



Speech by

**Hon. R. E. BORBIDGE**

**MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE**

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Hansard 27 April 1999

**STATUTE LAW (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) BILL**

**Hon. R. E. BORBIDGE** (Surfers Paradise—NPA) (Leader of the Opposition) (3.37 p.m.): I rise briefly to enter this debate to reinforce the comments and concerns raised by the honourable member for Indooroopilly. The convention and practice in this place is that, should amendments be of significance, they be dealt with by way of a separate Bill so that the intent of the Government can be fully explained and can be subject to the full and open scrutiny of the Parliament. It has been interesting that, by and large, over the years Governments from both sides of the House have observed those particular arrangements in regard to Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bills, which tend to come before the Parliament on a fairly regular basis.

However, the amendment in question represents a significant change, particularly when, through public statements, the current Premier has made much of the fact that he has not interfered with the board of the South Bank Corporation. In fact, when we raise issues of concern in regard to appointments and the conduct of administrative arrangements in this State, one handle that the member for Brisbane Central, the current Premier, always grabs is, "Look at the board of the South Bank Corporation: it is exactly the same as it was under the previous administration."

As the member for Indooroopilly has pointed out, this amendment increases the membership of the board from five to seven, which is an increase of some 25%, but the Minister has not given an appropriate explanation for that. I do not want to unduly delay the business of the House, but it is my view that this matter should have been covered in a separate Bill. I trust that the Leader of the House will be able to give a satisfactory explanation. I would like to know why the change is considered necessary and who are the likely contenders for appointment to the South Bank Corporation. As we all know, it is going through a major phase—a new era. We want to ensure that the Leader of the House is doing the right thing and is not trying to sneak something by us.

**Mr Schwarten:** As if he would!

**Mr BORBIDGE:** I know that the honourable member for Rockhampton would, but I would be very surprised if the Leader of the House would do so.

As the member for Indooroopilly indicated, our satisfaction with the response from the Government on this issue will determine whether we will divide at the second-reading stage of the Bill. I ask the Leader of the House to give some indication as to why it was considered necessary to depart from the normal conventions of this place in regard to putting something that could be—it may not be—significant into legislation that, by tradition and convention, should be routine and run of the mill.

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