



Speech by

Phil Reeves

MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

Hansard Wednesday, 9 August 2006

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL (ESTIMATES COMMITTEE A)

Mr REEVES (Mansfield—ALP) (11.42 am): It gives me great pleasure to rise in support of the report of Estimates Committee A. I congratulate the committee chair, the member for Ipswich, and all of the parliamentary staff who assisted in this process. I also thank the Speaker for his attendance and his parliamentary officers who also attended. Parliament is a very important place not only to the state but also to ourselves, particularly the regional members who come here. It is very important to have the great staff that we do at Parliament House. I commend the staff, particularly the catering staff, the attendants, the travel staff, financial services staff, the security officers and those within the Clerk's office, for the great and even-handed manner in which they treat all members of parliament.

I particularly want to thank the Speaker and the Speaker's staff, because theirs is a difficult job. They need to balance budgetary concerns as well as make sure that the parliamentary staff are looked after and are treated with the respect that they deserve, and, more importantly, they need to ensure that all parliamentarians are able to adequately do their work. In that regard, I also want to thank the Parliamentary Service for the support they give to the electorate offices. I particularly want to thank my electorate officers Sarah, Jo and Ravi for the great work and great time and effort they put in for the people of the Mansfield electorate and for me personally. I could not function in my office as well as I do without their great efforts, their great concern for the electorate and for the people within the electorate and the community groups. Their assistance to me should never be underestimated.

As this is the last estimates hearing prior to the election, it is appropriate to acknowledge that the present Speaker is leaving after a distinguished career in public life. I thank the Speaker for his efforts in that regard. As this is the last estimates for the member for Stafford, my fellow whip—I am his deputy whip—I thank him for his efforts, particularly through estimates. I and the other deputy whip, the member for Ipswich, greatly appreciate the member for Stafford's efforts and assistance. Above all, I thank him for his help which results in the smooth running of this parliament, as do both whips on the opposition side—and I know that the member for Darling Downs has changed his title. It helps with the smooth running of the parliament, and I welcome the member for Lockyer to his new position. All whips appreciate the Government Whip's efforts in making the place function. It is excellent. I am sure that this time next year we will be missing his studious way and manner. We will miss his help and assistance.

I also congratulate the members for Ashgrove, Sandgate, Inala, Waterford and Barron River for all that they have done for this parliament. The member for Ashgrove has obviously been a Speaker and is the present Deputy Speaker. It is important to acknowledge that. I particularly want to thank my friend beside me, the member for Cleveland, for his great efforts. I know that he enjoyed being on his last estimates committee. By this time next year he will not be here, but I am sure that he enjoyed that experience. It was not a day lost, as some people suggest. I really appreciate him. He has been a good colleague to me in terms of advice and support since I came in here in 1998, and I thank him for that. As I said, I want to thank the officers of the Parliamentary Service for all of the great work that they do.

One issue I want to mention is that we have made the rails a lot safer along the walk from the Annexe to this chamber, particularly for those with small children. Those of us with small children and those who have groups who come here with small children know that it is much safer now for them to walk along the balcony of the Annexe. I commend the report to the House.