



Speech by

Hon. R. E. BORBIDGE

MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

Hansard 26 May 1999

CONVICTED CHILD SEX OFFENDERS; NOTIFICATION ORDERS

Hon. R. E. BORBIDGE (Surfers Paradise—NPA) (Leader of the Opposition) (5.48 p.m.): In supporting the comments made by the members for Warwick and Indooroopilly, I will comment on what I think has been a lamentable performance by the Government on this issue, which is being seen tonight climaxing in a do-nothing amendment. The Attorney-General asks us to support a motion that unequivocally supports the enforcement of all aspects of the criminal law. I would have thought that was the Attorney-General's job! I would have thought he should be doing it.

I say to the House tonight: we are not against any enhancements that the Queensland Crime Commission may recommend in respect of what is still to be considered. We are saying: enforce the current law. If those opposite do not like the law, they should have the guts to repeal it.

Let me go back to a bit of political grandstanding—in reply to the honourable member for Kurwongbah. Who started all this? The member for Waterford, the Minister for Police!

Mr Springborg: Flying kites.

Mr BORBIDGE: Flying kites. He said, "Gee, maybe we should have a Queensland version of Megan's law." Then the Attorney-General said, "Oh, I'm not sure whether we want that." He did not know that we already had one. The first law officer of the Crown in Queensland did not know that.

Mr Nelson: Caught out.

Mr BORBIDGE: He was caught out. The Opposition had to reveal to the Labor Party that we have had this particular piece of legislation on the books since 1989. Of course, former Labor Party Attorneys-General did nothing. For six years they did nothing. The matter was reactivated by my colleague the member for Indooroopilly when he was Attorney-General in the coalition Government. It was reactivated by the coalition. The fact is that the Attorney-General is so preoccupied with his civil libertarian mates that he has not got the guts to repeal the law, and he did not want to enforce it.

Mr Foley: Why didn't you do something about the stalking laws? Why did you leave it up to us to fix up the stalking laws? Why didn't you actually provide some protection for victims of crime? All talk and no action.

Mr BORBIDGE: Then the Attorney asks us to support his wishy-washy, mealy-mouthed amendment tonight saying that we support the enforcement of all aspects of the criminal law. He has not been doing it. What we have under this Attorney-General is a lamentable litany of dithering and incompetence.

I would have thought that if the power rested in the criminal law of this State, and if someone moved in next to me—bought the house next door—and that person was a convicted paedophile whom the courts felt may repeat those offences, I would like to know about it. I would particularly like to know about it if the laws of the State of Queensland provided me with the ability to know about it. And I would be very, very angry indeed if an Attorney-General was so professionally negligent that he decided not to enforce the law—the same Attorney-General who has the gall and the cheek to walk in here tonight and to move this pathetic amendment saying that we should support the enforcement of all aspects of the criminal law when, between himself and the Minister for Education, over six years of the Goss Labor Government, they refused to do it. What an absolutely abysmal betrayal of their oath of office.

Mr WELLS: I rise to a point of order. The proposition that there was a refusal to do it is untrue and offensive and I ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr SPEAKER: It was not directed personally at the Minister, was it?

Mr BORBIDGE: The honourable member was sacked by the former Premier, Mr Goss, because he was so incompetent. Clearly, he has not learnt anything.

Mr WELLS: I rise to a point of order. The proposition was untrue and offensive and unparliamentary and I ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The Leader of the Opposition will withdraw.

Mr BORBIDGE: What do you wish to be withdrawn?

Mr SPEAKER: The statement that the Leader of the Opposition has just made. It was very plain.

Mr BORBIDGE: That he was sacked by——

Mr Wells: No, that's okay.

Mr BORBIDGE: He was sacked by Mr Goss because he was incompetent; that is okay. He accepts that.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! We will not have a debate on this. The Leader of the Opposition will withdraw the comment and continue with his speech.

Mr BORBIDGE: I do not know what I am withdrawing. What have I said that has caused so much distress to the honourable member?

Time expired.
