



Speech by

Mr L. SPRINGBORG

MEMBER FOR WARWICK

Hansard 23 March 1999

LAW REFORM

Mr SPRINGBORG (Warwick—NPA) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (10.24 a.m.): Since July last year, the Opposition has been applying pressure to the Beattie Labor Government on a number of essential law reform measures in the areas of getting fine defaulters out of our jails, as well as the establishment of a drug court in this State. On the issue of the establishment of a drug court, we are very pleased that the Premier has indicated, a little belatedly, that he supports the concept. However, I am somewhat concerned that the document on prevention of crime matters that has been circulated around Queensland has only a two-word mention of it on the 64th page, which is the last page. However, I do concede that at least the Government was considering it.

In January of this year, the Opposition put forward a working model for a drug court for this State. Later this afternoon the Parliament will have an opportunity to put its money where its mouth is and work towards the implementation of a trial drug court for Queensland. I certainly urge all honourable members to support that motion later this evening.

Also, this morning I was most heartened to see that the Attorney-General has finally been shaken into action as he indicated to us what he was going to do to get fine defaulters out of our jails. However, it is very strange that, after nine months, all we have from the Attorney-General is an indication that he is going to change the name of the legislation. If one looks at the principles of the legislation that he will be introducing into the Parliament in June, they are very similar to what the former Attorney-General, Denver Beanland, introduced in April last year. After nine months, we merely have an indication that there will be another three months to introduce what we will be doing later in the week.
