



Speech by

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MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL

Mr LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—Lib) (2.59 pm): It is my pleasure to rise and speak to the Estimates Committee A report on the Legislative Assembly. I am privileged to be on the Speaker's Advisory Committee. I read the transcript of the estimates hearing, and I note the Speaker's reference to the fact that any committee deliberations are confidential. I want to commend the Speaker for the establishment of this committee. It is certainly a good way for us to be able to get matters directly to the Speaker.

I want to mention a couple of other things that were discussed in the report. I know that the training program for electorate office staff is greatly appreciated, even for long-serving staff. I have a very long-serving electorate officer, Josie Stinson, who has been with about four members, but even she realises the need and appreciates the effort to get her to Brisbane for training sessions a couple of times a year.

I stress that I really do think that the security audit is important, and we have seen a number of issues canvassed in the media. For example, something happened in the Cook electorate office some time ago. Even I have concerns. Even though we have a screen in our office, you just do not know when someone comes into your office what is going to happen. We do not want any incidents to happen. I think the Speaker, as well as the Clerk and the Parliamentary Service, should be congratulated for progressing the security audit and the arrangements that the Speaker mentioned in that hearing.

I was interested to hear the comments by the honourable member for Beaudesert. I did just have the pleasure of having lunch with the Consul-General from Japan. I mentioned to him, as I have already mentioned to the Speaker, my interest in setting up a parliamentary friendship group, as the Speaker has already done with the Queensland-China Parliamentary Friendship Group, which I am pleased to be in. I think the point the member for Beaudesert was making is that there are many different ways of engaging with members of parliament and other people whom we may meet throughout our travels. Sport is one where you might be able to have relationships with people and from such things comes friendship.

If sport is a way for parliamentarians to interact and catch up in different areas, then I am happy to say that I have joined that sporting group. I have not been to anything yet. I may never go to anything. But it is no different from my joining the Australasian Study of Parliament Group, and I was happy to go to the conference here and contribute in whatever way I could and support the processes of parliament. I am also happy to be a member of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and happy to support many of the activities of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. It is all part of our wider education and learning about the place—just as being on committees, just as giving speeches, just as doing research.

We all learn, and I think it is very narrow minded to be criticising someone who is the father of the House for the way that he has chosen to serve his community and for the way that he has obviously been returned by his community a number of times to this place. I think that is something we should keep in mind rather than the narrow, petty, small-minded attitude that might get us a bit of story in the paper but in the end diminishes us all. I think it would be nice if we could give some allowance to the father of the House, the honourable member for Beaudesert, in what he already acknowledges is his last term. He was happy enough to face up to those issues today and express his true feelings about it.

We all got the email about whether you want to join this sporting organisation. As I say, I do not look for reasons not to be in things, whether it is going to something in my electorate or whether it is joining something to do with the parliament. If the Speaker rules that we should not be in it, then we might discuss that and debate that at a different time and that might be fine. But until then let us not get to the stage of the Western Australian parliament where the Western Australian Premier is talking about such big issues as closing the bar in his parliament during their election campaign. I think sometimes we should be above all these sorts of things and consider the wider picture.

I also commend the Speaker for the initiative of the Youth Parliament. My daughter was the youth member for Robina in the Youth Parliament. Anything that gets the kids involved is a good initiative. She really enjoyed the process. I understand that there are some problems with future funding for that. The Speaker and I have already had discussions about that.

I commend the Parliamentary Service for Everyone's Parliament and the information that we received lately.

In the time available to me, following some feedback that I have had, members' executive support levels 9 to 13 suggest that there should be electronic scanning capability for one of these floors—perhaps with the supervising executive assistant on level 11, as when I wanted to have something incorporated in *Hansard* the executive assistant on level 9 had to go to the library to get the item scanned before forwarding it to Hansard, so it just made it a little more difficult. With those comments, I commend the committee's report.