



Speech By  
**Jarrold Bleijie**


**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

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Record of Proceedings, 6 March 2018

**MOTION**

**Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders**

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (10.47 am): This comes from a minister who serves a Premier who cannot even pick her own cabinet because she has to rely on the union movement. The Premier, the leader of this state, does not pick any of the ministers opposite; she has to rely on the unions. I will tell the Minister for Tourism why we are not holding the preselection straight away. It is because we do not have the unions to tell us what to do. We have a democracy in our party. We have a proper preselection that takes place, a preselection that will take place this Saturday with over 10 worthy candidates. That is what a democracy is. If the minister sitting opposite wants to talk about Senate candidates, let's talk about Jan McLucas. What about what they did to Jan McLucas, a female Labor senator who wanted—

**Dr Lynham** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister for Natural Resources, I can hear you above all others at the moment. Please refrain from interjections of that kind.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** They had a Labor woman senator in Jan McLucas, but 'little' Murray Watt wanted the job, so they got rid of her. They sacked her from the Senate so Murray Watt could get the job. When he was in the state parliament he lost his seat and then they pushed him into the Senate.

Look what is happening in Victoria. The Labor member in that state did not even get a chance to run for the by-election; they put the union official Ged Kearney straight in as the candidate. We have preselections; we have a democracy in our party. We do not have the union movement demanding and telling us what to do.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** The Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations can squawk over there. She does not hold her job because of the member for Inala. She has her ministerial job because of the union movement.

**Ms Grace:** And proud of it!

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection. The Minister for Industrial Relations is proud of the fact that the Premier did not give her the job; the union movement did.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Look at her go! There she goes!

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** 'I am with you, comrade,' she says. There is 'solidarity forever' sitting up the front. The reality is that the LNP have over 10 worthy candidates, and one of those people will be preselected this Saturday after debate and a proper vote. The members of the LNP will decide who the senator will be, not the union movement and not the business lobby groups of Queensland. The grassroots members of the LNP will decide on a senator this Saturday, and they will choose the best representative for the people of Queensland as has been done in the past. If the Minister for Tourism Industry Development wants to go on in this place about senators, then look at Jan McLucas. Did you support Murray Watt getting the gig and getting rid of a female senator? Yes, you did. You got rid of a female Labor senator in Queensland for Murray Watt—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Kawana, direct your comments through the chair, please.

**Mr BAILEY:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. On the basis of points of order previously, the speaker is well off the topic of this specific motion and going on to an entirely unrelated topic.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Kawana, seeing that you rose yourself in terms of relevance, I ask you to remain relevant to the motion as well.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Indeed, Mr Speaker. The reality is—

**Ms Jones:** You are too late!

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Cooper is warned under the standing orders.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** The reality is that we do things a lot differently to the Labor Party: we actually give our grassroots members a say. We give our grassroots members a vote in democracy. Through our grassroots members we choose the best representatives, and you only have to look around this side of the House to see the worthy state representatives we have here who have been chosen—

**Mr Stevens** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the hand interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach, who is a worthy real person with real experience. The reality is that the government supports this motion. They put in the minister to attack the motion, but they ultimately support the motion. It is only a procedural matter for the House to determine when and who becomes the next senator from Queensland. We wrote to you, Mr Speaker, and if memory serves me correctly we wrote to the Premier and the Leader of the House out of courtesy and we gave the date that we will have the preferred candidate for the House to resolve this issue. I agree with the minister who just spoke that Queensland is lacking Senate representation at the moment because the Labor senators do not offer any sort of good representation for the state of Queensland, so we do—

**Mr Mander:** They are there.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take that interjection. They are certainly there. They are turning up to functions, but they do not offer any good service or any good Senate responsibilities for the people of Queensland. I can understand why the minister is so eager to have a Liberal National senator elected, because then things will again happen in Queensland. They cannot rely on the incompetent Labor senators they have at the moment who apparently serve the people of Queensland.

The reality is that this is an administrative matter this House has dealt with time and time again through procedural motions. This is not the first time that the House on both sides of parliament has had to adjourn the debate because we follow our constitution. If we had a union movement which rings up the Leader of the Opposition or the president of the LNP and says, 'This person will be the Senate candidate,' then we could have done it a lot earlier. We do not operate like that because we believe in the freedom and the ability of the grassroots members of the LNP to have a proper say. We are not going to rush the process just to alleviate the concerns of the minister. We want to make sure that the very best candidate will be chosen. The members and state MPs who attend the preselection on Saturday will know it is going to be a big day because—

**Mr Mander:** It is a joy to be part of.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take that interjection. It is a big day with lots of speeches and lots of questions, but that is because we believe in the grassroots members of the LNP. Unlike the Labor Party, we do not want people who are hidden behind closed doors coming up with decisions about who will be the representative. We know that the union movement makes and dictates decisions over there. We know that the Premier is only Premier in name and title. We know that the union movement has—

**Ms Palaszczuk:** Two elections!

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Yes, two elections, but you only have to look at the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations who said, 'It is all the unions.' It is nothing to do with the member for Inala, sorry. To the Minister for Industrial Relations it is the union movement.

**Ms GRACE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I will not be verbally by the member for Kawana. I take offence and I ask that he withdraw.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I withdraw. Come Saturday the LNP are going to have a great Senate representative and we will inform the House. We believe in democracy and giving our grassroots members a fair say.