



Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Record of Proceedings, 22 May 2014

MOTION: MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (12.20 pm): I move—

That all the words after 'the House' be deleted and the following words inserted—

- notes previous comments made by the member for Gympie: 'Queensland—beautiful one day, a concentration camp the next.'; and
- notes the reference by the Leader of the House to the member for South Brisbane as 'Jihad Jackie'.

We all knew that the government was going to plan this motion today. On behalf of the opposition, if there is any offence to anybody in Queensland caused by the comments made I apologise. But will the Premier do the same and apologise for the comments that the member for Gympie, David Gibson, made? Let us be very clear about what the member for Gympie, David Gibson, said. He was talking about the issues on Fraser Island and he stated—

Animal behaviourist Robert Appleby has spent thousands of hours filming dingoes and he has found that there is no question about the fact that dingoes are resourceful. So how do we know that these fences actually work? We do not. Now *Time* magazine is reporting to its worldwide readership the reverse zoo that exists on Fraser Island and describes it like a concentration camp. Indeed, residents have described it as like living in Guantanamo Bay.

David Gibson continues—

This is the tourism message that is now being sent out to the world by this Labor government: 'Queensland—beautiful one day, a concentration camp the next'.

People in glass houses should not throw stones. Let us go back to the Leader of the House, the member for Mermaid Beach, Ray Stevens. What did he call the member for South Brisbane who is of Lebanese heritage? 'Jihad Jackie'. It was during a heated public debate in relation to job cuts.

Mr Stevens interjected.

Ms TRAD: I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at that interjection and I ask that the Leader of the House withdraw it.

Ms PALASZCZUK: What did he say?

Ms TRAD: That I am running a terrorist campaign against the Leader of the Opposition. I ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): The member will take her seat.

Mr STEVENS: I withdraw.

Ms PALASZCZUK: People in glass houses should not throw stones. Let me talk briefly about the issue in context. The member for Bundamba is passionate about mining communities. She is so passionate that she spent a whole week up there visiting those mining towns, something that I think all honourable members could learn a lot from. People were conveying to her their sentiments about

how they felt about where they were living. Her comments that were made in the House may have been regrettable.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members!

Ms PALASZCZUK: But she was merely conveying the thoughts and views of people on the ground. I have no problem with apologising to anyone who has taken offence. As the Deputy Premier rightly pointed out, I am of Polish decent and, yes, my grandfather spent seven years in a Polish work camp. They were very, very tough days. I do not like recalling that history because it was a very, very sad time in his life and one in which he almost lost his life. But this debate is not about that. This debate is not about the emotions of something that was done in the past, this debate today is clearly about people in glass houses not throwing stones. We need to put these emotional arguments aside and concentrate on the issues at hand.

I also want to draw to the attention of the House a current staff member who works for the Minister for Health. If those opposite want to talk about Nazis and other issues, what did he say when he was the Young Nationals newsletter editor in the 1990s? This is a current staff member of the Newman government. What is he on record as saying? He said the Nazis were very admirable people. These were the people who almost killed my grandfather. I just cannot believe that people on that side of the House talk about Nazis being admirable people, a current staff member, and they can come in here and throw mud which is completely a diversion from the issues that they do not want Queenslanders to know about—that is, the fact that this Attorney-General can award a contract on his own without going through proper due process with an email from his director-general.

Mr STEVENS: I rise to a point of order. Contracts in relation to boot camps have no relevance to this motion whatsoever. You should call the member to account otherwise she should sit down.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Leader of the Opposition has by and large been addressing the motion and I ask her to further address the motion.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you very much, Mr Deputy Speaker. We are also debating this week in this House the biggest changes to electoral reform that we have ever seen in this state, something that I know the *Courier-Mail* supported the former Labor government about at length. This is when we should be debating this issue.

Mr STEVENS: I rise to a point of order. In terms of the debate that we are having, this motion quite clearly is about the apology that is required by this House. The matters that the member is raising should be in government business in the later part of the day when she will have her opportunity to raise such matters. If she cannot stay relevant to the motion please move on to the next speaker.

Mr PITT: I rise to a point of order. We have heard the Leader of the House jump to his feet to talk about relevance. We have seen plenty of irrelevance. I ask you to consider that the reasons behind a motion being put in this House are just as relevant to that motion as is the content within that motion.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members, I will make my own ruling. I actually agree with the general thrust of what the Leader of the House is saying, that the Leader of the Opposition is starting to move off the motion, and I would simply ask the Leader of the Opposition to return to the motion.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you very much, Mr Deputy Speaker. The second part of the amendment that I moved is for the Leader of the House to apologise for the disgraceful comments that he made about the member for South Brisbane.

Mr Stevens: That they made.

Ms PALASZCZUK: A disgraceful comment. Have you apologised for that? No, you have not apologised for that. Is the health minister going to apologise for the comments that his chief of staff made about Nazis? I want to hear an apology about that. Is the Premier going to apologise for yesterday calling people living in Logan bogans? Is the Premier going to apologise for that? No, I doubt he will have the courage or the ticker to come in here and show some leadership and apologise for that. In the mining communities there are real issues about fly-in fly-out that this government is failing to address.

Mr Johnson: Who created them?

Ms PALASZCZUK: You have been in government for two years. This government has been in office for two years and has failed to address the issue.

Government members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: They can dish it out, but they cannot take it.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! Leader of the Opposition, please hold for a moment. There is too much crossfire across the chamber. I cannot hear the Leader of the Opposition.

Ms PALASZCZUK: If we want to go back in history, I also did some research. Former tourism minister Bruce Davidson was asked whether he would put the Nazi Party before the ALP on a ballot paper and he said, 'I will always put Labor last'. That is the history of the LNP in this state. That is the history of what the LNP thinks about these issues. What I want to see today is your apology about what was said about the member for South Brisbane in reference to terrorist attacks. That is disgusting. That is outrageous. I would not expect anything less from you as the Leader of the House, because you have no dignity and you have no integrity. The Attorney-General, who is sitting behind you, does not know how a government tender process operates.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Leader of the Opposition please direct your comments through the chair.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We have a government that wants to hide the electoral law debate until later on tonight, because it does not want Queenslanders to know the truth, which is that it is lifting the caps so that it can hide its secret donations. That is what it is about. It is about hiding secret donations. This is a diversion for the government, because it does not want Queenslanders to know the truth. It is a disgraceful government. At the next election Queenslanders will have a very clear choice: do you want this incompetent, arrogant, out-of-touch government or do you want someone who will stand up and do the right thing by the mining communities, by the union workers and by the people and the families, each and every day. That is going to be the real choice for Queenslanders. I challenge the Premier to come in here and apologise for those comments made by the member for Gympie, who clearly said inappropriate things.