



Speech by
Jeff Seeney

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

Hansard Thursday, 8 October 2009

GAMBLING AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL; GREAT BARRIER REEF PROTECTION AMENDMENT BILL

Mr SEENEY (Callide—LNP) (10.22 am): Obviously the opposition will be opposing the motion that has been moved by the Leader of the House. What an outrageous contribution the Leader of the House made in putting this motion before the House. What an outrageous proposition that members of parliament are somehow irresponsible because they choose to come here and speak on behalf of their constituents about the legislation that the government introduces. That is the very purpose of the House. Members are elected for that reason. It is the reason that we are paid to come here. In this parliament half of the members want to do the job they are paid for, the other half do not. The members who sit on the government side of the House do not want to do the job that they are paid for.

We have seen an increasing tendency in this place to shut down the parliament and curtail debate. There is no enthusiasm in the government. There is no energy or keenness to engage in debate. It is a government that is tired, worn out and in its death throes. It is dying slowly and surely from the inside out. That is reflected in their performance in this parliament. It is indicated by the motion that the Leader of the House has moved this morning. Those opposite do not want to be here to discuss the issues or to fully explore the legislation that it introduces into the House. Its members want to get in and get out. It is the same every day that this parliament sits. The cabinet come in with their heads down. The backbenchers are here because they have to be here. There is no vitality in the government.

That is in very stark contrast to this side of the House where opposition members want to participate in parliamentary debate. That can be seen by the speaking list. Every member of the opposition wants to give voice to the concerns of their constituents about the legislative program that the government seeks to introduce. It is outrageous for the Leader of the House or for any member of the government to say that that is irresponsible. It is the responsibility of every member of the parliament to address the legislation that the government introduces on behalf of their constituents. That is what we will do. The government and the people of Queensland can be assured that every piece of legislation that is introduced into this House will be fully scrutinised by the opposition. The government can be assured that whatever it seeks to introduce into this parliament will be tested and challenged by the opposition. It does not matter whether that keeps the Leader of the House from her bed for a few extra hours on a Thursday night. It is the role of the opposition and we will fulfil that role. We oppose the motion.