



Speech by

# Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

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Hansard 25 November 1999

## LIQUOR AMENDMENT BILL, DIVISIONS; GOVERNMENT NUMBERS

**Hon. P. D. BEATTIE** (Brisbane Central— ALP) (Premier) (10.14 a.m.): I rise to inform the House of some very valuable information. The Leader of the Opposition has just said that there were five divisions last night in which the Opposition, together with Independents and others, was able to defeat the Government. Today I have had a little bit of research done on the Borbidge Government. Honourable members should listen to this for a record. Here is a Government that could not govern. The Borbidge Government in 1996 lost 10 divisions. But it gets better. In 1997 the Borbidge Government lost 25 divisions. In 1998 it lost another five divisions. What does that mean?

**Mr BORBIDGE:** I rise to a point of order.

**Mr BEATTIE:** The Leader of the Opposition cannot cop it.

**Mr BORBIDGE:** I remind the Premier that he leads a majority Government; I led a minority Government.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! There is no point of order. The Leader of the Opposition will resume his seat.

**Mr BORBIDGE:** The simple fact is that it is a long, long time since a majority Government in Queensland lost five divisions in a row.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The member will resume his seat.

**Mr BORBIDGE:** Failure after failure after failure after failure after failure.

**Mr BEATTIE:** The Borbidge Government in its time lost 40 divisions. Do honourable members remember Ray Connor's hobbly knee when he missed a division? Mick Veivers also missed a division. They are two Ministers of the former Borbidge Government who missed a division. The Opposition lost 40 divisions.

I say to the Leader of the Opposition that, in terms of criticism, he is on very shallow ground. His feet are in quicksand. If we on my side of the House miss anywhere near 40 divisions, which we will not, then he can come and talk to me about it. Forty divisions, and what did he do? He sought to prey on somebody who had had a minor operation! You do not get any lower than that.

**Mr BORBIDGE:** I rise to a point of order. That remark is offensive and untrue. You cannot blame me for being the Government Whip.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Are you asking for it to be withdrawn?

**Mr BORBIDGE:** You cannot blame me for being the Government Whip.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Are you asking for it to be withdrawn?

**Mr BORBIDGE:** I ask that that particular comment be withdrawn.

**Mr BEATTIE:** As we all know, the honourable member did have a minor operation. I withdraw in accordance with the Standing Orders, but let the record show that the Opposition missed 40 divisions.

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