



Speech by

Shane Knuth

MEMBER FOR DALRYMPLE

Hansard Thursday, 29 November 2012

PARLIAMENT OF QUEENSLAND (REGISTERED POLITICAL PARTIES) AMENDMENT BILL

Mr KNUTH (Dalrymple—KAP) (7.23 pm): I also believe that this could have been done more appropriately. We have a committee system so that bills can be scrutinised. The LNP was elected with 78 members. The member for Callide knows and understands that governments with a massive majority can be quite arrogant and they need an effective opposition. To see an opposition that is increasing in numbers—from two to three—

Government members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member for Dalrymple has the call.

Mr KNUTH: Seeing the party start to deteriorate, seeing that their membership is slowly waning, they are asking themselves, 'What is going on?' Are they living in a delusion? Should they be afraid that the numbers leaving might go from three to four, five, six, seven or eight? Are they having a good look at the reasons their members are starting to leave? Have they looked at the election promises they made—that they would be public servant friendly? Did they tell their backbenchers that they were going to sack nurses? Did they tell their backbenchers that they were going to sack ambos? Did they tell their backbenchers that they were going to kick the elderly out of their nursing homes?

Mr STEVENS: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member has shown no relevance in his speech to this point in time. I ask him to return to the subject.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Dalrymple, your comments are not relevant to the bill. I ask that you return to the bill.

Mr KNUTH: As I was saying, the opportunity should have been given for this bill to go to a committee so that the bill could be talked about and thoroughly investigated to ensure we have an effective opposition. There are seven members of the Labor Party, three members of Katter's Australian Party, four independents and 75 government members. But there is a great fear that their numbers might be reduced to 74, 73 or 72. So they deny a party that might have a chance to play a part to get the resources so they can research and get information to keep the government honest.

Mr Cox interjected.

Mr KNUTH: Check *Hansard*. I feel that this is a disgrace. This bill has been brought in at the last minute. All the parliament is asking for is a bit of honesty and integrity.

Government members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Members, I am struggling—

Mr KNUTH: That is why—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Dalrymple, I have called order. I am struggling to hear the member for Dalrymple and he does deserve to be heard. Please cease your interjections.

Mr KNUTH: This is exactly the reason people are slowly walking out of this party—pulling stunts like this. I oppose the legislation.