



Speech by

Mr M. HORAN

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH

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POLICE

Mr HORAN (Toowoomba South—NPA) (10.25 a.m.): Yesterday in this House we had the pitiful spectacle of the Minister for Police and Corrective Services trying to defend his poor performance by trying to put a spin on the 11% increase in crime that has been reported in the statistical review of the Police Service for the police district of Gladstone. This Police Minister has presided over four things so far in his performance. He has presided over a cut of 114 in the number of recruits being taken into the police academy this year when everybody throughout Queensland is desperately calling for more police. He has presided over the most pitiful budget seen in years in Queensland throughout the 90s. There has been only a 4% increase in the Police budget, which is barely enough to cover the 4% EB rise for police and barely enough to cover the increase in salaries for the extra police who will be put into the service this year because of the massive recruitment program of the coalition Government. What he has succeeded in doing is putting the Police Service at the end of the queue of priorities of the Beattie Government.

He has also presided over a 5% increase in crime in the last 12 months, as reported in the statistical review. He has also presided over the first decline in two years of reported offences against property and against persons. But he has been able to reverse that trend through his lack of leadership. The figures in the police statistical review speak for themselves in black and white. Gladstone has seen an 11.1% increase in reported crimes— 621 more. Even if offences of fraud are taken out, there is still a 7% increase.

What has upset the Minister for Police are headlines like "Crime up 20%". Even the Minister said that he is very concerned. I bet he is. What is he doing about it? Cutting the Police budget! Police are rationing their fuel. In some places they are not driving police cars because they do not have enough petrol in the tank. Then there is the rationing of overtime and telephone calls, all at a time when crime is up by 5%.

Time expired.
