget; and

2. calls upon Treasurer Sheldon to accept the advice of the Rural Fire Council and release $4.5m to increase resources to rural fire brigades, thereby providing the State’s 50,000 volunteer firefighters with the necessary resources to fight what the Minister for Emergency Services describes as a ‘potentially severe fire season’.

Debate ensued.

**Papers:**  Mr Schwarten, during his speech, tabled the following papers—

| Extracts from the Queensland Emergency Services Information Paper for Incoming Government, dated February 1996 |

Debate continued.

The following amendment was proposed by Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (Mr Veivers)—

All words after “notes”—

| omit, insert— |

| “the increased base funding of $2.803m currently provided to the State’s Rural Fire Division and supports the Minister in his efforts to secure the additional $4.5m funding for the State’s Rural Fire Division.” |

Debate continued.

Question put – That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the question.

The House divided.

**AYES, 44**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ardill</th>
<th>D’Arcy</th>
<th>Hamill</th>
<th>Mulherin</th>
<th>Schwarten</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barton</td>
<td>De Lacy</td>
<td>Hayward</td>
<td>Nunn</td>
<td>Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beattie</td>
<td>Dollin</td>
<td>Hollis</td>
<td>Nuttall</td>
<td>Spence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bird</td>
<td>Edmond</td>
<td>Livingstone*</td>
<td>Palaszczuk</td>
<td>Sullivan, J</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bligh</td>
<td>Eyster</td>
<td>Lucas</td>
<td>Pearce</td>
<td>Sullivan, T*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Braddy</td>
<td>Foley</td>
<td>Mackenroth</td>
<td>Purcell</td>
<td>Welford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bredhauer</td>
<td>Fouras</td>
<td>McKell</td>
<td>Roberts</td>
<td>Wells</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Briskay</td>
<td>Gibbs</td>
<td>McGrady</td>
<td>Robertson</td>
<td>Woodgate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campbell</td>
<td>Goss, W</td>
<td>Milliner</td>
<td>Rose</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOES, 44**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Baumann</th>
<th>FitzGerald</th>
<th>Horan</th>
<th>Perrett</th>
<th>Stephan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beanland</td>
<td>Gamin</td>
<td>Johnson</td>
<td>Quinn</td>
<td>Stoneyman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Borbidge</td>
<td>Gilmore</td>
<td>Laming</td>
<td>Radke</td>
<td>Tanti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carroll</td>
<td>Goss, J</td>
<td>Lester</td>
<td>Rowell</td>
<td>Veivers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connor</td>
<td>Grice</td>
<td>Lingard</td>
<td>Santoro</td>
<td>Warwick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooper</td>
<td>Harper</td>
<td>Littleproud</td>
<td>Sheldon</td>
<td>Watson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cunningham</td>
<td>Healy</td>
<td>McCauley</td>
<td>Simpson</td>
<td>Wilson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Davidson</td>
<td>Hegarty</td>
<td>Malone</td>
<td>Slack</td>
<td>Woolmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elliott</td>
<td>Hobbs</td>
<td>Mitchell</td>
<td>Springborg*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Tellers

The numbers being equal, Mr Speaker cast his vote with the ‘NOES’.

Question negatived.

Amendment agreed to.

Motion, as amended, agreed to.
24 **ADJOURNMENT**

Leader of Government Business (Mr FitzGerald) moved – That this House do now adjourn.
Debate ensued.

*Quorum:* At 7.21pm, a quorum was formed.

Question put and passed.
The House adjourned at 7.27pm.

25 **ATTENDANCE**

The following Members were present—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ardill</th>
<th>De Lacy</th>
<th>Hegarty</th>
<th>Mulherin</th>
<th>Smith</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barton</td>
<td>Dollin</td>
<td>Hobbs</td>
<td>Nunn</td>
<td>Spence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baumann</td>
<td>Edmond</td>
<td>Horan</td>
<td>Palaszczuk</td>
<td>Stephan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bearland</td>
<td>Elliott</td>
<td>Johnson</td>
<td>Pearce</td>
<td>Stoneham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beattie</td>
<td>FitzGerald</td>
<td>Laming</td>
<td>Perrett</td>
<td>Sullivan, J</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bird</td>
<td>Foley</td>
<td>Lester</td>
<td>Purcell</td>
<td>Sullivan, T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bligh</td>
<td>Fouras</td>
<td>Lingard</td>
<td>Quinn</td>
<td>Tanti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Borbridge</td>
<td>Gamin</td>
<td>Littleproud</td>
<td>Radke</td>
<td>Vevers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Braddy</td>
<td>Gibbs</td>
<td>Livingstone</td>
<td>Roberts</td>
<td>Warwick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bredhauer</td>
<td>Gilmore</td>
<td>Lucas</td>
<td>Robertson</td>
<td>Watson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Briskey</td>
<td>Goss, J</td>
<td>Mackenroth</td>
<td>Rose</td>
<td>Welford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campbell</td>
<td>Goss, W</td>
<td>McCauley</td>
<td>Rowell</td>
<td>Wells</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carroll</td>
<td>Grice</td>
<td>McElligott</td>
<td>Santoro</td>
<td>Wilson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connor</td>
<td>Harper</td>
<td>McGrady</td>
<td>Schwarten</td>
<td>Woodgate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooper</td>
<td>Hayward</td>
<td>Malone</td>
<td>Sheldon</td>
<td>Woolmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cunningham</td>
<td>Healy</td>
<td>Mitchell</td>
<td>Simpson</td>
<td>Slack</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**N J TURNER**  
Speaker

**R D DOYLE**  
The Clerk of the Parliament