



Speech by

**Hon. R. E. BORBIDGE**

**MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE**

Hansard 10 November 1999

#### **ANZAC DAY LEGISLATION**

**Hon. R. E. BORBIDGE** (Surfers Paradise—NPA) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.13 a.m.): Today, I rise to express very strong concern about the latest example of arrogance and thuggery on the part of this Government and the very deliberate and orchestrated threats that have been made to the RSL over legislation currently before the House to which I will not refer in detail. I am particularly concerned about reports in the Cairns Post that the State Government has warned RSL clubs that it will crack down on—

"Diggers who have a shot of rum with breakfast if the league pursues new Anzac Day legislation."

**Mr GIBBS:** I rise to a point of order. The article to which the Leader of the Opposition refers in the Cairns Post is not correct.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I will hear the point of order.

**Mr BORBIDGE:** I rise to a point of order. The Minister, who is threatening the RSL, is now out to silence me.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The Leader of the Opposition will resume his seat. I will hear the Minister's point of order.

**Mr BORBIDGE:** The Minister's office said—

"If they want us to crack down on nightclubs and bars"—

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

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I intend to hear this point of order.

**Mr GIBBS:** What in fact was said—

**Mr BORBIDGE:** I rise to a point of order. Mr Speaker, under what Standing Order is the Minister rising?

**Mr GIBBS:** Mr Speaker, I am taking a point of order.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The Minister is rising on a point of order.

**Mr BORBIDGE:** Mr Speaker, this is a deliberate attempt to silence me. This is a directive that has been issued by his office—a threat to the RSL.

**Mr GIBBS:** This is a deliberate attempt by the Leader of the Opposition to postulate and fabricate a scenario that he wants to put to this Parliament.

**Mr BORBIDGE:** I rise to a point of order. I am merely quoting the Minister's office.

**Mr GIBBS:** Mr Speaker, I shall quote—

**Mr BORBIDGE:** There has been no correction by the Minister.

**Mr GIBBS:** Mr Speaker, I shall quote—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The Minister will also resume his seat. I have not had the opportunity to listen to this point of order. The Leader of the Opposition jumped up and intervened while the point of order was being taken.

**Mr BORBIDGE:** My time is up. It has worked.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I am still going to listen to the point of order. That is what I intend to do. I will hear the Minister's point of order.

**Mr GIBBS:** My point of order is to correct what the Leader of the Opposition said and make known to the House what was in fact said yesterday by the spokesperson from my office. I shall quote what he said. He said—

**Mr BORBIDGE:** I rise to a point of order. That is not a point of order.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I am going to listen to the Minister first. How can I rule on a point of order if I cannot listen to it?

**Mr BORBIDGE:** Mr Speaker, the Minister's point of order has taken up all of our debating time.

**Mr SPEAKER:** That is the member's fault, not his. I ask the Minister to state his point of order very quickly.

**Mr GIBBS:** I shall quote what was in fact said by the spokesperson from my office—

"The Government cannot justify changing the law on the basis of one isolated incident where there was no evidence that persons allegedly involved had even been in a nightclub.

It would be hypocritical of us to crack down on nightclubs when we turn a blind eye to Diggers drinking rum and milk at 4.30 am in clubs."

And good luck to us. So we should.

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