



Speech by

**SHAUN NELSON**

**MEMBER FOR TABLELANDS**

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Hansard 17 September 1998

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL**  
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**Mr NELSON** (Tablelands—ONP) (8.56 p.m.): Mr Deputy Speaker, thank you for your update. I would like to concede to the Treasurer that, if there is one thing that I know basically nothing about, it is money and budgets. I cannot even balance my own chequebook, let alone anyone else's. I will not stand up here and bag anyone's Budget, because I know I could not do a better job. Recycled or not, the Budget is there. Let us face it, let us deal in a bit of reality: it will be the Budget of Queensland whether we like it or not. On behalf of a couple of other One Nation members who are not in the Chamber tonight, I say: let us just get on with the job. Though I am just a dumb country boy and I do not know too much about all this sort of stuff, I have gone over the Budget papers to the best of my meagre ability. In my role as the spokesman——

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr NELSON:** The longer honourable members interject, the longer I will speak. I was going to rise for only 30 seconds and here I am still speaking. For once I am not bagging the members and they should let me have my say. This is about the only time they will hear Shaun Nelson stand up and not bag the ALP, so let us get on with it.

**Mr Musgrove:** It's hard to be humble.

**Mr NELSON:** It is.

**Mr Mickel:** It is when you are perfect in every way.

**Mr NELSON:** I did not say that. I won my seat through hard work; I did not inherit it.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Reeves): Order! I remind the member to refer to the Chair.

**Mr NELSON:** I must get on with the job. I said that I would take only a couple of minutes.

I want to highlight just one issue in my capacity as the One Nation spokesman for Education and member for Tablelands. I am waiting to go to the Estimates committee stage at which I can have a closer examination of some of the spending; however, I highlight that in these Budget papers I cannot see any mention—and I hope the Minister for Education is listening—of the public works that were to go ahead at Malanda State High School for its manual arts facility. That is a facility that is desperately needed. Malanda is a rural community and my home town. Even though I did not attend that high school personally, I know that that high school provides some of the best education in Queensland through some of the best educators I have ever seen in my lifetime. That is coming from a boy who used to get into a lot of trouble at school.

**Mr Musgrove** interjected.

**Mr NELSON:** I accept that interjection from the member for Springwood that there may not be. That is why I am waiting to say in the Estimates committee, "Fine, that is there." However, I know that it costs a hell of a lot of money—somewhere in the vicinity of \$400,000—and that is why I am thinking that it should have been highlighted in the Budget papers. However, I accept that it may be pointed out during the Estimates committee.

I want to reiterate that if it is not in the Budget and if I find out that Malanda is not going to get its manual arts extension, then everything that I have done in this Parliament so far will be nothing compared to what I will do. The students need it as a matter of extreme importance. At the moment, they are working in dangerous facilities. That was highlighted to these boys over here before the last election——

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Reeves): Order!

**Mr NELSON:** The members of the National/Liberal coalition—the Opposition— assured the people of Malanda that they will be going ahead with it. I know that certain assurances were given to a few of the educators in the tablelands that it would be going ahead under the Labor Government.

**Mr Hamill:** That was the coalition's Budget.

**Mr NELSON:** Yes. I have looked through that Budget and I know that it is not in there. However, I have it on good faith from a couple of people that they were certainly going to go ahead with it.

**Mr Hamill:** When?

**Mr NELSON:** I know that it is not in the coalition documents. I accept that interjection from the Treasurer.

**A Government member** interjected.

**Mr NELSON:** It is. I will put this to members: I have heard a couple of people say that I am going to change to the National Party. That is the biggest crock I have ever heard. I rolled a National Party Minister on 75%. I ain't got no love for the National Party. I will tell members that right now. Let me just put that on the record right here and right now. I am a member of One Nation and damned proud to be so. I will put it to the Treasurer that if I go to the Estimates committee and find that the funding is in the documents, that is fine; that is good and well. But if it ain't, by Lord what Government members have seen so far will be nothing to compared to what they will get later.

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