



Speech by

Lawrence Springborg

MEMBER FOR SOUTHERN DOWNS

Hansard Wednesday, 17 June 2009

QUEENSLAND UNION MOVEMENT

Mr SPRINGBORG (Southern Downs—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (12.09 pm): For many people in Queensland this is a humble punnet of pansies, but for the Queensland union movement it has far more significance. This is their new floral emblem.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr O'Brien): Order! Member for Southern Downs, that is out of order. It is outside of the standing orders. I ask you to put that away. Remove it from the chamber.

Mr SPRINGBORG: If anything signifies the gutlessness and weak-kneed nature of the jelly backs in the Queensland union leadership more than a punnet of pansies, I do not know what it is. At a time when Queensland unionists were looking to their union leaders to stand up for them and have a fight, they went weak at the knees. On the weekend at the Labor Party convention when some heavy lifting was needed, Bill Ludwig, Andrew Dettmer, Alex Scott and Ron Monaghan were skipping down the street in their tutus, off to get pedicures somewhere up in Queen Street. Never in Queensland have we seen a greater act of gutlessness by supposed leaders.

Over the past couple of days I have looked for the best definition of pansy, to see how it fits the union movement in Queensland. The definition refers to someone who is very pathetic and wimpy; someone who is gutless and weak. That is exactly what we have seen from the union movement. How cheaply have they been bought out by their Labor political masters? They have said, 'We'll sell the inheritance of this state in order to give you a pay rise, because we have been so absolutely useless at running the budget of Queensland.' We are seeing active capitulation from a mob of people who do not deserve to be called representatives. We have seen the same sort of patheticness on the other side of the House from backbenchers who have caved in, one after the other.

(Time expired)