



Speech by

Hon. K. LINGARD

MEMBER FOR BEAUDESERT

Hansard 8 August 2001

MINISTER FOR POLICE AND CORRECTIVE SERVICES

Hon. K. R. LINGARD (Beaudesert—NPA) (6.35 p.m.): First of all, I express my concern that this parliament has once again allowed a motion to be amended by removing all words after 'that'. The original motion began with the words—

That this Parliament calls on the Premier ...

The amendment moved by the government states—

That all words after 'That'—

the very first word—

be omitted and the following words be inserted—

The Queensland Parliament congratulates the Queensland Government ...

I went to a show society meeting the other night. The standing orders of a show society or any society in Queensland—and they are silent in particular areas—always refer to the Queensland government. With the current situation, any motion in Queensland can be changed or amended by removing all words after the very first word. What kind of ridiculous situation is that? If motions put before this House are the criteria for all committees in Queensland from now on, then it really is a most ridiculous situation. Any committee will laugh at us some time in the future when it sees what happens to the motions that come before this House.

The Premier and the Minister for Police have to realise the difficult situation that arises for members of parliament when any minister comes into direct conflict with the union. Quite obviously, that situation can create massive problems. This is particularly so when the Police Minister comes into direct conflict with the Police Union. With regard to police and police stations in my electorate, this conflict has great potential to be embarrassing. During my many years in this place I have been in the position to look at the Capital Works Programs of all police stations in my electorate and have believed them to be very fair. Even though Beaudesert will only come on to the Capital Works Program in 2004, I have never asked for an upgrade of the Beaudesert Police Station. Rather, I have always been very happy in this regard. In my time in this place Mount Tambourine has had a brand new police station built, as have Canungra and Rathdowney. Jimboomba has acquired a massive 27-man police station. I knew that was coming on line.

When the ALP government came into power, I was able to say to then Minister Warburton at the time, 'You have to give us a 27-man police station because that's what's on the Capital Works Program.' I never asked for anything that was not on the Capital Works Program. It was a similar situation with Browns Plains in 1983. Even though there will be some difficulties in relation to Boonah in the future, I believe that I have been fair to the Capital Works Program. However, I know Beaudesert does not come on line in the budget until a particular year. I knew the Capital Works Program of Minister Cooper, and if this minister wants to deviate from that I will try to use whatever powers I have to avoid that situation.

The Police Union has now come out and said that Beaudesert desperately needs a new \$5 million police station. Gary Wilkinson said that the current station was too old, out of date and cramped. I agree with that, but then what happened? A spokesman from the minister's office said that the station was built in 1980 and is adequate for its eight police officers. There is a direct conflict

between the minister and the Police Union. I do not mind playing politics, but I am concerned that either the Police Union is taking over my role or the minister is trying to vindicate his stand against the union. However, that is not the situation. The situation is that it should stay on the Capital Works Program. If the minister and the union are in direct conflict, I have trouble as a member of parliament, as would any other backbench member of parliament. If the minister is going to continue this fight against the union in the media, then we as members of parliament will be in a terrible position, as will our electorates.

With such a breakdown in the relationship between the minister and the union we will have a stand-off. Nothing will occur in our electorates, simply because the minister has a fight with the union. Hopefully we can work with the capital works program and negotiate with the minister, but we do not want the minister saying, 'Because the union has asked for it I am not going to give it.'
