



Speech by

Mr P. PURCELL

MEMBER FOR BULIMBA

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APPROPRIATION BILLS—ESTIMATES COMMITTEE A

Mr PURCELL (Bulimba—ALP) (12.25 p.m.): I wish to speak to the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2001 for the Legislative Assembly. Firstly, I congratulate the staff who look after the members in this place for the pleasant and cheerful manner in which they go about their jobs and do the many things that they do for us. There are a few items that I would comment on.

I invite all the primary schools of my electorate that do government studies to Parliament House to see and absorb the atmosphere of this place. The attendants are the first contact for the teachers, parents and children. I hear nothing but praise for the manner in which they go about their job. I know from the way that they cheerfully and knowledgeably talk to the children about parliament that they do not treat it just as a job. I thank them for that, because they make the visit to parliament a highlight of the school curriculum and year. The attendants let me get away with a bit of political licence when I meet up with the kids. I am allowed to tell the story of the Labor Party and how it came about.

Mr Seeney: You could invite me over and I can tell the other side of the story.

Mr PURCELL: The member could do that also, but it would have to be the story about the demise of his party and how it is going backwards flat out in reverse.

We talk about the Labor Party, which has been around for over 100 years. It is a party that stands proud. It is the only party in this country to have been around for that long. It has stood the test of time and it will continue to stand the test of time.

When we are talking to students, we need to be factual. The first Labor Party in the world was formed in Queensland under the Tree of Knowledge at Barcaldine. That is a fact. I know that members of the other side find it hard to get over the fact that the country people and the workers in the scrub decided that they needed a party to get the foot off the throats of people such as the shearers, whose pay was being decreased as their hours were being increased. Kids should be told about that. They should also be told that the first Labor government in the world was formed in Queensland. What a great state! The longest serving Labor government is probably in power now and it will be in power for a long time.

All members invite guests into this House for lunch, dinner and all manner of reasons. The staff always make guests feel welcome and special. They go out of their way to be helpful, although sometimes that is not easy because people are not up to par all the time. However, we would never know it as it never shows. The staff are always pleasant. My guests in this place always comment that they are treated very well. I thank the staff for that and for the pleasant and cheerful manner in which they do their job. I know other members join me in offering those thanks.

I would also like to thank the Hansard staff again, as I did on the day of the hearing. It was a long day—just one of the many long days that we have in this place. Doug Rohl and his staff are the ultimate professionals. They are seen but never heard and they get it right and do a great job.

Mr Schwarten: They probably wish we were seen and not heard.

Mr PURCELL: They probably do. They seem to make us sound pretty good. We um and ah and say all manner of things, but it doesn't read too badly when they are finished with it. I thank them for that job and for what they do.

I thank also the Speaker and his staff for their cooperation during the hearing. They answered all questions put to them by the committee. All questions were answered fully . I know this will be covered by other members, but I thank the Speaker for the extra staff in our offices. I can inform the Speaker that the extension to my office has been completed by Q-Build. It was a seamless operation with minimal disruption. It was done very professionally. I cannot believe how much larger the work area has become just by moving a wall. I see the budget of the Legislative Assembly as entirely appropriate and being spent appropriately.
