



Speech by

**Mr T. SULLIVAN**

**MEMBER FOR CHERMSIDE**

---

Hansard 27 May 1999

**LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION**

**Mr SULLIVAN** (Chermside—ALP) (7.16 p.m.): Yesterday in this House we saw a most pathetic display of ill will and bad temper tantrum. The Opposition Leader, in a most ungracious, ill-informed outburst, showed his contempt for the institution of Parliament.

I refer to what occurred at about 20 past 12 yesterday afternoon. The Leader of the Opposition said that in the 19 years that he had been here, he could not recall any debate in which he felt so intimidated in respect of expressing his point of view. What was the intimidation? The intimidation was the passing around of a publicly published document, which had been around for many months, and the comments made by the Speaker, who said that we should attend to this debate with dignity and with concern. The Leader of the Opposition said that that could be interpreted as seeking to restrict debate in this place.

That shows not only the ill will of the Leader of the Opposition but also it shows how poorly he regards this House. In terms of free speech, I will outline some of the pressures put on other members of this Parliament. When the Leader of the Opposition was a member of the Bjelke-Petersen Government, people could not even hold a public rally without being surrounded by hundreds of police, who prevented them from expressing their point of view and marching in peaceful civil protest. The Leader of the Opposition was a member of a Government that tried to silence unions. The Leader of the Opposition was a member of a Government that did not provide minorities with funding. Yet the Leader of the Opposition comes into this House and says that he felt intimidated.

I respect the previous Speaker of this House who, in fact, gave similar warnings to this House when there was a delicate debate. The member for Surfers Paradise is a disgrace.

Time expired.

---