



Speech by

Ray Stevens

MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH

Hansard Wednesday, 31 October 2012

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL AND APPROPRIATION BILL: COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Mr STEVENS (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (3.39 pm): Thank you very much for the opportunity to speak on this report. It really saddens me to hear the pitiful diatribe that I have just listened to from the member for Bundamba about matters that concern the CLA which are, in particular, the poorest reflection on her members that I can ever imagine a member of a party giving about the leadership of the Labor Party that has its three senior members on that CLA. Madam Speaker, you chair the CLA—and chair it brilliantly, I might add—on an independent basis without a vote on any matter except budget matters. The bottom line is that this committee is made up of equal numbers of government members and opposition members. Quite clearly, the reason that the member for Bundamba did not get to ask all of the questions, as she so wilfully tried to do, was the fact that there are 89 members—88 without you, Madam Speaker—entitled to ask a question of the CLA. She can get in line with the other 88 members. This committee is a balanced committee between government and opposition and she has no more rights than any other member in this House.

If she had a concern she should have gone to her own Labor members on that committee which is delicately balanced at three all. Quite clearly the member for Bundamba has been full of political mischief, full of self promotion and full of some new wonderful aura that she is creating about being the attack dog for the Labor Party in this House. It is absolutely pathetic, unbelievable and quite disappointing for the good folk of Bundamba who had the misfortune to have her returned as their member at the last election.

The CLA has operated very efficiently, as the reports indicate. We dealt with difficult matters such as budget cuts that we faced right across-the-board, as did every other department. That was dealt with in a totally appropriate way. It was dealt with cooperatively. The fact that these financial targets and tasks had to be addressed was dealt with with understanding by Labor and government members. The CEO on behalf of the Parliamentary Service, the Clerk of the Parliament, has delivered those in a very distinguished and delicate manner. I congratulate his financial delivery of the Parliamentary Service. He is very much across all issues in relation to the financial status of the Parliamentary Service. It has been delivered in accordance with all benchmarks and parameters.

There were implications even at that meeting from the member for Bundamba. They were absolutely ridiculous. She raised in that report petty political issues such as the Bernays Room. We told her it cost \$1,400 over and over again. Unfortunately she wanted the CEO to go through all this extra work and time and cost to confirm it was \$1,400 over and over again. What part of \$1,400 can the member for Bundamba not understand?

Mr Ruthenberg: The common-sense part.

Mr STEVENS: I take the interjection from the member: the common-sense part. This is very much the member for Bundamba's wonderful new high-flying style. She even took it upon herself to attack what it cost to set up other members' offices. As she might have noticed around this House, there were a lot of new members elected at the last election, mainly because of the disgusting way her government ran the previous 53rd Parliament.

Mrs MILLER: I rise to a point of order. We still do not have an answer on why it cost \$4,000 for the member for Ipswich's signage.

Madam SPEAKER: Member for Bundamba, I warn you under 253A for frivolous interjections.

Mr STEVENS: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. There were costs that were identified that were reasonable in terms of individual fitouts that were all done in accordance with the Parliamentary Service. They were done independently by the Clerk of the Parliament who has been independent in this parliament and every other parliament before it. The slur that she puts on the independent officers is atrocious and not befitting of a member of this parliament and certainly not for the people of Bundamba.