




Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 26 March 2019

MOTION

Business Program

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.31 am): Here we are once again talking about, if I can quote the health minister, the crux of the matter. The crux of the matter is the democratic right of members of this parliament to speak on any bill they want when they choose to do it. This is now my third term of parliament. I have never met a more articulate group of people than those on my side of parliament. They have a voice that wants to be heard.

Mr HARPER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order: relevance.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): There is no point of order.

Mr MANDER: That is the government; I rest my case with regard to the comparison. This side of the House wants to speak about the issues that are important to this state. There were issues in the last sitting of parliament and there are issues in this sitting of parliament that we want the freedom to speak about. There are also issues that are raised during the week in the parliament that in the past we had an opportunity to speak on when we had three minutes. This morning we hear about the reversal of the privatisation of our prisons.

A government member: Good policy.

Mr MANDER: Let us remind the House that it was Labor policy to privatise these prisons in the first place. Those on that side of the House forget that. Talk about revisionist! We want to speak about the ridiculousness of the situation. We have overcrowding in prisons and the government's solution is to have more prison guards.

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The motion before the House is in relation to the scheduling of bills in government business time, not in relation to private members' time.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Everton, I ask you to come back to the debate, please.

Mr MANDER: I am speaking about the principle of members of parliament being able to speak not only on bills, but on any issue that comes to their minds during the week and whether they want to bring in a private member's bill or whatever it might be. That has been taken away from members of parliament and there is issue after issue after issue. This week we speak about justice issues in one of the bills. Without pre-empting that debate, justice issues are important in this state. Everyone on this side wants to have a say on those issues. Crime rates are rising on a daily basis. We have laws with regard to bikies that are being thrown out of the courts because they are invalid.

Mr HARPER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I would ask you to bring the member back to relevance. This has nothing to do with the motion.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Everton, I wonder if you are going down a slippery path pre-empting the debate.

Mr MANDER: Once again I talk about the fact that this week we are talking about justice issues. There are a broad range of issues that come under that and one of those is the crime rate. The crime rate in this state is so bad that criminals are being so brazen to dare steal a car from one of the most powerful Labor figures in this state. Who would dare do that?

Mr PEGG: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I know my colleague, the member for Thuringowa, has made this point, but surely my ute cannot possibly be relevant to this debate.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members, may I remind you we are debating the motion. It is not a slanging match across the chamber nor a humorous debate. Member for Everton, you have a minute and 35 seconds remaining.

Mr MANDER: The reason I raise these points, because again this week we are talking about justice issues, is that it is important that members of parliament stick up for their electorate when they continue to hear about escalating crime rates. We need to be able to question the government with regard to their policies that are relevant to this and that we believe are failing. Not only do we believe that they are failing, so do—

Ms Leahy: Queenslanders.

Mr MANDER:—Queenslanders. I will take that interjection from the member for Warrego. Queenslanders on the Gold Coast and in Townsville in particular do not believe enough is being done when it comes to justice issues. We will get up in every sitting of parliament.

Ms GRACE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Are we debating the bill or are we debating the motion? Can I once again bring the member back to relevance? I know he is struggling. There are 44 seconds left.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for McConnel, I do not need your extra comments. Member for Everton, I think you are going down that slope that I have been talking about. Let us not pre-empt the debate. You will have an opportunity later this week to do that. I ask you to come back to the motion. If you cannot I will ask you to resume your seat.

Mr MANDER: We had a situation in this House that, if it was not so serious, would be funny, where we had a member on our side of the parliament who was speaking against the guillotine motion being guillotined while he was speaking about that motion. That is how ridiculous it has become in this government. This is a part-time government. This is a lazy government. This is a government that is everything but transparent and honest. This is a government that will go down in history as one of the most shameful when it comes to the democratic process.