




Speech by  
**Curtis Pitt**

**MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE**

Hansard Thursday, 17 May 2012

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## COMMITTEES

 **Mr PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (12.32 am): We wish to accept all of the committee names that have been put forward by the Leader of the House, or the Manager of Government Business, although we do oppose the listings for the Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee. We would like to move an amendment to the membership of that committee.

**Mr Bleijie:** You support them all but you oppose one.

**Mr PITT:** That is correct, Attorney-General. We support the portfolio committees, of which the Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee is not one, nor is the Ethics Committee. As this is—

**Mr Stevens:** It is not part of the motion. You have to vote against the motion. The motion is as such.

**Mr PITT:** Well, we are going to have to vote against the motion.

**Mr Stevens:** Okay, take the vote.

**Mr Seeney:** Curtis, it is not dealt with here. This is the portfolio committees. The other ones are by appointment.

**Mr PITT:** The Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee is in this schedule. The membership has just been read out. If those are taken out, we will support the nominations. If they are dealt with in another way, we are happy to do so.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! You either have to move an amendment or vote against it.

**Mr PITT:** We will have to vote against it.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The question is that the motion be agreed to. Those of that opinion say 'aye'.

**Government members:** Aye.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Those against 'no'.

**Opposition members:** No.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I think the ayes have it.

**Ms Palaszczuk:** Aye—oh.

**Opposition members:** Divide.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** A division has been called. Ring the bells.

Division: Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

*In division—*

**Mr STEVENS:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In calling for the ayes versus the noes, it is clear that the Leader of the Opposition said 'aye'. That will be evidenced by the television. She then put her hand over her mouth and said 'oops'. That was clear to me watching her at that particular time.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr STEVENS:** I beg your pardon, Mr Deputy Speaker. I have the floor. I am pointing out to you, Mr Deputy Speaker, without interruption the fact that standing order 107(3) clearly states—

A member having given voice with the “Ayes” or “Noes” shall not, on a division being taken, vote with the opposite side.

**Mr PITT:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

**Mr STEVENS:** So I expect the Leader of the Opposition, now that a division—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I want to hear the point of order and then I want to hear the Manager of Opposition Business. Finish the point of order.

**Mr STEVENS:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. Now that the other members of the opposition have called divide, I expect the Leader of the Opposition to come to the ‘aye’ side for this vote.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I will now hear the other point of order.

**Mr PITT:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I think it is also very clear—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! It would help if we all just calmed down a little it. It is late.

**Mr PITT:** I think we on this side heard very clearly earlier the Deputy Premier jokingly say ‘nay’ when he was meant to say ‘no’. I think—

**Mr STEVENS:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order again.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr STEVENS:** A point of order on his point of order.

**Mr PITT:** We have not made an issue of that.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I would like to allow the member for Mulgrave to finish his point of order and then I will take your point of order.

**Mr PITT:** We have not made an issue of that. I also refer to the earlier instance where four or five members of this opposition clearly said ‘divide’ and it was not registered. I find it interesting that we can have a ruling based on what someone apparently heard when there have been plenty of interjections not heard this evening and our division call was not heard. Yet this has been very clearly heard and apparently that will be carrying more weight than the witness on this side of the House. I ask for a ruling on that, Mr Deputy Speaker.

**Mr STEVENS:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My point of order on the point of order by the Manager of Opposition Business is quite clearly the fact that he did not raise a point of order when he felt that the Deputy Premier had said ‘aye’ at the wrong time and there was no vote taken on the matter. If the Deputy Premier had made a mistake, he would have had to vote with the other side—if that had happened. There is no point of order. I have clearly raised a point of order which is valid. Unless the Leader of the Opposition would like to deny to this House what she actually did then it must stand that she votes with the ayes.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Leader of the Opposition, could you clarify for the House what you said? I did hear you say something. Perhaps you could help us understand what you said.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** My recollection is that I said ‘divide’. That is my recollection of the time.

**Government members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I am happy to defer to *Hansard* but my recollection is that I said ‘divide’.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! This is what we are going to do. I clearly heard the Leader of the Opposition say something. I was not 100 per cent certain of what she said. I am going to accept what you say you said is what you said. On that basis, we are going to continue with the division.

**Mr Johnson:** What did she say?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I did not clearly hear what she said. She said that she said the word ‘divide’.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I am simply going on the word of the Leader of the Opposition because I did not clearly hear, with other noises, exactly what she said. On that basis and giving the benefit of the doubt to the Leader of the Opposition, I think we can finish this very quickly by completing the division rather than continuing with what in my view is starting to demean the House.

**Mr STEVENS:** Mr Deputy Speaker, on a point of order: I quite clearly saw and heard the Leader of the Opposition say ‘aye’. She then, by denying what I clearly saw, indicates that I am misleading the House.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I am going to ask the Leader of the House to resume his seat for now please. It is starting to become beyond what I think is proper for the House. There was something spoken—whether it was ‘divide’ or ‘aye’ I could not tell from here 100 per cent. I am going to make a ruling

that we continue with the division, that we finish this, that we move on and that we keep the dignity of the House. Let us have the count please.

**AYES, 74**—Barton, Bates, Bennett, Berry, Bleijie, Boothman, Cavallucci, Choat, Costigan, Cox, Crandon, Cripps, Crisafulli, Cunningham, Davies, C Davis, T Davis, Dempsey, Dickson, Dillaway, Douglas, Dowling, Driscoll, Elmes, Frecklington, Grant, Grimwade, Gulley, Hart, Hathaway, Hobbs, Holswich, Hopper, Johnson, Judge, Kaye, Kempton, King, Krause, Langbroek, Latter, Maddern, Malone, Mander, McArdle, McVeigh, Millard, Minnikin, Molhoek, Newman, Nicholls, Ostapovitch, Powell, Pucci, Rice, Rickuss, Ruthenberg, Seeney, Shorten, Shuttleworth, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Symes, Trout, Walker, Watts, Wellington, Woodforth, Young. Tellers: Menkens, Smith

**NOES, 8**—Byrne, Knuth, Mulherin, Palaszczuk, Pitt, Trad. Tellers: Miller, Scott

Resolved in the affirmative.