



Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 28 March 2019

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (3.12 pm): Appointing the member for McConnel, who is a former union heavy hitter herself, as the industrial relations minister and in charge of industrial relations was always going to end badly for the people of Queensland. This wage theft inquiry was established and announced by the government, but they had no jurisdiction in terms of what they were inquiring about because wage theft and the accusations they were making were against federal corporations under the jurisdiction of the federal government.

The member for Capalaba was whingeing about the federal government and fair work. Guess what? Labor set it up. Not only did Labor and Julia Gillard set it up, but I was in the chamber when we had the regional parliament sitting in Mackay when Cameron Dick, the member for Woodridge, referred industrial relations power to the Commonwealth setting up the Fair Work Commission. Bill Shorten appointed the delegates on the Fair Work Commission. The very body they are whingeing about, the very body they are saying is not treating the workers fairly, was the very body set up by the very bodies sitting on that side of the chamber. The Liberal National Party opposed it, because we said the workers would be better off staying in the Queensland industrial relations system. However, Labor, oh no, the party for the workers—

Mr Healy interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Weir): Order! Member for Cairns, if I need to call your name again, you will be warned.

Mr BLEIJIE: The party for the workers said the best thing for workers in Queensland was to send them to Canberra. That is what they did. At the Mackay regional parliament, the member for Woodridge referred industrial relations power to Julia Gillard. Those opposite were not here then and they did not know about it and I can see their blank faces. They are all sitting there thinking, 'That wasn't in our briefing note. It didn't mention that the member for Woodridge referred all the industrial relations power. We're meant to be attacking the Liberal National Party. We're meant to be the party for the workers.' Well, the party for the workers transferred the power. They got rid of them to Canberra, and now they are whingeing.

If the Labor Party want to really talk about wage theft, let us talk about the contractors who did not get paid for the Commonwealth Games. That is a wage theft inquiry. What about the security guards who did not get paid for the Commonwealth Games?

Mr BAILEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I want to inform the member for Kawana that the microphone system is working.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is not a point of order.

Mr BLEIJIE: I just want to inform the Minister for Transport and Main Roads that you are as arrogant and as foolish as ever, just like the Crime and Corruption Commission said about you.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please go back to the report Member for Kawana.

Mr BAILEY: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. I take personal offence and ask that that be withdrawn.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. If the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—who the Crime and Corruption Commission chair has said publicly was very foolish—wants to talk about that, let us talk about Queensland nurses and the payroll. Guess what? Nurses are still being sent debt collectors by the Labor government for money that they were never paid. The Minister for Transport and Main Roads, who was not here and probably does not even know, has probably said, ‘That wasn’t in the speaking notes. Do we still owe nurses money? Are we still sending debt collectors after nurses?’ Yes, the Labor government is sending the debt collectors after the nurses.

What about the Minister for Industrial Relations’s own department? We have seen strike action by her own departmental staff who complained that they have been given a zero per cent pay rise. In the minister’s own department, we have seen the campaign by occupational therapists who just want to be paid the same amount as occupational therapists employed by Queensland Health, but the minister does not care about those employees.

Let us not forget that the same minister was caught out by the ABC last year helping establish the Young Workers Hub proposal. It was drafted in her office by a senior policy adviser to put the Queensland Council of Unions program into our schools, to infiltrate our schools. Let us not forget this is the same department now being completely infiltrated by the CFMEU in Queensland. There is a current investigation on foot by an independent body in Sydney looking at the actions of one Helen Burgess and the CFMEU and the infiltration of that particular union into the industrial relations department in Queensland.

I want to thank the deputy chair of the committee, the member for Currumbin, and also the member for Pumicestone for their outstanding job. I attended the Sunshine Coast forum. I asked one of the witnesses in the public forum, who was a former union member, ‘Have you put these complaints to the federal fair work body to have these resolved?’ His answer was, ‘No, I haven’t done that.’ They are complaining about the very body that they are not putting complaints into. It was a set-up from the start in light of the federal election coming up. It was nothing but a political stunt.

(Time expired)