



Speech by

**KERRY SHINE**

**MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA NORTH**

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Hansard 1 August 2001

**APPROPRIATION BILLS—ESTIMATES COMMITTEE A**

**Mr SHINE** (Toowoomba North—ALP) (12.47 p.m.): I was delighted to take part in Estimates Committee A. If time permits, I would like to touch on the security questions that were raised during the hearing of the committee, the questions as to what type of wine is consumed in this place and the enterprise bargaining agreement. First of all, though, I would like to join with other members in thanking all of the various officers of this House: the Clerk's office, the parliamentary attendants, the catering staff, the domestic staff, the security people, the Hansard people, the support staff generally, corporate services, property services, the library and the Q-Build people. All of these people have been very courteous and of assistance to me while I have been here. I particularly want to mention Brenda O'Donnell, who performs the secretarial duties on level 11 of the annexe, and the people who helped us during the orientation period earlier in the year.

On the home front, my own electorate officer, Gwen Liesch, deserves special recognition for the task that she performs on my behalf similar to what is performed by other electorate officers referred to earlier. I would also like to mention Mary Kate Khoo and Michael Thomson, who have shared the second electorate officer's position.

I would like to congratulate the Speaker on keeping the increase in expenditure on budgeting provisions this year to within one per cent. Because of all of the extras supplied to us by way of second electorate officers, et cetera, this is a magnificent achievement.

I now turn to the issue of security. A question was raised during the hearing of Estimates Committee A in relation to the visible reduction in the number of security staff and the replacement of staff with electronic surveillance. The Speaker confirmed that the two people previously positioned on the front gate have been removed from that position and are now located in the House performing the function of ambassadors welcoming people to the House rather than as security officers deterring people from entering the building. That is a marvellous thing. My observation is that it is a welcoming place for people to visit. The Speaker also confirmed that technology has been introduced to try to improve security, particularly the swipe card technology. This has been an improvement, although it is my experience that one can drive into the back gates of Parliament House using the swipe card but there is some difficulty at times in raising the roller doors. That is an issue that might be looked at.

I was pleased to hear from the Speaker that no overall reductions in staff are to be made or have been made. The Speaker also confirmed that no complaints were received by him as to the conduct of security measures. At the estimates hearing Mr Speaker referred to the occasion of the unveiling of the portrait of Mr E. G. Theodore. I attended the unveiling and would recommend to all honourable members and to all members of the public that they should take advantage of the historical information that abounds in this House. It really is a tremendous asset for the whole of Queensland.

I turn now to the issue of wine. There has been a lot of criticism in the paper concerning the consumption of wines other than Queensland wine at Parliament House. The Speaker confirmed that that issue is being progressively improved. About 30 per cent of the wine consumed at Parliament House is now Queensland wine. All of the port is of Queensland origin. As time goes on, and as a result of a committee headed by Mr Keating, things should improve in that regard.

In relation to the EBA, things are on the improve. From all reports, Parliament House public servants are now employed on the same basis as other public servants throughout Queensland.