



Speech by

SHAUN NELSON

MEMBER FOR TABLELANDS

Hansard 6 August 1998

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS

Mr NELSON (Tablelands—ONP) (6.36 p.m.): I rise to speak in this debate on behalf of One Nation. The motion moved by the member for Indooroopilly is of legitimate concern to my organisation. I welcome the Government's addressing of this issue and I thank it for putting it up as a priority. Private members' Bills will be very important in this Parliament.

I thank the members of the Opposition for addressing the issue, too. I have listened to their words during the debate and I have to say that I agree with what they have said. This motion will allow private members' Bills to pass through this House with more ease and in less time—something that should be of concern not only to One Nation but also to the Independent members for Nicklin and Gladstone. A private member's Bill is one of the ways in which One Nation will be able to address the legitimate concerns of its electorates. Under the current system we could see only one Bill debated every six months—and that estimate is a generous one.

As I said, this is something that concerns me and it should also concern the Independent members of this House. If we do not address the way in which private members' Bills are currently dealt with, we could see a situation in which many members of this House have their voices stifled. In this fragile Parliament we cannot allow that to happen.

I note the Government's notice of motion, but I find that it has no teeth. No matter what the Government thinks, 60 days is a lot better than 90. I think its notice of motion does not go far enough and I think this is an issue on which we really need to be strong, especially in the current situation.

The motion moved by the member for Indooroopilly is a sensible one. We think that a process enabling some opportunity for debate should be put in place in relation to private members' Bills. One Nation must and will support this motion and we implore the Independent members of this House to do so also. Please give 438,000 Queenslanders their voice.
