



Speech By
Annastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

MOTION: BLIGH LABOR GOVERNMENT, LOBBYISTS REGISTERS



Ms PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (12.11 pm): I move—

That all words in paragraph 2 starting with 'Leader of the Opposition' be omitted and the following words inserted:

'Premier to require all ministers to table in the parliament all ministerial contact with lobbyists registers from the time they were sworn in in April 2012 until now.'

The Attorney-General fails to understand the difference between government and opposition. Attorney-General, there was a course at university called GT 100—an introduction to government. Let me just recap for you just so you are aware.

Mr Bleijie: You obviously failed.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I actually tutored the subject. I tutored politics at university, thank you very much. The Attorney-General fails to understand that the government is responsible for the administration of money. They make decisions. They appoint people to boards. They sign off on taxpayers' funds going to different community organisations. They sit around the cabinet table. They make decisions. They should be declaring conflicts of interest where necessary. In the opposition do we make any decisions? Do we administer any funding? Do we appoint anybody to boards? Of course we do not.

This government is trapped in the past. I heard government members today talk quite strongly about how they have been in office now for nearly a year. The Minister for Health said that the anniversary was coming up in five days and the Premier said it was coming up in seven days. Perhaps they could actually get correct how many days it is until the anniversary of the government.

They seem to be always locked in the past. With being in government comes great responsibility to acquit funds in the correct way. We very clearly know that all this motion is today is a clear diversion. The Manager of the Opposition Business made that quite clear when he stood up in the House earlier this morning to talk about the diversion tactics around the member for Redcliffe. That is the story of the day. There is a series of questions that we want answered and he has not answered them.

When we talk about openness and accountability, I want to draw the attention of the House to a document that was tabled by the Premier this morning. At the far right-hand corner of that document it says page 1 of 6. Madam Speaker, two pages were in fact tabled by the Premier. If we turn to page 2 of the document that was tabled there is a gap and a date 18 March 2013. Madam Speaker, I submit to you that this government is not being open and accountable, tabling a mere two pages of a six-page document. I challenge the Premier or the Attorney-General to come back into the House and tell us why the full six pages were not tabled in this House.

Mr Crandon interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I expect all pages to be tabled when the top right-hand corner says page 1 of 6.

Mr Crandon interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order! I am going to warn the member for Coomera who is not interjecting from his seat. Please cease your interjections. I call the Leader of the Opposition.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The Attorney-General also talks about the diaries of former ministers. Is the Attorney-General up to date on this issue?

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: No, the minister discussed former ministerial diaries. Let the House be aware that the Premier's office has RTI-ed former ministers' diaries—not a member of the public, not the *Courier-Mail*, but the office of the Premier has RTI-ed those diaries. Are they going to be released? Yes, they are. They are going to be released. What that will show—

Government members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order! I warn members on my right. I would ask the Attorney-General to cease his interjections. I also note that there were interjections from further back in the chamber and I ask for those to cease. I call the Leader of the Opposition.

Ms PALASZCZUK: They then talk about secrecy and my diary. I have tabled my diary in the same format as the ministers have tabled their diaries. But the ministers are to table portfolio related meetings. I am not a minister. I do not have a portfolio. I do not have portfolio related meetings. In the spirit of openness and transparency, I have issued a challenge to those opposite to release the opposition diaries of the former Leader of the Opposition, Jeff Seeney, and the former Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Tim Nicholls. In the spirit of openness and accountability, are those diaries in archives? Are they there? Will they release them in the spirit of openness and accountability?

This debate is clearly a diversion from the government's issue of the day—that is, the member for Redcliffe, Mr Driscoll. We have seen time and time again that the reason they are not happy with the contact register of lobbyists is because they have lost two ministers—former minister Ros Bates and former minister Bruce Flegg.

How did that happened? It started when the opposition asked questions in estimates about the contact lobbyists register and then there was correction after correction. I put it to those opposite: when they were in opposition and we were in government—

Ms BATES: I rise to a point of order, Madam Speaker.

Madam SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, take your seat. Member for Mudgeeraba, what is your point of order?

Ms BATES: The opposition know full well that the question they asked me at estimates was how many times I had met with Santo Santoro and that is what I answered.

Madam SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Ms BATES: This amendment that has been moved has nothing to do with the estimates and I would ask that the member be taken back to the motion.

Madam SPEAKER: That is not a point of order. I call the Leader of the Opposition.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The point here is that when the members opposite were in opposition they had ample opportunity—and I think they were in opposition for a number of years! They could have asked that question of any government minister. Did they do that? No, they did not because they were the laziest opposition that Queensland has ever seen—the laziest opposition.

Government members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order! I call the Leader of the Opposition.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The Attorney-General's motion talks about openness and accountability. And, yes, I believe in openness and accountability, and that is why I have raised the question time and time again—

Government members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Members, I will start to warn members under the standing orders. There are too many interjections. I call the Leader of the Opposition.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you, Madam Speaker. That is why we raised last week the issue about the secret dinners, the secret cash-for-access fundraising dinners, that Labor had previously banned.

Government members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: It is hurting. They do not like to listen to the truth. Every backbencher should be raising with the government: who attended the dinners? Where was the secret dinner held? Where in Brisbane was the secret dinner held? What is a fee for service? This is the secrecy that surrounds this government, but there is more secrecy. There is more secrecy and that is called the Costello audit—the Costello audit that the Premier admitted that he had not even read.

Ms Bates interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order! I warn the member for Mudgeeraba under standing order 253A, and further interjections I will take a dim few of. Members, we want order in this House. I call the Leader of the Opposition.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you, Madam Speaker. They changed the goal posts—a fee for service. If someone pays you a fee, they expect something in return. But these cash-for-access dinners are secret. We do not know who went to them. Once again, the former Leader of the Opposition Lawrence Springborg and Jeff Seeney never revealed who attended the \$20,000-a-head secret dinners when they were in opposition, and now that they are in government they are repeating it. The Attorney-General gets up and speaks about Fitzgerald. Well, I will give the Attorney-General a lesson in Fitzgerald. It is about being accountable. It is about being truthful. It is about being accountable. It is not about hiding things from the public, and that is what this government is doing. You are hiding the secret dinners. You are hiding the Costello report. I come back to the motion.

Government members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order! Members, order. Leader of the Opposition, resume your seat. As members know, in respect of how interjections are adjudicated in the House, there is some tolerance given when it relates to attacks upon themselves. However, I ask the Leader of the Opposition to return to the motion. I also ask members to allow the Leader of the Opposition to be heard. But I warn members that if they are not responding to attacks upon themselves I will be warning them under the standing orders. I call the Leader of the Opposition.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to acknowledge the school students who are here in the House today watching this debate. I return to the amendment. Clearly the government must be accountable, and that is why I have moved an amendment that all of the ministers table their contact register from the time they were sworn in until now. If you want to go down this path, if you want to have this debate, table them.

Mr Bleijie: Where are yours?

Ms PALASZCZUK: No. Table them. You are in government. You are making the decisions. We are in opposition. We do not acquit taxpayer funds. We do not make decisions. We do not appoint people to boards. This is clearly a diversion—a diversion from the member for Redcliffe, who has failed to answer questions today.