



Speech by

**Hon. T. M. MACKENROTH**

**MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH**

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Hansard 6 August 1998

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS**

**Hon. T. M. MACKENROTH** (Chatsworth— ALP) (Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities) (6.16 p.m.): I move the following amendment—

"That all words after the word 'debate' (first occurring) be deleted and the following be added—

"The House notes that the Leader of the House has given notice of a Sessional Order to give effect to the Premier's commitment and acknowledges the advice given by the Leader of the House to the Opposition Leader of the House, Mr Beanland that this motion will be debated in the next sitting week'."

I find it amazing that Mr Beanland gave notice of moving this motion this morning. I went to him yesterday and said that I would put off debating the motion of which I had given notice to give effect to a sessional order to debate private members' Bills this morning between 9.30 and 10.30, because, if we started that debate at about 5 past 10, we would have 25 minutes until 10.30, when it would be question time. As I knew that members of the Opposition wanted to move an amendment to the motion that I intended to move, in order to be fair to them I said that I would move it after question time in the next sitting week so that they could have adequate time to debate their amendment. Mr Beanland was aware of that. He was aware that in the next sitting week we would debate the next sessional order which says "for 90 days", to which they want to move an amendment saying "60 days". Even if Mr Beanland's motion is passed tonight, we still have to go back to the sessional order, because that motion would not create a sessional order. If this is passed tonight—

**Mr Horan:** But then you get another run. Out of three years you waste another month.

**Mr MACKENROTH:** No, we have not wasted any time.

**Mr Borbidge:** This Parliament is two weeks old and we haven't got the Sessional Orders finalised. It's a joke.

**Mr MACKENROTH:** I point out to Mr Borbidge that Mr Beanland could have said to me yesterday, "We are not happy with that; we want to debate it today." He did not say that. He accepted that we would debate it next week and debate it on the basis that the Opposition would have the opportunity to move its amendment. That is the reality.

The Leader of the Opposition introduced a private member's Bill this morning. If that sessional order is debated in two weeks, whatever is passed in two weeks will take effect then, so he has not lost any time in relation to his private member's Bill. The debate that we are having tonight is not about whether the time should be 60 days or 90 days; it is about the proper process. I believe that the members opposite have duded the proper process. I met with the Opposition—

**Mr Borbidge** interjected.

**Mr MACKENROTH:** No, the member could not come and he apologised for that. I accept that. We had a meeting, and at that meeting we put forward a proposition that we would put a trigger into the sessional order. It was our proposition that this happen. At the first opportunity in this Parliament, I gave notice of a change to the sessional order. I did not put the trigger straight into the sessional order,

as I wanted to give Opposition members the opportunity to debate it because that is what they said they wanted to do. One cannot be any fairer than that.

When the member for Indooroopilly told me that he wanted to move an amendment to the motion, rather than simply trying to push it through this place this morning I informed him that it would not affect any private member's Bills if we left the matter to the next sitting week and debated it then. One cannot be any fairer than that.

After listening to the whingeing of the Opposition over the past month in relation to issues in Queensland, I would have thought that during the first sitting week, when we have been able to debate motions that have been moved by the Opposition, it would have a better motion to move than one that seeks to debate something of which I have already given notice we are going to debate during the next sitting week.

**Mr Borbidge:** You've been caught out.

**Mr MACKENROTH:** I have not. Obviously the Leader of Opposition Business has not told the Leader of the Opposition about the conversations that we had yesterday. When Parliament meets again on 25 August, we can then——

**Mr Borbidge** interjected.

**Mr MACKENROTH:** It does not make any difference to the time. I would have thought that even someone like the Leader of the Opposition would understand that the Bill that was introduced today cannot be debated until then, anyway. In that week we are going to move the change to the sessional order and it will be decided. It does not affect the Opposition's Bill at all.

Time expired.

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