




Speech By
Ray Stevens

MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH

Record of Proceedings, 7 May 2015

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (RESTORING FAIRNESS) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Motion: Portfolio Committee Reporting Date

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (11.46 am): I think I heard the Treasurer correctly that this bill is to be rushed through the committee process and the report delivered by 1 June. That is some three weeks for the members of the Finance and Administration Committee to have effective and proper consultation with all the groups affected. There will be large numbers. I think the Treasurer himself would agree that there will be a lot of people affected by this processed legislation. There should be due, fair and proper consultation with those affected by the outcomes of the legislation rather than it be rushed through. We heard so many times from the good Treasurer himself in opposition that we should allow for fair debate. It is a very important piece of legislation.

A minimum of four weeks was given for very simple legislation, not for legislation of the magnitude of this which involves major changes to the industrial situation in Queensland. This legislation will have ramifications on industry confidence and on the confidence of government workers. All those matters will be of interest and require input from the community. I understand completely where the government is going in terms of repaying favours to its union backers in terms of this matter. That is totally within their—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Mermaid Beach, please resume your seat. I mentioned before standing order 236 which relates to relevance. This motion relates to the time frame. We are not debating the bill. I draw your attention to that fact and ask that you be relevant.

Mr STEVENS: That comment was in relation to the timing. I understand the push by the government to get a result for those interested parties and have this matter resolved very quickly. It is about timing. That was the part of the conversation I was having to point out the rush by the government to have this piece of legislation move through this House. It is inappropriate. It is unfair to those people who will be affected by the outcomes of this legislation. We will oppose the motion to have this legislation returned so quickly to this House.

We are happy if they put a reasonable time frame on the consideration of this matter. Then it will be purely a matter for debate on the bill which, as you so rightly referred, should happen at the appropriate time. But what we are absolutely disappointed in in terms of the honesty and integrity of the new Palaszczuk-Gordon government is that they are rushing this through and that they think that the bad habits that they were totally against in opposition are now such a wonderful thing. The opposition will be opposing the time frame for the report on this bill. The Finance and Administration Committee should have a proper time to consider this matter because it does affect a wide range of people.