




Speech by
Curtis Pitt

MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE

Hansard Tuesday, 30 October 2012

MOTION: SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS

 **Mr PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (10.01 am): I rise to oppose the comments made by the Manager of Government Business. This government has so many opportunities to put its messages across. We listen to propaganda during ministerial statements each morning in this House.

Mr Cripps interjected.

Mr PITT: I hear the member for Hinchinbrook laughing. However, I wonder whether he is laughing at the content of some of the ministerial statements that have been brought forward.

This is another opportunity for this government to show that it is flexing its muscles in terms of its parliamentary numbers as opposed to anything else. Let us not forget why they are moving this motion: this is all about diverting attention away from its failings. When the heat is on they are under pressure and they are saying to everybody, 'We don't want you to look here; we want you to look over here.' This is all about smoke and mirrors by this government. The pressure is on. They know they are in a bind. They know they are wedged.

This is not the sort of thing that we expect in this parliament. They want to throw out convention. They want to throw out the fact that maybe people in Queensland have a different opinion on what this government is putting forward. They keep mistaking that fact. We acknowledge that they had a resounding election win. We acknowledge that. But they are essentially saying that in every decision they make and every time they open their mouths collectively they are correct. That is really the failing of this government. Arrogance has crept in so early in the piece. I really cannot stress enough that essentially they are throwing out the opportunity for the opposition to put forward alternative views. As we have seen time and time again, they are running roughshod over this parliament.

We do not support the motion moved by the Minister for Health and certainly not the comments just made by the Manager of Government Business. This is again another opportunity for the government to bully its way into this parliament to get out its message. It has a massive media machine that it can use as a government, yet it is using this opportunity in parliament to distract attention from the fact that it is in strife. It knows it has been caught with its hands in the cookie jar. This is all about it saying that it has the ability to do whatever it likes in this place at any time. If that is the way it chooses to run it, we will be opposing it every step of the way.