



Speech by

SHAUN NELSON

MEMBER FOR TABLELANDS

Hansard 3 March 1999

CORRECTIVE SERVICES AND PENALTIES AND SENTENCES AMENDMENT BILL

Mr NELSON (Tablelands—IND) (10.56 p.m.): We should all bask in the light of the wisdom of the member for Warwick in putting forward this Bill. I am injecting a bit of humour, because this is an argument that makes me incredibly angry. I cannot believe that I am standing in a Parliament arguing whether or not a hardened criminal—a person who commits a violent crime—should serve 100% of his sentence. Personally, I find it ridiculous and abhorrent that bleeding hearts think that people of the calibre described in the article I am holding should not serve 100% of their sentence. I find it incredible that anyone can argue in this House that a criminal—a person who commits a violent crime—should not be punished for that crime.

We are not talking about deterring criminals but punishing an offender who commits an offence against another human being by either hurting, injuring, taking their life, raping or abusing them in some other manner. I am disgusted, to say the least, that people cannot understand that. I do not know what the inherent differences are between the Queenslanders who live on the Atherton Tablelands and the Queenslanders who live in Sandgate, but we are vastly apart. People, including card-carrying members of the Labor Party, have been into my office and have said those exact words to me.

Unlike the member for Sandgate, I have been a victim of violent crime. I have lost a very close personal friend to murder. It is not just for emotional reasons that we want to see people punished; it is simple natural justice—something that is being denied to the victims of violent crimes. I am pleased that the member for Sandgate has not been a victim. I am pleased that members of his family have not been subject to this type of horror. I will read something for the benefit of the bleeding hearts of this Parliament, and I will leave out the names. A newspaper article states—

"I walked around the side of"—

the young girl—

"and she said, 'You're going to kill me, aren't you?' "

These were the words spoken in a court of law not so long ago—

"I told her, 'Shut up' and I walked around the side of her and behind her and I started cutting her throat three or four times. As I was doing that she started struggling"——

Ms Struthers: Of course you lock him up.

Mr NELSON: At least I am talking about reality. The member was telling stories. The article continues—

"When I got her down, I held her down with my foot and tried to stab her in the throat.

That didn't work, so I grabbed the knife with both hands and stabbed her in the chest area."

These are horrific crimes that are going unpunished in this society and which need to be addressed. It is time that we looked at the realities of this debate. On one side we have criminals who forgo their right to decent human treatment by their destruction of human life, and on the other side we have innocent victims—schoolgirls—who are tortured, raped and murdered violently after doing nothing more than walking down the street.

We have to understand that that is what we are talking about. I stand up in this House and I support innocent, law-abiding Queenslanders who, no matter what the laws of this State are, abide by

them. On the other side of the House we have people who are only interested in the rights and the civil liberties of criminals and violent offenders such as that.

Ms Struthers: That's rubbish, and you know it.

Mr NELSON: It is not rubbish, my friend. It is the God-honest truth, and the member knows it. If the member bothered to listen to the people in her electorate instead of coming into this Parliament and spouting the party line, she would know and she would tell the truth.
