



Speech by

Mr M. HORAN

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH

Hansard 12 September 2001

TERRORISM, UNITED STATES

Mr HORAN (Toowoomba South—NPA) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.38 a.m.): Mr Deputy Speaker, Premier and my fellow parliamentarians, I endorse the comments made by the Premier. On this very sad and sombre day when we gather here to reflect upon perhaps one of the most significant tragedies that the modern world has seen—and to think that this tragedy happened in the shadow of the Statue of Liberty, which symbolises peace and freedom in the new world—this terrorism demonstrates to us the heavy responsibility that all members of parliaments throughout the world have to work for peace and freedom, despite the bad elements that do occur in the world. I thank the Premier for the comments he has made this morning. I speak on behalf of all of us—all parties, all Independents, all members who represent our 89 seats—so that we can speak the message of the good people we represent throughout Queensland who do love and cherish their freedom and their peace.

It is sad to think that in our wonderful world, where there are so many good people, there are these twisted issues of bigotry, of hatred and of ideology that would wreak such havoc on the world. The sombre feeling in this parliament today I think reflects the feeling throughout the entire world. Let us all hope that those sombre feelings will make people strive to achieve the freedoms, the democracy and the peace that we aspire to and desire so greatly.

In the very first instance, we convey our heartfelt sympathy to the families and friends of people who have tragically lost their lives. I do not think any of us can understand what it would have been like to be in those planes, in those buildings, in the collapse or what it will be like in the aftermath. All we can do is pray, send our messages of support and hope that all good people in the world can pull together and help those unfortunate people involved in the tragedy.

Also, I think we should resolve that we should never be bowed down by acts of terrorism or by threats as all of us carry out our responsibility for fighting for and preserving peace and freedom for all peoples. Perhaps that is one of the lessons that will come out of this. I join with the Premier in saying that it is important for this parliament to have had this meeting here this morning as a symbol that we will not be bowed down. We all came here today and we have all provided our message of strength, support and love and our prayers.

The world may change. The way we go about our travel may change. But the important principles of being strong and of being caring of each other should absolutely prevail through this dreadful tragedy.

I join with the Premier in giving bipartisan support, on behalf of all of us, for whatever matters of state have to be undertaken today. Also, I give our support to the Prime Minister and the Acting Prime Minister that whatever is required from Queensland will be provided in a bipartisan way. We will support the day-to-day business of this parliament in whatever way is necessary over the next two days.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I think the first three words of the prayer you read out say it all: 'Our gracious God'. The world needs help at this stage. It is time for us to pull together. The one thing that must come out of this dreadful tragedy is that we must move on to a better world governed by people of peace and of strength. I thank honourable members.