




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 15 June 2018

REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL; BETTING TAX BILL

Allocation of Time Limit Order

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (9.42 pm): I say to the Leader of the House that the reason there was not much consideration in detail debate when the LNP was in government was that we were cutting taxes. There was not much debate because everyone supported the cut to taxes. The difference with this budget is that there are five taxes being increased and they should be fully debated in this parliament.

Every week we are coming in here and the government is guillotining the debate because of its arrogance and its majority. I am so confused. One week we believe in family friendly hours. Then for the budget week they move a suspension of sessional orders so we can sit until whenever we finish tonight. Now we are back guillotining the debate and back to family friendly hours.

I am a big fan of Dolly Parton. One of Dolly Parton's great singles was *Working 9 to 5*. I thought in this generation that no-one works nine to five anymore, but it seems like we going back to that generation. It seems like we are working nine to five again.

How much more lazy can they get? They do not want to be here. They just detest sitting in this place doing what they are paid for. They get paid to be a member of the parliament. The Leader of the House indicated after guillotining the budget debate that next sitting week the government is going to force guillotines on every bill at the beginning of the week. Every bill will be guillotined in this House. According to the Labor government, they apparently determine when there has been enough debate and if the debate has been good enough or bad enough or whatever the case may be.

It is not up to any individual member elected to this parliament. We all represent 40,000 people or so who deserve an opportunity for their member to come in here and do what they are paid to do. It is like this lazy government is curtailing the hours of parliament. They are going to guillotine debate next sitting.

There are two reasons for that. One is that they are lazy. The second reason is that, if you have a look at the agenda of the House, we are now up to 11 bills. If we look at the next three or four sittings we have left in the year, on the current average that we are getting through bills this year, it would take the government five years to get through the 11 bills that they have on the *Notice Paper*. We would be into the next term of parliament before we even got to debate them.

An opposition member: That's their plan.

Mr BLEIJIE: We know that the wheels move slowly with the Labor Party.

What is more offensive is this. If members look at today's *Notice Paper*, item No. 12 is one item that I had completely forgotten about—the Governor's speech, address-in-reply. Item 12 states—

'May it please Your Excellency—We the members of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland wish to assure Your Excellency of our continued respect for the Crown and loyalty to the system of government in this state and to tender our thanks for the speech with which you opened the first session.

I hope His Excellency is still the Excellency when the next parliament sits, because we will still be thanking him for the speech that he made early in 2018. That is disrespectful to His Excellency the Governor. It is disrespectful to the system of government that we have in Queensland.

The government has guillotined its own budget. The Deputy Premier and Treasurer stood up before and spoke for longer in her reply to the second reading than she did when introducing the Queensland budget. She actually made it to 30 minutes. I saw her struggling. She had 20 seconds to go. I was enjoying it because the member for McConnel, the Minister for Education, I think had been sent the LNP speaking notes on the budget reply—

Mrs D'ATH: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. I am appreciating that the opposition is not interested in having a debate in consideration in detail, but the member should be relevant to the motion.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Attorney-General, I have been listening quite closely to what the member for Kawana has been saying. I believe he is speaking to the motion. Member for Kawana, I counsel you to stay within the terms of the motion.

Mr BLEIJIE: If members again look at the *Notice Paper* for today they will see that there are 11 bills currently before the House. Then there are a further four bills that have been referred to parliamentary committees. Then we have four orders referred to parliamentary committees.

An opposition member: It's a logjam.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection. It is logjam. What is going to happen next sitting? On Tuesday morning the Leader of the House will stand up in this place and move a motion saying agenda item 2, 3 and 4, for instance, will pass during that sitting of parliament. They are going to have to rush through and guillotine all these bills because they have not been able to manage the agenda and legislation through the House.

The Leader of the House can get up on a point of order and accuse me of repetition, but I am afraid to say it is. We warned the Leader of the House that if they went down the path of these family friendly hours they would be guillotining debate and stopping debate. We said they would not be able to get their agenda through the parliament. The Leader of the House assured us all that it was all going to be fine and that it is a more efficient way to manage the House.

Three sitting weeks later it is not so efficient, so we now have to move more efficiency motions. If members recall, in our last sitting week we determined the sessional orders for the budget debate. Now we are amending the sessional orders for the budget debate because they have not been able to manage the budget week. If you cannot manage the agenda of parliament, you cannot manage government. If you cannot manage to get bills through the parliament, you cannot manage government.

Every member in this parliament is elected and has a right to represent their constituents. What is going to happen next sitting week when every bill will be curtailed and guillotined? If the government decide that they want to do, for instance, four bills, there will be many members who will not be able to speak in the debate on those bills in the sitting week following this budget week, and that is a shame. I put it to you, Mr Deputy Speaker, what is the point of even showing up?

Ms Trad: Good. Go!

Mr BLEIJIE: Oh, you would want us to, absolutely.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Members, I understand that the member for Kawana was being provocative.

Mr Butcher interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Gladstone, you are not sitting in your appropriate seat to interject. Members, I have asked before: let us conduct the House the way it should be.

Mr BLEIJIE: The reality is that the Labor Party would like nothing more than just to be able to run their agenda without anyone else here. In fact, they would be putting us on satellite or something—

Mr Mander: Skype.

Mr BLEIJIE: They would be putting us on Skype. Next sitting week they will realise that they still cannot do it. Then we will all get Skype invitations to login from our electorate offices. The reality is that the Labor government are lazy. They cannot handle the agenda. They cannot handle the debate. They are afraid of the debate.

I take the interjection before from the Leader of the House when she was talking about when there were seven members of the Labor Party sitting in opposition and the former treasurer jumped to his feet which automatically closed the debate down. The former treasurer had no option when there was no-one from the opposition sitting here. What was he going to do? Sit there, ring the bells and wait for Desley Scott to race down from level 14? What was he meant to do? The debate had to go on. We cannot help it if they cannot manage to get any of their seven members down here.

My memory serves me correctly now. What in fact happened was that there was half the shadow ministry here but they had forgotten that they had all spoken on the budget. When the Speaker went to call the next Labor member, they all looked at each other and recalled that they had all spoken so they could not jump. They looked behind for poor Desley sitting there and she was not there. That is what happened. That is why the former treasurer had to stand and then the debate was shut down. There was no guillotine motion.

Labor has a majority in this state now. For colleagues who were not here before—and there are a few over there who will serve a few years but will not be here next term, so they can disregard what I am going to say, if they wish—I can recall the Premier when she was the opposition leader basically saying that if there was a guillotine debate, if there was a gag motion, it was corruption and it was terrible. She was going to refer it to the CCC. She was going to refer it to anyone who would listen. How times have changed now the Premier has a majority. I have never, ever seen her come in here and defend the decision of the Leader of the House to guillotine these debates because she is afraid of her own record of speaking against guillotining debates. That is what she is afraid of. This is an arrogant government—out of touch and lazy.

(Time expired)