




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL

Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, Report

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (5.33 pm): I have had a hashtag recently that says #timetogojo. I think we should have #bringbacktheoldjo. The old Jo was much more sporty. We could have a debate in this place about the real issues. The chain that the member for Bundamba is on now does not let Queenslanders see what the member for Bundamba is really like.

In talking about this estimates process, I look up the back of the chamber and see the member for Pumicestone. I have to say that the shadow cabinet thoroughly enjoyed its time in Pumicestone a few days ago. We were getting feedback about their member from those in the Pumicestone electorate. It is probably unparliamentary to say what those in Pumicestone are saying about their member.

The reason I raise the member for Pumicestone is that he is on this committee but he was absent. Why was he absent? He is subject to criminal investigations by the Queensland Police Service. He could not even fulfil his role on the committee.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Kawana, it is unparliamentary to refer to a member's absence.

Mr BLEIJIE: From a committee. The Labor Party disendorsed him from the committee. It was a motion of this parliament. I take your advice, Mr Deputy Speaker.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: He was sacked from the committee. I take the interjection. He was actually sacked by the Labor Party members on that committee. That is why he was not there. He was actually sacked by the committee members.

I enjoy a bit of tennis and I enjoy a racquet. But what I do not enjoy is a protection racket—a protection racket for the police minister that went on day after day after day. The protection racket started on the Tuesday with the Premier and ended with the police minister. The member for Ferny Grove, the chair of the committee, thought he was in the red chamber and back in his Senate days. Senator Furner came back. We were in the red chamber. Senator Furner was on fire that day. He was not allowing any questions the opposition asked of the police minister. We know why. They did not want her to speak. They did not want her to answer any questions. If they could have gotten away with pulling a sickie for the Minister for Police they would have. She had to be there but she did not answer the questions.

Mrs MILLER: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. I find the words of the member for Kawana in relation to pulling a sickie et cetera personally offensive and I ask him to withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: I raise a point of order on that point of order. I actually said that the government wished the member for Bundamba had a sickie. I was not personally reflecting on the member for Bundamba.

Mr BAILEY: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. The member found the remarks offensive and it would be appropriate for the member to withdraw them.

Mr BLEIJIE: The standing orders provide that it has to be a personal reflection on the member.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Kawana, it is a subjective issue. It would assist the House if you withdrew that comment.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. We had the police minister there who did not answer questions. We had the Police Commissioner there who confirmed that last year he had eight hours of questioning and this year had 1.5 hours of questioning. We moved a motion for the Police Commissioner to be given more time and opportunity to tell Queenslanders about the budget. The Labor members on the committee quickly went aside and voted down that motion. We did not have an extension of time.

We also moved a motion of no confidence in the police minister. This is what I find really interesting. The committee went behind closed doors and had a meeting about the motion of no confidence, came back and did not report the outcome. I would have thought that if the Labor members had confidence in the Labor minister they would have come back bragging about the fact that they voted down the no-confidence motion in the minister. They came back all zipped up and had nothing to say. The police minister was thinking, 'Guys, you can tell me you have confidence in me,' but it was not forthcoming. Nothing. There was no confidence in the police minister. Is it any wonder? We have had bungle after bungle—

Mrs MILLER: Mr Deputy Speaker—

Mr BLEIJIE: #oldjoback.

Mrs MILLER: I find the remarks of the member for Kawana personally offensive and I ask him to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, the member finds those comments personally offensive and I ask you to withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. The minister has gone from bungle to bungle. She closed the Ipswich communications centre—the Premier stepped in. She phoned a witness in a police investigation—the Premier stepped in. She said it was an 'error of judgement' and will not happen again. Then there was the launch of the police dog calendar with the wrong dates and that had to be taken back. The fireys can get it right; the police minister cannot.

Also, at the estimates hearing the member for Morayfield, who subbed in for the member under police investigation Rick Williams, made an absurd argument. I asked a question of the Police Commissioner about the police restructure. The member for Morayfield, in this protection racket for the police minister, chimed in and said, 'That has nothing to do with the budget.' I am sorry but the organisational structure of the Queensland Police Service and the wages that the police get have nothing to do with the budget that we are actually debating? How far does this protection racket go? The member for Morayfield stepped in. I read in an article that he will be the new police minister when the police minister finally falls on her sword when the Labor Party realise they cannot protect her any longer. I am not going to embarrass members opposite but many members opposite—

Mrs MILLER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find the remarks of the member for Kawana personally offensive and I ask him to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Order! Member for Kawana, the member finds it personally offensive and I ask you to withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. I do not have confidence in the police minister. The Premier has not confirmed that she has confidence in the police minister. The Deputy Premier said she does not have confidence in the police minister. The police minister should do the honourable thing and stand down from the embarrassment she is causing the government.

(Time expired)