




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 2 March 2017

MOTION: PALASZCZUK LABOR GOVERNMENT, UNIONS

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (6.00 pm): I move—

That this House condemns the Palaszczuk government for being a government of the unions, by the unions and for the unions.

Looking across the room you can see exactly the point that I am trying to make: the people across the room are here because of the union movement. They are not here because they were really great in their jobs in their past lives; they are not here because they were great lawyers who represented talented people.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I was not looking at any particular lawyer or anyone across there. I was not reflecting on anyone. I think the member for Pine Rivers volunteered herself. That is right; she was a lawyer too, wasn't she? As I said, when you look across the chamber they are not here because of any great talent in the workforce. They are not here because they own small businesses. They are not here for any other reason other than they did deals with the union movement. They do dodgy deals with the union movement. They get donations from the union movement. They keep getting donations from the union movement. They keep getting donations, and they come in here and they legislate because of the donations. The royal commission into union corruption did not go far enough.

The Premier has talked about accountability and transparency. I recall that one of their election policies was to have an inquiry into political donations. I remember that an inquiry into political donations was a big election commitment to get them into government in Queensland. When people started to ask, 'Is this inquiry going to include the unions?' there was silence. Where is the inquiry into political donations?

Mr Costigan: The silence is deafening.

Mr BLEIJIE: The silence is deafening. I take the interjection from the member for Whitsunday. They know they cannot have an inquiry into political donations without the unions. They want to, but they know they cannot get away with it. That is why there has been no inquiry into political donations for 2½ years, because they are scared of what will be uncovered. They are scared that things like we saw in the royal commission into union corruption will be discovered. They accuse conservative politicians and conservative politics right around the country for being corrupt and taking donations from businesspeople and individuals, yet the biggest donor to political parties in Australia is the union movement.

Mr Cramp: That's a surprise!

Mr BLEIJIE: Here is another surprise for you: it is not to the conservative parties in Queensland. The unions are not donating to the conservative side of politics in Queensland. They are donating so that people like the member for Ferny Grove get elected. They are donating so that people like the member for Springwood get elected. When you are born out of the union movement you are here for the union movement, and that is all that you do when you are in here considering matters of debate.

You do not have constituents in your heart and you do not have constituents on your mind: you have the puppetmasters of the union on your mind. That is all they have on their minds: union thugs. They have their speeches checked. They have everything checked. They vet everything through the union movement because they do not want to get into trouble.

We know that with the member for Springwood, who is now a minister, there were allegations of cricket bats and so forth. There are allegations that the member for Springwood was a union enforcer. Now we hear that the meeting with Evan Moorhead about the redistribution did not quite go according to plan. We heard that the member for Springwood threw a chair at Evan Moorhead. There is thuggish behaviour in the Labor Party and it is derived from the union movement. It is not good for Queensland; it is not good for Queenslanders. It is about time the media put a bigger spotlight on union donations and the relationship between the Queensland Labor Party and the Labor government. The government is not run by the unions: they are owned by the unions. They are owned by the union movement in Queensland, and we should have better inquiries into their relationship.

(Time expired)