




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

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MOTION

Sessional Orders

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (5.26 pm): The member for Kawana has the audacity to have a go at the new member for Mundingburra! This is amazing. How many years has he been in this House? At least the member for Mundingburra has an excuse: he has only just been elected. The member for Kawana is the only one of those opposite to get up and do any work—a 'lazy bunch', as the *Courier-Mail* pointed out. They are lazier than you could ever imagine. The more things change, the more they stay the same in this House. Here we go again! The member for Kawana gets up to speak to procedural motions.

I heard that there were things like boredom. I take issue with the member for Maroochydore.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Member for Kawana, you are warned under the standing orders.

Ms GRACE: Let me tell the new members why we were bored. All of the members opposite—those lazy members who did not want to speak—were forced to speak by previous leaders. I have never heard more complaints than from the backbenchers opposite in the 56th Parliament. Talk about sausages! Those opposite wrote one speech, gave it to all the backbenchers and every one of them recycled it over and over again. If that is supposed to be representing their constituency and their electorates—the same speech, the same issues, repeated time and time again, because they were forced to speak when they did not want to—it is an absolute disgrace. That is the disgrace in relation to the sessional orders they are proposing.

I ask any one of those backbenchers there now, all the blokes who have families at home, who do not care about family-friendly hours—'We're right, we don't need family-friendly hours'—whether they like being forced to give those speeches. It is a joke. That is why they are sitting opposite. The more they carry on the way they are carrying on now about procedural motions and sessional orders, the more they are going to stay on that side of the House. It is four more years that they are there and if they continue on in this vein it will be four more years after that.

For the member for Kawana to get up and say that he did not want to attend meetings of a committee of this parliament because he did not like some of the people on that committee was absolutely unbelievable. I say to the member for Kawana that the feeling was mutual, let me tell you, when we were trying to get members on our side to attend that committee with the member for Kawana. They would walk out the door. We basically had to stop them from walking out when they were being nominated. The feeling is mutual.

These sessional orders make sense. They worked extremely well in the 56th Parliament. Then we had the member for Kawana get up and talk about the number of sitting days in the 56th Parliament, particularly in the last 12 months, as if we were not facing a world health pandemic. He is in an

alternative universe somewhere if he does not realise that the reason we sat fewer days is because of COVID-19—a world health pandemic.

Mr Crandon: What's that mean?

Ms GRACE: Exactly. I will take the interjection from the member for Coomera. 'What does that mean?' he says.

Mr Crandon interjected.

Ms GRACE: 'What does that mean?' he says. Let me tell you, member for Coomera: be careful because we are coming after Coomera next.

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock! Member for Coomera, that behaviour is completely unacceptable. You are warned under the standing orders.

Ms GRACE: Member for Coomera, the margin is getting slimmer every time. We are coming after Coomera next.

The only political plaything with regard to these sessional orders is the political plaything of the member for Kawana when it comes to every procedural motion of this House. Even when we moved to adjourn the House at the height of COVID-19 he called for a full division. Everyone put their health at risk as a result of his political plaything and he sits opposite smiling about it. He talks about Labor using sessional orders as a political plaything. It is pathetic. It honestly is. He put the health and safety of every one of us at risk that night. On the procedural motion to adjourn he called for a full division. That was unbelievable. He sits opposite smirking about his grandstanding. That is a disgrace and that is why we are on this side of the House and they are opposite.

I never heard more complaints from their backbenchers than when they were forced, under their sessional orders, to speak on issues that had absolutely no relevance whatsoever to their electorate. To contemplate or accuse this House of stopping members who wanted to speak on bills from speaking is absolutely absurd. When they want to speak they can speak, but they do not like being forced to speak. We know very well that that is exactly what is happening over there.

Then we listened to the member for Maroochydore say that the sky is falling in and tell the people of Queensland that we are abusing the system. I remember when the Campbell Newman government was in power. They would come in here at midnight to make changes to laws that were unconstitutional. They talk about the misuse of numbers. They misused their numbers on every single occasion. What happened? They were out in three years and they have been out ever since. There will be four more years of Labor in this House because Queenslanders are sick of hearing the rubbish being spoken by those opposite. It makes absolutely no sense. They abuse every single power.

Ms Simpson interjected.

Ms GRACE: You want to talk about women. Let me talk about women. Today they talked about targets. It would be nice to know what their target is over there when it comes to the number of women they hope to get in eventually. What is the target of the LNP in terms of women represented in this place? I think there are six of them over there now out of 34.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I ask that you rule on relevance.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

Ms GRACE: It is lovely to hear from the ex-leader of the opposition who is still in the House. Welcome back, member for Nanango. What is her contribution? It is the relevance of women on their side of the House. Even a woman stands up and asks what the relevance is of the number of women in the LNP when they have six out of 34 members who are women. It is unbelievable that the member for Nanango—no wonder she is no longer the leader of the opposition—would get up on a point of order on relevance when I am talking about female representation in the LNP. If you only realised what she did, Mr Deputy Speaker. It is unbelievable. That is probably why she is no longer the leader of the opposition and probably why the LNP is over there.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Direct your comments through the chair please, Minister.

Ms GRACE: The sessional orders make sense. The sessional orders work well. The sessional orders are family friendly. The sessional orders do not stop anybody who wants to speak on a bill from speaking. The sessional orders that have been moved by the Leader of the House make absolute sense.

Even the member for Kawana cannot get it right. He talks about everybody else's bungles but his own. He puts together his own sessional orders, he has a go at the member for Mundingburra, a new member, and then has to correct his own sessional orders. It is unbelievable. They are over there

for one reason and one reason only: they are not fit to govern this state. It was obvious at the last election that the people of Queensland rejected the LNP. They want an ALP government to govern this state. That is what we are going to do for four more years. I support the sessional order for the 57th Parliament circulated by the Leader of the House being adopted.