



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard 5 October 2000

MR SPEAKER'S RULING

Hon. P. D. BEATTIE (Brisbane Central— ALP) (Premier) (9.29 p.m.): I rise to oppose the motion that has been moved. There are serious issues before the Shepherdson inquiry.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BEATTIE: It is interesting to note that I have listened in silence to the first two speakers, yet the members opposite have continued their disruption. This week, they have come into this place with the strategy to disrupt Parliament. They have chanted; they have had a deliberate strategy to disrupt Parliament. Even now I cannot be heard when making my contribution.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BEATTIE: Here we go. Mr Speaker, listen to the noise. Listen to the riot. Mr Speaker, I am surprised that you can even hear the questions that are asked in this House of a morning. On Tuesday and Wednesday, the disgraceful chanting—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BEATTIE: We can still hear their noise. Given the disgraceful chanting from the Opposition on Tuesday and Wednesday, Mr Speaker, I cannot understand how you could have made any ruling; you could not have heard them.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BEATTIE: Here they go. Listen to their disgraceful behaviour.

Mr Horan interjected.

Mr BEATTIE: The member for Toowoomba South and other Opposition members are screaming. This week they chanted and disrupted the Parliament purely for political reasons.

Mr Davidson interjected.

Mr BEATTIE: The member for Noosa and other honourable members are continuing to disrupt this Parliament to the extent that they are disrupting any contribution that I or any of my Ministers make.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The member for Southport will cease interjecting.

Mr Veivers: I did not say a word.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The member will cease interjecting.

Mr BEATTIE: The people of Queensland want these issues determined by the Shepherdson inquiry—the independently constituted inquiry. That is where they want these matters determined, not by Rob Borbidge, the Leader of the Opposition, or by other politicians. Politicians should not make these determinations. The behaviour of the Opposition this week—

Mr Horan interjected.

Mr BEATTIE: The member for Toowoomba South is again seeking to disrupt the Parliament. His constituents would want to see support for the institution of Parliament, not to see it being denigrated.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BEATTIE: Here they go again, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr BEATTIE: All they are seeking to do is denigrate the Parliament.

Mr Davidson interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The member for Noosa!

Mr BEATTIE: That has been why this House has been in disrepute this week. It is because of the behaviour of the Opposition. There has been no leadership from the Leader of the Opposition or anyone else on their side. They have come in here to disrupt the Parliament for cheap political gain. That is why the people of Queensland want these issues determined by the Shepherdson inquiry—the independent inquiry—and not determined by Rob Borbidge. That is the difference. On 3 April 1996, in the first week's sitting—

Mr Borbidge interjected.

Mr Hegarty interjected.

Mr BEATTIE: The Leader of the Opposition and the Opposition Whip continue to disrupt on every occasion. They have played a wrecker's role all week. They are playing a wrecker's role in this debate. They have defamed Parliament. Is it any wonder the people in the gallery, including the children who come here, are embarrassed by members of the Opposition? Tonight we are having a debate on your role, Mr Speaker, in controlling this Parliament, and in this very debate the Opposition members heckle, scream and interject to try to scream down Government speakers. That is exactly the way in which they have behaved this week. They are an embarrassment to the Parliament and their constituents. They are denigrating the proud institution of Parliament. As I said, Mr Speaker, all they are doing is attacking the independent umpire.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BEATTIE: The rabble is still at it. They attack the independent umpire. That is you, Mr Speaker. They attack this institution.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BEATTIE: They are making noise again. They are simply trying to disrupt the Parliament. Let the people of Queensland know that I sat in silence and listened to the contributions of their first two speakers, and all they have done is try to heckle me down since I started.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BEATTIE: Every one of them is trying to heckle down the process, because they do not respect this institution.

On 3 April 1996, in the first week's sitting of Parliament under the new Borbidge Government, Speaker Turner gave a ruling on an inquiry being carried out by the Criminal Justice Commission. Speaker Turner ruled—

"The matter of the memorandum of understanding between the Premier and the Police Minister and the Police Union is now the subject of inquiry by the CJC and should not be referred to in the House."

That is the end of the story. The Speaker made his ruling in response to an attempt by me as Opposition Leader to have Parliament refer to the inquiry matters that we believed were appropriate for the inquiry to investigate.

Mr Borbidge interjected.

Mr BEATTIE: The Leader of the Opposition is interjecting on every occasion. I listened in silence. He is a wrecker and he is at it again. I sought to raise certain questions. I made it clear that we did not want to debate the inquiry material itself. The Speaker ruled that that particular matter was sub judice. Indeed, when we look at the relevant key dates of 22 April, when the hearing of evidence started, and 3 September, when the open hearings closed, there were two questions without notice allowed by the Speaker. Mr Speaker, your rulings are absolutely consistent.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BEATTIE: Here they go again. Listen to the rabble.
