



Speech by

**Mr L. SPRINGBORG**

**MEMBER FOR SOUTHERN DOWNS**

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Hansard 17 May 2001

**PETITION; ARMED ROBBERY, SENTENCING**

**Mr SPRINGBORG** (Southern Downs—NPA) (10.25 a.m.): This morning in parliament a petition signed by 29,255 people was tabled calling on the Queensland parliament and the government to introduce laws to make it compulsory for armed robbers to spend at least some time in jail. I commend that petition to all honourable members. I further indicate that, in the process of gathering those names, 1,328 people also signed forms but they were in the incorrect format as people did not have access to photocopiers. I have those signatures here. I seek the leave of the parliament to table those signatures for the record.

**Mr SPEAKER:** You do not have to seek leave.

**Mr SPRINGBORG:** I commend Ms Sonja White for the work she has undertaken in gathering the signatures for this petition. We are all very much aware of the circumstances surrounding Ms White. She was the victim of quite a violent armed robbery a couple of years ago. The two people who were convicted of that robbery were given community corrections orders. An unsuccessful appeal was lodged at that stage. There was a lot of concern in the community that people who commit armed robberies should be forced to spend at least some time in jail. That is what this petition seeks to achieve.

Very few people in the parliament would have a real understanding of the terrible trauma that people undergo when they are the victims of armed robberies. The victims are the ones who carry the emotional and physical scars to their graves, whilst many who commit the crimes are free to go to McDonalds, KFC or wherever. They can live their lives in the community without having to suffer any real consequences.

Quite rightly, a lot of people feel it is somewhat passing strange that people serve time in our jails, albeit in decreasing numbers, for fine defaulting while last year 32 armed robbers did not spend so much as one night in jail.

Time expired.

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