



Speech By

**Ray Stevens**


**MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (7.07 pm): There was an old song that went, 'Woe is me, shame and scandal in the family,' and nothing could be more appropriate for Queensland's current Treasurer, whose brother the former councillor Dick is the Speaker of the federal parliament. Queensland's Treasurer has absolutely trashed the family reputation with his own-goal attempt at slugging interstate investors who invest in Queensland with another tax, which I believe was probably unconstitutional in the first instance.

There was no consultation with other states before his abysmal attempt at money grabbing to patch up his massive Queensland debt hole, no apologies to Queenslanders for his failed attempt at a tax grab after his Premier kicked his imbecilic idea into touch without telling him and no regrets about pushing another tax burden in his budget after promising Queenslanders there would be no new taxes in this year's budget. Not only is he arrogant about his untruthful promises, not only is he unapologetic about his failed tax grab, but he is obviously unrepentant about his broken personal relationship with his factional ally Premier Palaszczuk, who did not bother to tell the Treasurer before she dumped his unworkable tax hike.

Does this sound like a government in turmoil to you, Madam Deputy Speaker? It certainly sounds to me like a government that is desperate for a tax grab to prop up their failed economic performance. It seems to be unravelling at a great rate of knots on the incompetent watch of Queensland's worst treasurer since Andrew Fraser, who lost Queensland's AAA credit rating, which was part of the reason for the wipe-out of the Bligh Labor government. With worst in the world economic predictions being touted by even Labor's federal Treasurer, Jim Chalmers, Treasurer Dick would be the last person I would pick to bring Queensland through the stormy economic times to a safe financial harbour.

When the Premier checks out of parliament next year in the same escape route that former premier Beattie took in 2008 to pursue her other consuming interests, it now seems certain that the leader of the Left faction, Deputy Premier Miles, will take over the Premier's mantle to the great chagrin of Treasurer Dick. I am pleased to help the Treasurer with this book that I will table for his benefit titled *Economics 101*.

*Tabled paper:* Book titled *Economics 101 from consumer behaviour to competitive markets—Everything you need to know about economics* by Alfred Mill [1666](#).

It is a basic course done at university which I did when I did my degree and it will help the Treasurer enormously in his ongoing remit to try to deal with an out-of-control debt position coming into a period of serious financial challenge. In simple economic terms—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Bush): Order! Pause the clock. Members, I am paying particular attention to this member's speech. For me to do that, I need the volume to come down a little bit please.

**Mr STEVENS:** In simple economic terms they have gone bust in an economic boom in Queensland, so when the hard times hit, as the federal Treasurer said will happen, there will be no more wriggle room or rabbit holes to pull figures out of.