




Speech By
Ray Stevens

MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH

Record of Proceedings, 1 April 2014

MOTION: ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (6.10 pm): As Leader of the House it gives me great pleasure to speak to this motion for several reasons but, most importantly, to espouse the wonderful vision of our Attorney-General who, at a very young age, has taken on the responsibility of delivering community expectations about matters pertaining to the law. As I sit in this House as Leader of the House, the Attorney-General—or ‘Aggie’ as he is referred to by those close to him—would be sitting right there delivering nearly 70 per cent of the legislation that comes through this House. I am absolutely aghast at the paucity of talent over there that can only come up with a motion that plays the man and not the game. It is a typical Labor tactic of picking on an individual, when it is really all of this side of the House. At last count we had—

An opposition member: You’ve got nothing!

A government member: No, you’ve got nothing!

Mr STEVENS: Correct. This side of the House makes the decision on the matter—

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, members! There is too much interjection. If the Leader of the House could take his seat, the House will come to order. The Leader of the House has the call.

Mr STEVENS: We have a bloated CMC running rampant and out of control with staff who are not achieving any results and actually endangering people in this state by the release of inappropriate information. The Attorney-General has moved to address that matter very, very successfully.

The Attorney-General has brought back the QC designation, which has been enormously well received by the legal profession. Some 90 per cent of the former SCs who I know have voted to return to ‘QC’ rather than the socialistic ‘SC’. On the Gold Coast particularly the Attorney-General has addressed the problem of criminal bikie gangs which the Labor Party failed to address year after year and about which I complained to the Labor party. The Attorney-General has moved quickly to address the matter. We do not see bikies in the Mermaid Beach-Broadbeach area because of the Attorney-General and his laws. He has attacked sex offenders and addressed red-tape reduction in relation to youth justice. All members would hear complaints about graffiti, and the Attorney-General has moved on those matters as well and is now turning to address animal cruelty. He is all over his briefs at every stage, and there is no piece of legislation that he is not on top of.

As for one particular Walter Sofronoff from the legal profession, who pontificates over what he thinks in his political opinion—not legal opinion; political opinion—is the inappropriate airing of discussions with judges who determine whether he is successful in his \$10,000-a-day judgements over the Attorney-General, who is giving a political direction recognising community sentiment, there is no comparison. The Attorney-General is the politician the community talks to to make sure that their voices are heard in this House through legislation that the Attorney-General delivers, and he has delivered a clear and definitive response to the community’s outrage and disappointment over certain judicial decisions. The legal profession is not the barometer of public opinion: politicians are, and they

are greatly assisted by the media in the sharing of unexplainable judicial decisions with the greater community.

This Attorney-General has addressed those community expectations and concerns by introducing legislation to deal with sexual predators and bikie gangs that have been riding roughshod while the Labor Party has done nothing and flip-flopped left, right and centre. Those opposite are the flip-flop specialists. As many times as they flip-flop over different decisions in this House, they should all be wearing thongs. They have little to offer, and that is quite clear from their attack on the Attorney-General—

(Time expired)