




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 3 May 2018

MOTION

Suspension of Sessional Orders; Allocation of Time Limit Order

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (5.42 pm): The arrogance we spoke of earlier in the week is on full display tonight. The Leader of the House has said, ‘You can be more efficient: just have one or two of your members speaking.’ It is the right of every member of this House to speak on these bills.

Mr Mander: Why don't you believe in socialism?

Mr BLEIJIE: It is not only socialism. It is a dictatorship when they come in here and say, ‘Just select one or two to speak on it.’ The Leader of the House is effectively saying that not every member deserves the right to speak. What we are seeing is a guillotine and an extension of the hours of parliament. They are extending the hours of the parliament again. Members will recall only three hours ago I warned that we were on a slippery slope to suspending standing orders because family friendly hours were out the window. Little did I know it would be only three hours later and we would be debating suspending the sessional orders.

They do not have to suspend the sessional orders to sit later tonight. They can finish at six o'clock with the automatic adjournment and we will come back when parliament sits next time and complete the debate on vegetation management. They said that if we are not finished at six o'clock we will adjourn on a Thursday night. Do members remember the big speech they gave? It is to allow the regional members of parliament to book flights and go home. How much money has the government now cost Queenslanders for flights that have been booked tonight because of these family friendly hours? Is this what we are doing with the family friendly hours? It does not make sense. This government is a rabble.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, you are being disorderly in the House. You will not tear items up and throw them to the floor of the chamber. I warn you under the standing orders.

Mr BLEIJIE: This government has turned into a rabble and a circus. If they are going to do this on this Thursday night, as they did with the sessional orders for the budget week earlier today, they might as well throw out the family friendly sessional orders and return to what we had. Then we would not be wasting all this time and debate on the silly politics they play.

I hear that the Premier has not accepted the Beef Week invitation just yet. We look forward to that. They do not want this cloud hanging over the agricultural sector with the laws not having been passed through the parliament. It has now been three or four times in the last four hours that the Leader of the House and the arrogant Labor government have used their numbers in this House to completely throw out protocol, precedent and any resemblance of democracy.

An opposition member: They guillotined somebody mid speech.

Mr BLEIJIE: Earlier halfway through a member's speech the debate was guillotined to stop the member from speaking. Now the sessional orders are being suspended to extend the hours tonight. As I said earlier, we are happy to stay here and debate the laws. The point is that if they cannot manage their own side of the House how can they manage Queensland? That is the point I made before about

the Leader of the House. It is not acceptable to continually come in here after we have sessional orders in place, voted and debated on by members of this chamber, and because they cannot manage to get their bills passed this week everyone else has to suffer.

As I said, how many members have already booked flights because this Labor government told regional members they could get back to their constituencies on Fridays by booking a flight on a Thursday evening. That was the excuse for family friendly hours. As I said, we might as well throw out the sessional orders because it is going to change from week to week. For goodness sake, it has changed in the last three hours. It changes from hour to hour under this government.

This is what is going to happen every sitting week now. As the member for Mermaid Beach said only a few hours ago, he warned about this many months ago. What we are seeing unravel now is what we warned the government about. The government got into the position a few sitting weeks ago where they had no bills on the agenda to talk about. Now they have put bills in. They have 17 bills before committees or being reported on. This issue will keep arising in the future because they cannot manage the House. They cannot govern themselves.

I remember the Premier who was the opposition leader at the time sitting over here, and every time an issue like this arose she would be the first to call for someone to be sacked. It is corruption. It is arrogance. It is hubris. That is what the Premier, the member for Inala, said on many occasions in this House. Where is the member for Inala now? Where is the high moral standard that the Premier set back when she was opposition leader? Where are her standards now? She is happy now because she has a majority. She has the numbers and she can ride roughshod over Queenslanders.

Ms Jones: Are you joking?

Mr BLEIJIE: No, I am not joking. I am absolutely serious.

Ms Jones interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Cooper, I warn you under the standing orders for your repeated interjections.

Mr BLEIJIE: This is an abuse of process, the privileges and immunities of this parliament. When the Leader of the House was in opposition and she was talking about these sorts of things in previous parliaments, she promised that this would never happen under Labor's watch. She said, 'This will never happen,' but Labor have a history of guillotining debates. In fact I think they guillotined the vegetation management laws in 2009. They say one thing at one particular time but they change it the next day.

I have seen the member for Woodridge interjecting over there. He is the worst offender of the lot. The arrogance that we see exude from the Premier's office is also through his office, the Deputy Premier's office and, last but not least, the member for Cooper's office. That is the arrogance of this government. I ask all honourable members to oppose this motion tonight because it is again an abuse of process, but what would we expect from an arrogant government covered in hubris?