




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 24 February 2021

MOTION

Estimates Process, Referral to Committee of the Legislative Assembly

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (5.49 pm): Thank you for your forbearance, Mr Deputy Speaker. The reality is the Labor government do not want the estimates process changed because they want the protection racket to continue throughout the years. I love being in this place when we get a history lesson from a Labor member who was not here at the time we are talking about. He has basically been given the script from his staff saying, 'Here's some background to what happened.' If we asked him to go off the cuff and go further into the explanation he would not have a clue because it is not on the piece of paper in front of him.

Let me give the member for Capalaba a history lesson regarding what he was just telling us. The reason that committee was discharged was that Jackie Trad and Peter Wellington were tweeting about the subject matter of the committee. That is why they were discharged. We all know the rules of committee processes, and they were finding someone guilty before the committee even finished its process. If the member wants to give a history lesson, maybe he should go and google a little bit rather than rely on the talking points the Leader of the House has given him.

I love estimates. I can remember when I was a minister in estimates and our chair would say, 'Mr Attorney, would you like to make an opening statement?' I said, 'No, let's go for it.' I loved estimates. I loved it so much that when I saw the then leader of the opposition, Annastacia Palaszczuk, struggling to come up with questions, I recall that I texted our deputy chair and our members on the committee. I said, 'Cease with the Dorothy Dixers. Let the opposition go because I think they are struggling and they are running out of questions.' Then Ms Palaszczuk said, 'Thank you, Mr Chair. Over to the government.' The chair said, 'No, we're happy to continue with opposition questions.' 'No, Mr Chair. No, go back to the government now.' Mr Chair said, 'No, no, no. We're okay. We're free. We're right. Just go.' 'No, Mr Chair. We agree it's the government's time now,' because she ran out of questions. That is why when the LNP changed the system—

Mr Nicholls: The most well resourced, laziest opposition you ever came across.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection, the most overresourced, lazy opposition they were. That is why when we changed the estimates process and we forced them to turn up to two full days, they did not like it because they did not have the questions. It was not, as one of the members said, because they had to run around. If they wanted to watch all the estimates, all they had to do was get the remote control and flick from channel 61 to 62. They did not have to run around. The reality is they did not like it because they did not—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Sorry to interrupt you, member for Kawana. The member for Clayfield and the member for Sandgate will stop quarrelling across the chamber.

Mr BLEIJIE: Thank you for giving me some more time. The reason they did not like it was they would not have been able to fill the two full days with questions. That is why in opposition the Labor Party hated the two full days of estimates. Ministers sat there from 8.30 in the morning until six or nine o'clock at night for two full days.

Now we hear from the member for Jordan that the Premier gave us three hours. Oh wow! What a job, three hours! That was from the member for Jordan, who was also giving us a history lesson about things she does not know about. Then we had 'Three-Piece Bancroft' who said, 'If you want to go to the truth, go to the government.' If they want to know the truth, go to the director-general or the bureaucrats during the estimates hearings, not to the ministers.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Kawana—

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Kawana. We will continue to refer to members by their correct parliamentary titles.

Mr BLEIJIE: The reality was that the Labor Party members were interrupting and for the first time that I have seen during my 12 years in this place the chairs of the committee—and I think the member for Logan did this every time. He said, 'Member, thank you for the question. What I think you really meant to ask was—' I said, 'No. We ask the questions. The chair does not rephrase the questions.' The chair was offering commentary on every single question to fill the time and to work down the clock. That is all they were doing. The member for Logan was doing that. He was offering his advice and his opinion on every question, which was not necessary. All he was doing was winding down the clock.

Then we had the member for Nicklin—what a show! I think earlier today a member was talking about 'clowns out the front'. The member for Nicklin had to go and have a costume change halfway through because he had rocked up to estimates in a Hawaiian shirt and then was told by his Labor colleagues, 'Go and put a suit on, mate.' It was an absolute joke. The estimates process is serious and should be treated seriously. That is why it needs to change.

(Time expired)