




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

Record of Proceedings, 24 February 2021

MOTION

Estimates Process, Referral to Committee of the Legislative Assembly

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (5.54 pm): I rise to oppose the motion. After hearing the debate in this House this evening we on this side of the House really have no option but to oppose this ridiculous motion before us. We on this side of the House will not be lectured to by those opposite on accountability and transparency. If members had heard the previous speech—and nobody else over there can get up and speak. I will give the member for Kawana his due; at least he will get up and have a go. He is about the only one over there who will do it. The rest are nothing but a lazy mob, and that is exactly what came through in estimates: lazy, gotcha moments.

Let me say something about the election campaign. If there is one thing that the Queensland electorate cannot stand it is hypocrisy. They cannot stand hypocrisy—

Mr Crandon interjected.

Ms GRACE:—and that is what we see over there in spades.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order, member for Coomera.

Ms GRACE: The member for Coomera can yell all he likes. It is a pity that his speech did not have any substance other than reiterating the times that were given during estimates, which are on the public record. That was his contribution, 'This committee sat for this many hours and this is what this committee looks at.'

Mr Crandon: Why don't you put it on the record?

Ms GRACE: For goodness sake, member for Coomera. I suggest you stop interjecting because I am not taking any of your interjections.

Mr Crandon: You just did.

Ms GRACE: I am not taking any of them. This is the point. We have an issue here where we want quality, not quantity. They lost the election; they know that. They are hurting at the moment; we know that. It is not a game on that side when they get up and make all these character assassinations that we hear time and time again about various members. That is all we have; that it is a game. Nothing more purely showed that it is a game than when the member for Maroochydore came into my estimates hearing. We saw all the fake indignation, all the self-righteous rage, all the feigned disdain from the member for Maroochydore asking me about a report which I did not even write—it was a CCC report. She was saying, 'Minister, you should know. This is something. Answer this question.' It was absolutely—

Mr Nicholls: How was that Inner City South State Secondary College selection process?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Clayfield, you are warned under the standing orders.

Ms GRACE: Well may you laugh because that is where the member opposite will be for a long time, and the performance of the member for Maroochydore was laughable. I am sure that in Maroochydore there is some amateur theatre company that would be dying to recruit the member for Maroochydore because they need someone who can play the theatrics.

My simple response to her was, 'Not my report; ask the CCC. Take the opportunity and ask the CCC when they are in estimates.' Luckily the member for Maroochydore did take up my suggestion that she ask the CCC. Basically the CCC said, 'We wrote the report. We made the assessment. We decided that we were not going to expand on that.' In other words, mind your own business. That is basically what was said.

It is embarrassing being here listening to those opposite. I agree with the member for Capalaba: be careful what you ask for. Those opposite cannot be trusted and the people of Queensland know that. If they are talking about process and equity of time, let me tell honourable members that they will take it away from the crossbenchers. They have done it in the past and they will do it again.

The reality is that for those opposite this is nothing but a game. They were done over in estimates. There were no 'gotcha' moments. They use the words 'protection racket'. I do not know where that comes from. They think these words will get them elected. Let me tell them something: it is not a game in here. If you want quality, bring quality to the table. If you want good answers, ask good questions.

(Time expired)