




Speech By
Ray Stevens

MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH

MOTION: AMENDMENTS TO STANDING ORDERS

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (Leader of the House) (10.02 am): Certainly, it is the intention of these changes to the standing orders to include matters raised on behalf of a member, which the member for Gladstone raised. This is not to deny any member with legitimate reasons for being absent from the parliament. However, if there are not legitimate reasons for being absent from the parliament, obviously, the member will be trapped by this change to the standing orders.

In relation to the member for Nicklin's thoughts that a member might be travelling overseas on a world tour, if a member wants to go on a world tour—and it is a shame that they would ignore the importance of the 42 parliamentary sitting days to not take notice of that itinerary when they are organising their world tour—and they provided evidence to Madam Speaker in relation to their world tour, that is a matter for the parliament to deliver the appropriate leave of absence on. So if there is a world tour coming up on the member's agenda, for instance, and the member raised the matter—

Mr Wellington: Certainly not on mine.

Mr STEVENS: I just use the member for Nicklin as an example. If the member reported to Madam Speaker about his upcoming world tour—

Mr Wellington: No, I am not.

Mr STEVENS: I know that. I am just using the member as an example. If Madam Speaker felt that the reasons the member was going on this world tour at this time were not appropriate, he would come back to the House and then the matter would be discussed in the House. So the member for Nicklin is well and truly covered and anyone else.

Mr WELLINGTON: I rise to a point of order. I find those comments offensive. I have no intention of going on a world tour. I was reflecting on a former member and a former minister of the Liberal National Party.

Madam SPEAKER: Order! I believe the member finds those comments offensive and I ask that you withdraw.

Mr STEVENS: I withdraw. However, further to the matter of proposed world tours by any member, there is legislation coming into the House today, which is a corollary of these changes to the standing orders, that would allow for 12 days of absence instead of 21 days in the sitting year to be the new criteria for a member's absence from the House—any member. That will be in legislation introduced into the House today.