



Speech by

**Mr M. HORAN**

**MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH**

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Hansard 7 November 2001

**BEATTIE GOVERNMENT**

**Mr HORAN** (Toowoomba South—NPA) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.22 a.m.): The dangerous majority that the Labor government has in Queensland is breeding unparalleled contempt, arrogance and secrecy. One of the great traditions of this parliament has been the briefings of opposition members of this House, and it has been provided with great courtesy and consideration in the past—and still is in some particular cases.

Last week a briefing on the Coastal Protection and Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill was provided to some seven members of the opposition, members from One Nation and the National Party, and the Independents. It is a very complicated bill that requires some detailed explanation. At the end of that briefing we sought a further briefing because of the need for it and it has been denied by the minister's office—that is, the Minister for Environment.

We cannot speak highly enough of the courtesy and attention to detail given by the departmental officer, but for the minister's office to refuse a further briefing on something that is so complicated and important as this is another good example of the arrogance and contempt that is coming into this parliament. The member for Keppel, who is one of the most experienced and courteous people in this place and knows of the traditions, was appalled at the way the opposition was treated by the minister's office with regard to this very fair request for a briefing so that we can provide good debate in this House and act in the best interests of the people of Queensland.

Another example occurred just yesterday. At 12 o'clock I was advised by phone of the turning of the sod of the new police station in Toowoomba. I was given 24 hours notice by the minister's office, knowing full well that as Opposition Leader I would be required to debate financial bills in this House. That is another example of the way in which this parliament is starting to operate.

Again today we saw the Premier speak arrogantly about the community cabinets as though they are a new invention. He is not willing to concede that they were put in place by the coalition government in the 1996-98 period. He is not willing to admit that it was the coalition that introduced the system of delegations and individuals—

Time expired.

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