Speech By

Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

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MOTION

Business Program

Mr MANDER (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.27 am): In the spirit of the member for Murrumba, I will speak very slowly and very quietly to have maximum impact. There is a great struggle between the member for Murrumba and the member for Woodridge with regard to who is revelling the most in the Deputy Premier's issues of integrity. The member for Murrumba would love to take that role as the head of the left faction. It is one of his life goals.

It is ironic that we are debating how long we can discuss and debate the youth justice bill. What does this government know about justice? What justice is there when the parliament cannot debate a bill for as long as it sees fit? What justice is there in that? What justice is there when not every MP can get up and speak on an 'important bill', according to the words of the Attorney-General? As has already been outlined by the Manager of Opposition Business, we will have a very limited time to speak. There may be 12 or 13 speakers when there are 38 members on this side of parliament. What justice is there when each member cannot get up and speak on a bill that has incredible relevance, I would say, to every electorate in this state?

We have a youth crime epidemic. There is no doubt that the epicentre is in Townsville, but it is also happening right across the state. It is happening in my electorate on the north side of Brisbane. It is happening in the outback and in Warrego. Everybody is putting up their hands—Nambour, right across the state, down on the Gold Coast.

If there was justice that should mean that each MP in this House would be able to speak for their allocated time. What justice is there when this Labor government has truncated the hours of parliament under the guise of being family friendly when we all know that that has meant—

Ms Jones: That is right, because women belong in the home like Lyle says!

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Member for Cooper.

Mr MANDER: What?

Ms Jones interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Everton, you have the call.

Mr MANDER: That has meant that under the guise of family-friendly hours regional members have to leave their families a day early to get down here by Monday morning. It is fantastic for people who live in the city. They are so-called champions of the regions but do not care about the regional members who have to leave their families a day early. What justice is there when they want to knock off at 7.30 every night, again, not allowing us enough time for debate, so they can spend taxpayers' money on function after function with no bipartisan support—

Mr Watts: No invitation.

Mr MANDER: There has been no invitation to MPs on this side of the House on the majority of occasions. Where is the justice in all of those things?

We will get up at this time at every sitting of parliament to talk about the injustice of not being able to speak for as long as we want, for as long as the House wants and for every member to have their say on our incredibly important business. What is at the heart of justice? It is integrity and trust. Over the last five years, but particularly during the last six weeks to two months, this government has shown that they cannot be trusted, that they have no integrity, that the standards they proclaim and scream about from the rooftops every day are just empty words because they do not back that up with any action. This is a classic example of that. The Queensland public have woken up to what a bunch of frauds this government are.

Mr Stevens: Arrogant.

Mr MANDER: Arrogant. I take that interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach.

Mr Watts: Weak.

Mrs Frecklington: Weak.

Mr MANDER: Yes, that as well. It is a shame that we have to have this type of debate every sitting of parliament about what is at the centre of democracy. At the centre of democracy is elected members of parliament having their say and not being forced to truncate debate on what is a very important issue.