




Speech by

Annastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Hansard Tuesday, 27 November 2012

COMMITTEES MEMBERSHIP

 **Ms PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.59 am): I rise to oppose the motion. What we have seen this morning is clearly an attempt by this government to remove Mr Douglas from the important role of chair of the Ethics Committee and to take him off the PCMC. Those opposite should be absolutely ashamed about what they are voting on this morning. We have seen now that this government is prepared to stop at nothing to tamper with the most powerful independent body of this parliament. The Ethics Committee is one of the most, if not the most, important committees in this parliament.

The Manager of Government Business has given no explanation as to why the member for Gaven has been taken off this particular committee. We know that the member for Gaven has been standing up for his community. We know that he has been challenging the government when it comes to the proposed cruise ship terminal on the Gold Coast. We know that the member for Yeerongpilly is not happy with this government. We know that the member for Condamine is not happy. He has jumped ship onto another ship. This is a government in turmoil. This is a government in crisis.

The Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee is a very important committee in this House. We know that good, fine members sit on that committee. We know that the member for Gaven has previously been the chair of that committee and has served on that committee in a continuing capacity. Today, I am ashamed to stand in this place when I see what the government is doing to its own members. If anyone dares to make any kind of dissent against this government, we know what happens to them: they get pushed aside and they get pushed off committees. Day in and day out, we see the continuing soap opera that is the LNP government. Day in and day out, we see another episode of it lurching from crisis to crisis. When is this going to end? When is this government going to focus on the real issues and govern for all of Queensland?

Mr Choat: You know all about crisis.

Ms PALASZCZUK: There is only one crisis happening here and it is with your government, member for 'Manhattan'. I cannot emphasise too much the importance of the parliamentary Ethics Committee. We know that a range of issues have been referred to that committee, which I am not going to go into now. A number of those issues deal with this government. This goes to the heart of integrity, accountability and transparency in this House. However, there has been no discussion with the Committee of the Legislative Assembly in relation to the changes that have been announced today; not one discussion. When was the member for Gaven told that he would be moving from the committees? Has there been any undue influence? The government needs to answer those questions today. Why now? Why has the member for Gaven had to take this path today? Why has he been shoved aside? The government must answer those questions today. The Premier needs to answer those questions today, because he is the leader of the LNP, which we have seen lurching from crisis to crisis. We know that this year there are people who will face an unhappy Christmas because 14,000 people have been sacked. When we also consider those on temporary contracts, 20,000 people may not face a very good Christmas because of the actions of this government.

Government members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order!

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am hitting a nerve. I will take on each and every one of you, any day in this House. If you all want to interject, you can interject. Today we are talking about integrity, transparency and honesty. I am see none of that from this government. Today the Premier of this state needs to give an explanation as to why the member for Gaven, who was the chair of the Ethics Committee, has been thrown off that committee. The Premier needs to explain why the member for Gaven has been thrown off the PCMC.

Mr Seeney: You are making a fool of yourself. Sit down.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The Deputy Premier may sit there and laugh. I ask him: how are all the pledges going? We know that there is discontent on the backbench. The government has the largest majority that Queensland has ever faced.

Honourable members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order! Members, there are too many interjections across the chamber.

Ms PALASZCZUK: In conclusion, today presents a prime opportunity for the Premier to stand up and explain why the member for Gaven has been targeted in this way. At the beginning of the year, he was appointed as chair of the Ethics Committee. Why has he been ostracised from that committee? Why he has been taken off the PCMC? They are two of the most important committees in this parliament.

Government members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: You may think this is a funny matter, but it is no laughing matter when you are tampering with the independent committees of this House.

Madam SPEAKER: Order! Leader of the Opposition, make your comments through the chair. Do not use the word 'you'. If you are referring to another member in the House, use their appropriate title.