



Speech by

Miss FIONA SIMPSON

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

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INCREASE IN CRIME

Miss SIMPSON (Maroochydore—NPA) (6.48 p.m.): Tonight, we have seen a couple of extraordinary things. First of all, we saw One Nation get into bed with the Labor Party on matters of law and order at a time when we have seen a 5% increase in crime across the State. That was staggering. The second extraordinary thing was to hear the Police Minister say that the increase in reported crime rates in the State is the fault of the police. When we see statistics which show clearly that the crime figures have increased, I find it extraordinary that the Police Minister would want to blame the police. That is damning.

Mr BARTON: I rise to a point of order. I can't let that one go down. I'm a peaceful person. In no shape or form am I blaming the police for this.

Miss SIMPSON: I think the Minister should read Hansard because he was blaming the police in regard to the increase in the statistics. These are the reported crime statistics, Minister.

Mr MUSGROVE: I rise to a point of order. The honourable member is misleading the House. If she wants to make these allegations she should quote from Hansard.

Miss SIMPSON: I would be more than happy to refer the member for Springwood to what the Minister said. He was blaming the police for the figures which outlined the increase in crime. On the Sunshine Coast we have had a 20% increase in reported crime and there has been no apology by the Government.

Mr BARTON: I rise to a point of order. I am not going to allow the record to show that I am bashing police, or blaming police, when I said no such thing. The member's words are offensive and I ask that they be withdrawn.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Will you withdraw, please?

Miss SIMPSON: I will withdraw whatever he finds offensive and refer to the Hansard where the Minister was trying to say that the statistics were the result of police work.

Mr BARTON: I rise to a point of order. I will keep standing in my place as long as it takes to get a clear withdrawal, because I said no such thing.

Miss SIMPSON: I will withdraw, if he is upset about it. I am more than happy, inside and outside of this Parliament, to repeat what the Minister said in the Hansard. On the Sunshine Coast we have had a 20% increase in reported crime—

Mr BARTON: I rise to a point of order. I am not going to allow the record to show that I am bashing police and blaming police when I said no such thing. I find the words offensive and I ask that they be withdrawn.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Will you withdraw?

Miss SIMPSON: I will withdraw whatever he finds offensive.

Mr BARTON: I rise to a point of order. I will keep standing in my place as long as it takes to get a clear withdrawal because I said no such thing.

Miss SIMPSON: I will withdraw if he is upset about it. I am more than happy for people to read what the Minister said in the Hansard. On the Sunshine Coast—

Mr NELSON: I rise to a point of order. The figures have increased because the police are doing their job and are reporting the crimes. It is not because they are not doing their job at all.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! There is no point of order. The honourable member cannot enter the debate.

Miss SIMPSON: This is extraordinary. We have more victims in this State. The victims report the crime. I suggest that the member go and talk to some of the victims. There has been a 20% increase on the Sunshine Coast.

Mr NELSON: I rise to a point of order. Every single night, my old man comes home and tells me exactly why he has to report these crimes, and it is the simple fact that he must do it to do his job properly.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The member for Tablelands can get his name on the list of speakers, if he likes, but I will not listen to any more points of order from him. I call the member for Maroochydoore.

Miss SIMPSON: Victims report the crimes. There are more victims in this State. I am astounded that there seems to be a bipartisan approach between One Nation, the Labor Party and some new Independents. They do not understand that there are more victims in this State. There has been a 20% increase in reported crime on the Sunshine Coast. That is unacceptable. My community is angry about it. I am angry about it. And I do not believe that this Minister has provided a satisfactory explanation to this House or to the people of the Sunshine Coast for that 20% increase. How on earth can the Minister be proud of a figure like that?

The Minister's amendment to the coalition's motion is, in many ways, saying that he is happy with the situation on the Sunshine Coast. I have police coming to me and saying that they have not been provided with the extra resources that they need to do their job. I have talked to the grassroots police. The police are struggling desperately to cope with this problem. They are hardworking and honest, but they have not had the backup of this Minister.

The quality of debate from the Labor Party and, disappointingly, from certain Independents and One Nation members shows that they have not listened to the police on the Sunshine Coast and many other police around Queensland. While there are a few bright spots, unfortunately the vast majority of areas show an increase in reported offences. That means more victims in Queensland under 12 months of a Labor Government.

As a coalition, we will in no way excuse this Government or take the pressure off this Government for an unacceptable result. There are more victims of crime under this Government. On the Sunshine Coast, we have seen a 45% increase in the figures for property damage. That is an unacceptable increase. There has also been an increase in the rate of theft—an increase of 19%—while the rate of fraud and motor vehicle theft increased by just over 25% for each of those categories.

Time expired.
