



Speech by

Mr ALLAN GRICE, OAM

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

Hansard 21 October 1998

MINISTER FOR MINES AND ENERGY; MINISTER FOR POLICE AND CORRECTIVE SERVICES

Mr GRICE (Broadwater—NPA) (10.12 a.m.): There are very few people who should be held in higher regard in our community than people such as police officers and those involved in corrective services. Yet, in the past few days, we have seen the performance of Ministers in this Government questioned by these senior and respected people. In an article in the Townsville Bulletin, the Minister for Mines and Energy was described as "irrational" by a senior ranking police officer.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! That matter is sub judice.

Mr GRICE: I am quoting from the Townsville Bulletin.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! It is still sub judice.

Mr GRICE: I withdraw.

But now the Minister for Police and Corrective Services has been condemned by a senior instructor of the Proactive Support Group in an official report for being petulant. The PSG is the elite intelligence arm of the Queensland Corrective Services Commission. During the graduation parade in July, the Minister not only caused minor rumblings, but he also provoked a full report from the chief instructor to the general manager of the Proactive Support Group as well as a strong letter to the Director-General of the Queensland Corrective Services Commission. In a letter to the director-general, the chief instructor described the Minister's performance on the day as being petulant. He wrote—

"My report to the Officer in Charge ... recorded my disappointment at the Minister's petulant performance.

The inclusion at the start of a Graduation Parade of a pat-on-the back political speech highlighting the proud record of the QCSC and the initiatives of the previous Goss Government was an insult to the average Custodial Officer's intelligence."

He went on to say—

"I find it perplexing that a Labor Minister should show such ignorance and arrogance so early in his Ministry."

In a further report to the general manager of the Proactive Support Group, the chief instructor complained about the Minister's lack of knowledge—

Mr BARTON: I rise to a point of order.

Mr GRICE: I withdraw.

Mr BARTON: I rise to a point of order. The member's comments are offensive. He has misrepresented my speech, and I table it for the benefit of the House.

Mr GRICE: I withdraw. He told the general manager that the Minister was in full PR mode for the television cameras present—he had great interest in them. The Minister said to one officer, "I'm Tom Barton. I hope you don't have to use any of these techniques." But then he started to realise that they were burring up, so he said to the next one, "I'm Tom Barton. Keep calm, keep calm."

Time expired.
