



Speech by

BILL FELDMAN

MEMBER FOR CABOOLTURE

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ELECTION OF SPEAKER

Mr FELDMAN (Leader of the One Nation Party) (Caboolture—ONP) (11.01 a.m.): I commend the Premier on his high ideals, but I concur with the cynicism of the Leader of the Opposition in relation to exactly how this Parliament will operate. The office of Speaker is a noble one which must be administered very carefully. We know and we have seen how this House has operated in the past. I have heard it described here today as "robust"; I have heard it described outside as appalling.

I hear those in this House speak of experience and of the experience of the office of Speaker. I did not expect to hear ageism in this Parliament. I have heard it said that youth carries with it inexperience, but I put to honourable members that youth carries with it no prejudice and no preconceived notions and it knows how to follow rules. At the end of the day, that is what this Parliament is about; it is about following the rules.

I speak now of my friend from the tablelands, Shaun Christopher Nelson. He was born here in Brisbane. He went to school here. He is a Queenslander through and through. He is the son of a police officer. He learnt in his home to follow rules. He joined the Army and he spent five years there doing the very same thing. He has served his country with honour and pride, and he intends to do the same thing here in this House if honourable members give him the opportunity to serve as Speaker.

I do not intend to tarry long, for this Parliament is not about too much talk; it is about doing something. Today we have given this Parliament its first choice. That is democracy.
