



Speech by

**Tony ELLIOTT**

**MEMBER FOR CUNNINGHAM**

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Hansard 4 August 1998

**AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDERS**

**Mr ELLIOTT** (Cunningham—NPA) (10.26 a.m.): During the time I have been a member of this House, I have been thrown out of the Chamber only once.

**Mr Veivers:** That was an honest mistake.

**Mr ELLIOTT:** Yes, the honourable member was making a noise behind me. In fact, that situation was a fairly emotional one. I accept that that day I probably went a bit beyond the bounds. This amendment is not the way to go about lifting the standards in this place. I suggest that this provision would make things easier for those who want to grandstand. Over the years members on both sides of the House have seen such people in action. They actually had themselves thrown out because they wanted to go to the media and say how badly done by they were, that the Speaker was over the top, that the Government was being unreasonable and all of these sorts of things.

I suggest that the Government is playing into the hands of those who want to play games in this place by trying to grandstand to the media. If this proposal is adopted, those people will be able to do that and not even lose their ability to vote in divisions. To implement this provision would be a total mistake. If we did, we would be going down the wrong track. By properly exercising the provisions of Standing Order 123A, the Speaker has all the tools necessary to control this House. In the end, I think those in the Government will see that this sort of provision, if its use is not kept under very tight rein, will bring us more ridicule from the public. I believe that this is not the right way to go, and I urge the Government not to take this decision.

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