



Speech by

Hon. R. E. BORBIDGE

MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

Hansard 25 November 1999

LIQUOR AMENDMENT BILL, DIVISIONS; GOVERNMENT NUMBERS

Hon. R. E. BORBIDGE (Surfers Paradise—NPA) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.12 a.m.): At the outset, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the Government Whip back to the House and also the Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer. I would assume that, after last night, the Government would have its Whip bolted to his seat. I just assure the Government for our part that we do not want it to take any action against the honourable member. The Opposition is delighted with the performance of the Government Whip and we hope that he will continue in that position for as long as the Beattie Labor Government is in office. He has our full support. He has our full confidence.

What we saw last night was quite unprecedented in the history of majority Governments in Queensland: on five occasions a majority Government was defeated on the floor of the House. Let me remind the Premier of what he said during the term of the previous coalition minority Government when one Minister missed one division. "We have a circus, not a Government," Mr Beattie said. "How can you have a Minister who misses a division? He should be sacked. There is no discipline in the Government." Those are words of the current Premier. "There is no discipline in the Government. This is a circus, not a Government." They were his own words precisely uttered in this place. It raises the question: if you cannot run your own party, how can you run the Government of Queensland? If you cannot run yourselves, how can you run Queensland? What did happen last night was significant and shows that this Government is not up to the job, to quote someone else who sits opposite.

Time expired.
