



Speech by

PETER WELLINGTON

MEMBER FOR NICKLIN

Hansard 17 August 1999

CENSURE OF MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

Mr WELLINGTON (Nicklin—IND) (6.45 p.m.): I rise to speak in support of the censure motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition and agree that while the member for Ipswich is not fulfilling the duties of Treasurer, he should forgo his ministerial salary and entitlements.

I am disappointed that the member for Ipswich decided to grant the State's first Internet gaming licence before the gaming review committee had completed its investigations into gaming in Queensland, and I believe that he needs to be censured for that decision. I am also concerned that the perception in the community is that the member for Woodridge has used his position of privilege as a member of this House to lobby this Government to grant Gocorp this lucrative licence. Although this is a matter of concern to me, I will not pre-empt the investigations that are currently under way by the Auditor-General and the CJC, and I hope that these investigations can be completed expeditiously.

There have been many serious allegations made in this House regarding the activities of the Gocorp company and three Labor Party members. In light of these serious allegations that have been raised in the House today against Gocorp and in a bid to find out who the real players in this net bet affair are, I have personally contacted Gocorp's chief executive officer, Paul Appleby, and I have asked him if he would be prepared to answer questions about his company's involvement in this matter. Mr Appleby has told me that he would be most happy to attend a meeting with members and answer any questions from members. Accordingly, I have arranged for a meeting for tomorrow between 1 p.m. and 2.30 p.m. in the conference room.

I refer members to section 41 of the Constitution Act 1867, which allows members to ask questions of people who have knowledge of matters that have been raised in this House. Consequently, I urge all members of this House to attend that meeting and ask their questions of the chief executive officer of Gocorp.
