



Speech by

Hon. KEN HAYWARD

MEMBER FOR KALLANGUR

Hansard 14 April 1999

ANZAC DAY TRADING HOURS

Hon. K. W. HAYWARD (Kallangur—ALP) (6.41 p.m.): It is a pleasure to speak against the motion moved in the Parliament tonight. As I think has been said before, this is one of the largest knee-jerk reactions to an issue that I think I have seen in the time I have been in this Parliament. What is more difficult to understand, or maybe it is not difficult to understand, is some of the appalling speeches made by members opposite—mean-spirited, nasty, dangerous little speeches—in which they have said, "If you do not support the motion you are against freedom, you do not understand the sacrifice, you are un-Australian or even anti-Australian, or you simply do not understand the issue." I think the lines that have been spouted by the Opposition and by the member for Gladstone tonight have been an absolute disgrace to this Parliament.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr HAYWARD: Here they go! Here is the gang! One speaker said that no stone would be left unturned by the Opposition. They are going to turn Anzac Day into a political issue. They are going to trade on the emotion. Tonight we saw examples of the emotion that is involved in this issue during a contribution by a member from this side when speaking about what Anzac Day is about.

Those opposite act like they have a monopoly on reverence and respect, which is an absolute disgrace. Those opposite know that they have not. The people of Queensland know that they have not. Nor should they expect that they should have. Those opposite tried to make the point that if people oppose this motion, as the Labor Party will here tonight, they have no respect and they have a disrespect for the diggers, for the people who have fought for freedom and have sacrificed themselves for this country.

In general, the speeches I have heard from those on the other side of the Parliament tonight have been absolutely disgraceful. The member for Clayfield—what a champion he is!—even said that it is an insult to the men and women of Queensland and it is an insult to people who voted Labor. What a disgraceful attempt to turn an issue such as Anzac Day into some sort of mad political issue in which the conservatives in Queensland somehow have a monopoly on what is right and good in this State and, because we sit on this side of the Parliament, we do not. I have news for those opposite. Everybody who sits on this side of the Parliament understands what is good and right in our society.

As I said, I think what I have heard here tonight has been an absolute disgrace. Somehow those opposite try to pretend that they have a monopoly on respect and on reverence for Anzac Day. Everybody knows that that is rubbish. Why would they denigrate the day by talking like that in this place? It is appalling that they can actually do it. Those opposite try to pretend that they have a monopoly on being solemn, on Anzac Day being a solemn occasion. Well, they have not and people know that they have not, so why do they stand up in this Chamber and go on like that? It is an absolute disgrace. Those opposite go on as though they have a monopoly on understanding and a monopoly on sensitivity. I say to those opposite: I have listened to the speeches made on this issue tonight, and I heard a couple of speeches by members on this side of the Parliament which demonstrated to me very clearly that when it comes to sensitivity those opposite have no hope.

This House heard from previous speakers about disturbances at last year's Anzac Day dawn services. Of course, they were isolated incidents. Those opposite have to think about this properly. The problem with isolated incidents is that there is no evidence. There is no evidence linking the incidents

that occurred with people who earlier may have been in licensed premises. If those events cannot be linked, why do those opposite proceed to do what they are suggesting here?

I am informed that there have been no official complaints from the RSL or anyone else to the Liquor Licensing Division in relation to these incidents. Despite this, the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing gave assurances to the House recently that liquor licensing inspectors and police will be out in force on Anzac Day to ensure that dawn services are not disrupted. It is as simple as that. I have sought information from the police in regard to activities planned for Anzac Day this year. Of course, the police will be undertaking activities on Anzac Day.

Time expired.
