



Speech by

PETER WELLINGTON

MEMBER FOR NICKLIN

Hansard 5 October 2000

MR SPEAKER'S RULING

Mr WELLINGTON (Nicklin—IND) (10.04 p.m.): I rise to participate in the debate on the motion of dissent from the Speaker's ruling. I have taken time to read Hansard's records of the parliamentary debates of Tuesday and Wednesday and I have listened to the debate today. When doing so I have asked myself the question, "Do I think questions asked or answers provided to some questions during this debate could cover the subject matter currently the subject of the Shepherdson inquiry?"

I believe that some of the questions the subject of this debate do involve part or total answers which may cover matters the subject of the Shepherdson inquiry and, accordingly, in relation to those total questions or parts thereof I do support some of the Speaker's rulings. But I place on the public record that I do not agree with all of the Speaker's rulings and I do not condone in any way the gagging of this debate. I will be supporting the Opposition 100% when the vote is finally taken tonight.

We can talk in this Chamber for as long as time will permit. I reflect on the past two and a half years and the number of times the gag has been applied. In the past we may have thought Queenslanders were not aware of what was happening in this Chamber. I do not believe that is possible today. Today all Queenslanders are watching—looking and listening. The next election will come sooner than we think and I believe at that stage all Queenslanders will cast their vote on whether they believe this Government has performed, and the Opposition accordingly. I will say no more in order to allow someone else the chance to speak in the remaining minutes of this debate.
