




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles
MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 22 October 2019

MOTION

Premier and Minister for Trade, Finding of Contempt

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (12.23 pm): Let us be clear: former senator Anning's statements were disgusting. I am proud to serve in a government led by a Premier who was willing to take a stand, a Premier who was willing to do what was right and a Premier who personifies those values that other government members have spoken to. We on this side of the House respect the parliament and its institutions. We respect the Ethics Committee. We would never sack the PCCC in the middle of the night. We would never meddle with the estimates process, rendering it useless. We would never go to the High Court to hide millions of dollars of illegal donations.

Because we respect the Ethics Committee we accept its recommendations in this report. However, while we do so, there are others who should also take responsibility for their actions, and today is their opportunity to say sorry, too. In their glee in rushing to try to capitalise on the politics of this, the opposition, particularly the opposition leader, is guilty of embarrassing hypocrisy. Her speech made her look like a clown worthy of Luna Park.

Mr SPEAKER: Member, I ask that you withdraw those comments. I find them unparliamentary.

Dr MILES: I withdraw. It was the member for Warrego who demanded the very action that the Premier took and was the subject of this report. The member for Glass House, on 23 August, said—

It is repulsive that Anastacia Palaszczuk rewards the Katter party with five staff. It is time for the Premier to end this arrangement today—not to review it, to end this arrangement today.

The Ethics Committee report notes that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition called on the Premier to take this action. It notes, as the Deputy Premier has outlined, that the Leader of the Opposition demanded the Premier take this action. The action that she stands in this place today and calls disgraceful is the very action she urged the Premier to take. Today is the opportunity for them to back away from their galling hypocrisy. The member for Nanango—

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. The Minister for State Development will cease his interjections and put his comments through the chair.

Dr MILES: The member for Nanango, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the member for Warrego and the member for Glass House should all apologise, too, because these findings apply as much to the action they demanded as they do to the Premier. We know that those opposite are unable to utter those words. They are unable to say sorry. They have still not said sorry for their brief term in office, which was described by Tony Fitzgerald as—

From behind a populist facade, it engaged in ... nepotism, sacked, stacked and otherwise reduced the effectiveness of parliamentary committees, subverted and weakened the state's anti-corruption commission, made unprecedented attacks on the courts and the judiciary, appointed a totally unsuitable Chief Justice, reverted to selecting male judges almost exclusively and, from a position of lofty ignorance—

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. During my contribution the government pulled me up on relevance to the debate under the standing orders, as I am now doing. The issues the member is speaking about do not go to the heart of the issue we are currently debating.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Kawana. As I ruled at that time, I allowed some latitude, and the member was allowed to continue.

Dr MILES: Tony Fitzgerald continued—

... from a position of lofty ignorance, dismissed its critics for their effrontery.

Those opposite and those I have named should not just apologise for demanding that the Premier take the action she did. They still have not said sorry to the 4,400 health workers they sacked. They have still not said sorry to their families. They still have not said sorry to the Red Cross whose funding they cut, to Diabetes Queensland, to Drug Arm, to the Eating Disorders association, to Kidney Support Network, to Mission Australia, to the Royal Flying Doctor Service—

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Minister, I do ask you to come back, under standing order 236, to the motion at hand.

Dr MILES: There are so many things those opposite should say sorry for in response to this report. I am proud that our Premier took strong action in condemning former senator Anning and I stand proudly with her.