



Speech By  
**Jarrold Bleijie**


**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

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Record of Proceedings, 30 October 2018

**MOTION**

**Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders**

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (11.40 am): This motion is a clear example of solid Thursday committee business, which is committee reports being tabled and opportunities for members of parliament to speak, being suspended and thrown out. We will not have debate on committee reports this week. This shows again how this system is not working. This system continually denies opportunities for members in the Queensland parliament to speak.

The government has its agenda. It has moved its committee business motion. It wants to get five bills through plus some address-in-reply speeches. In the standing orders there is a procedure on Thursday where members are given the opportunity and ability to speak on committee reports—committee reports which members of parliament are getting paid substantially more money for. They produce reports and some of those reports are very, very important, such as Auditor-General reports and matters in relation to financial accountability and financial authorities. They are very important. Those opposite dismiss it like it is nothing: we will do it next sitting—if we even have a next sitting. Who knows? These standing orders are so fluid it is like the floods have come again. It is whatever the government wants.

All year this new Palaszczuk Labor government has talked about transparency and accountability. At every available opportunity Premier Palaszczuk talks about Queenslanders needing their voices heard. She had a view, of course, when she was opposition leader that her views were not being heard, even if she had the ability at three o'clock or four o'clock in the morning to be heard. Now that we have a Labor majority government, this is what Labor do.

**Ms Grace:** Hear, hear!

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection from the Minister for Industrial Relations, 'hear, hearing' the arrogance and the lack of accountability and transparency since the minister for industrial relations has become a minister in this place. It speaks volumes of how the government is running its affairs.

Those opposite railroad everything in this parliament and now the standing orders get suspended and we are not going to debate committee reports, which I think are important particularly to those members who are on those committees. Many issues have been raised since those committee reports have been tabled every week in parliament. The reason they are on the standing order agenda is that they are important. We have deputy chairs, we have committee members, we have Labor committee members who always use the opportunity to speak on committee reports, not only raising issues of state but also raising the issues of their constituents, whether it is water security, biosecurity, health or matters in the Justice and Attorney-General portfolio, education or public works and accounts inquiries—all these things that the committees look at and deliberate on and then table in parliament.

My concern is greater as we are approaching the end of the year and we are in uncertain territory with respect to whether we are sitting in December or not. Who knows whether these committee reports will be deferred until next year? We are yet to see a 2019 sitting calendar. This is about accountability and transparency. I keep putting it to the House that the Labor Party are railroading members of this House who are duly elected.

When in government I remember sitting here many a night at midnight, two o'clock, three o'clock in the morning, as we did under previous Labor administrations, Labor Old Guard administrations, that actually believed in the fundamental right of every member to speak in this place. The new generation of Labor Party members, such as the member for Pine Rivers, do not believe in that ability. The ideologically crazy, left driven agenda does not believe in anyone else's views. That is why they do not want people to speak in this place. They want to guillotine every debate.

At the start of this term they were guillotining the debate pursuant to the standing orders using the motions. The Minister for Tourism shut a member down halfway through his contribution, if members recall. The member for Coomera was shut down because the minister did not like what he was saying. There were debates that many members wanted to speak on and the Labor members came in here and guillotined the debate. At least when we guillotined debate it was at four o'clock in the morning after about three days of debate. Those opposite opposed it then.

Left-wing driven media outlets said how crazy it was to guillotine debate and that democracy was being stabbed in the heart. Isn't it funny that the Labor Party can get away with stabbing democracy in the heart and some left-wing media outlets, or left-wing journalists, do not care because it is the Labor Party? Those who profess tolerance are the least tolerant of other people's views. Where are these bastions of democracy in the left-wing media outlets talking about the guillotining of debates or family-friendly hours? It was never about family-friendly hours; it was about making sure the government could get its agenda through without much debate and without much question. That is what this was about.

The government says, 'We will do the committee reports in the future'—maybe, if we get around to it. That goes completely against what the now Premier said as opposition leader. She was all about accountability and integrity for a better Queensland. She threw out all those slogans and misrepresented the people of Queensland. Since the last sitting a few weeks ago has anyone seen the Premier anywhere in Queensland? I have once and, of course, it was next to the Duke and Duchess on Fraser Island.

**Mr Mander:** Good news item.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection from the Deputy Leader. It was a good news item. I recall watching the news that night where the Premier was not completely in shot and she did this little move across to make sure she was seen with the Duke.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Order! Member for Kawana, we are debating the motion on the committee reports being postponed. Can I bring you back to the debate, please?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Let us hope in the future there are committee reports about the job of a member of parliament in this place. I put it to members that it is not just showing up for the good fun stories, the positive stories, it is showing up in the good times and the bad times, it is showing up when there is controversy, it is showing up to defend people, not just in the good times or when we have a royal visit in Queensland. Committee reports are important. It is important that standing orders are not continually suspended so there is no debate.

We are trashing this place. Over the past 12 months, Labor have trashed this place. They did not do that so much in a hung parliament, because they did not have the power and they could not get away with it. However, give them a little bit of power, give them a majority and look what we have: this power-hungry, arrogant, incompetent Labor government that will do anything to ride roughshod not only over the members in this place, including the crossbenchers, but also over the people of Queensland.

We are elected to speak for the people of Queensland. They talk about baby Elizabeth being the five millionth Queenslanders. As I have said many times, baby Elizabeth deserves a voice in this place, but she is being denied that voice by the Labor Party. The Labor Party does not like people speaking, particularly if those people do not agree with what they say. Theirs is the most intolerant political party in the Commonwealth. They fight for equality, yet they kick out their own female candidates. They fight for tolerance, but they cannot tolerate anyone else's views.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Kawana, I have already counselled you on what the debate is about. I bring you back to the debate or ask you to resume your seat.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** If we look at the agenda and the notice paper, there are quite a few bills to be debated, as we heard in the previous debate. There are also orders of motion, orders referred to parliamentary committees, electoral legislation, antidiscrimination legislation, the Protecting Queenslanders from Violent and Child Sex Offenders Amendment Bill, working with children legislation and then, from page 6 on, all of the committee reports—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Kawana, there is no need to read through the sessional papers for today. The debate is very clearly about committee reports being postponed for the week. I bring you back to what the debate is about.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I am directly referring to subject matters relevant to the committees that will have their reports delayed. Those committee reports are to be tabled on Thursday and we are suspending the debate on those reports. We will not have the opportunity to debate those reports.

*(Time expired)*