




Speech By
Annastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Record of Proceedings, 21 November 2013

**COMMITTEES: SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS, ORDER OF APPOINTMENT,
PARLIAMENTARY CRIME AND MISCONDUCT COMMITTEE, MEMBERSHIP**

 **Ms PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.08 pm): This is a very lengthy motion that has just been read out by the Leader of the House. On the surface it looked plausible, until I read page 3. At the top of page 3 is a clause that says 'immediately discharges the membership of the Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee'.

I think the government has an ulterior motive and I think that ulterior motive is very clear. That ulterior motive is that perhaps the existing committee will go completely and it will be up to the government to nominate four fresh nominees.

Let us go back through the history. Under the CMC Act, from memory the government appoints four members and the Leader of the Opposition nominates three. In the previous parliament the Leader of the Opposition nominated four, including the chair, and the government nominated three.

Mr Seeney: No.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is my understanding.

Mr Seeney: No, you're wrong. That's wrong.

Ms PALASZCZUK: And there was a recommendation—

Mr Seeney: No, no.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I stand corrected. I said that is my recollection. If that is not correct, I am happy to stand corrected, Deputy Premier. But I do recall that there was clearly a recommendation from a parliamentary committee to recommend to this House that the chair be appointed by the Leader of the Opposition and the government chose not to implement that recommendation; correct?

Mr Seeney interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. Thank you very much.

Mr Seeney: That's not right.

Ms Trad: That the opposition appointed the chair.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That the opposition appointed the chair.

Mr Seeney: That's not right.

Ms PALASZCZUK: There was a recommendation of a committee. That is correct.

Mr Seeney: The recommendation was that it will be a non-government chair appointed by the Leader of the House.

Ms PALASZCZUK: No, that was not a recommendation in the report.

Madam SPEAKER: Order! Members!

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am happy to stand corrected, but I going by my recollection.

What we have seen here over the last few days has been a complete and utter disgrace. The Attorney-General should have absolved himself from any involvement because he was directly named in the correspondence. As I have said time and time again this week, and especially today, this is a cover-up. This is absolutely a cover-up. There is very clear evidence on the public record. I want to know what the government's motives are for discharging the membership of the PCMC. I want to know why those opposite do not have confidence in the PCMC. This is about trashing the reputations of members in this House. A note was tabled in parliament today in relation to the member for Bundamba. I want to know from the government did that come from her personal private file held by the department? If it did, is that a breach of privacy provisions? Where was that trawled out from? There is the challenge for the Attorney-General: come clean and tell us where that file note came from.

I have also sat here and heard the reputations of the members for South Brisbane and Nicklin trashed. It is absolutely atrocious. But the worst condemnation from this government is the way it has treated the chair, who is an Independent member of this House, the member for Gladstone, whose only crime, from what I can gather, was to be independent. The chair of the PCMC obviously did not do what the government wanted her to do. There are some questions here that need to be answered. At the end of the day the truth has started to come out. The truth is there on the public record. Those opposite can spin this as much as they want. They can come in here and pass motion after motion after motion and attack members of the House, but they are undermining the integrity of this parliament. These are committees endorsed by the parliament to do their job. This is what a massive majority in this state does. They just do whatever they want to do.

I have sat here today from the early hours of the morning for what has been the worst performance. There has been motion after motion attacking personal reputations. I think it borders on intimidation. If I were the members I would seriously think about how they have been intimidated, which is a breach of one of the immunities of this parliament and could amount to contempt. I will leave it up to the members to decide if they want to do anything about that. We have good, hardworking members in this House whose reputations have been shattered.

I do not know where the records of the member for Bundamba have come from, but I think it is appalling and unethical to table them. The Attorney-General has been vindictive, nasty and tricky and has shown more bias than any other member in this House because he is directly implicated. If there is one person who should stand aside in relation to all of this it is absolutely the Attorney-General. I am going to take the high moral ground tonight because someone in this state needs to stand up to these men opposite.

In conclusion, there is no way we can support this motion as it stands. This motion needed to be a bipartisan motion of the parliament. It does not have any credibility if it is not bipartisan. Not once were we consulted in relation to it. The Manager of Government Business just comes in here with his three pages—'Here is your parting Christmas gift'. My parting Christmas gift to those opposite is that the people of Redcliffe will make a passing judgement on them in the coming months.

Government members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: You can sit there and laugh.

Honourable members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order!

Ms PALASZCZUK: There is no way that we will be supporting this motion. It is a sham and unacceptable. The public now has access to the public transcripts that this government sought to cover up.