




Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 12 September 2023

MOTION

Business Program

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (11.26 am): It will probably not surprise the House to hear that I could not disagree more with the member for Miller. Yes, this business motion has detail in it with regard to how debates are to be conducted this week, but this goes to principle. It is that principle we will continue to stick up for and argue against this government with regard to its practices, and that principle is that the parliamentary process should be respected. These types of motions show that the member for Miller and everybody on that side of the House treat the parliament as a sausage machine. 'We're in government, we've got the power, there's no upper house and we'll treat this House with contempt.'

The Labor Party and the Labor government treat the parliamentary process with total contempt. Every member in this House should have the ability to speak on a bill. In fact, I have done a quick calculation, and the 34 members on this side of the House represent around 1.1 million people. Those people have the right to representation and that is what we are fighting for. What is so ironic about this coming from the member for Miller, who would see himself as a champion of democracy, is that his mentors would have marched in the street marches of the Joh days for freedom of speech.

Mr Bailey: I did that!

Mr MANDER: Sorry, I take that interjection. I did not realise you were that old. He was there himself. I was in kindergarten, but he was there himself when those street rallies were taking place.

This goes to the very principle of freedom of speech. Isn't it ironic that the backbenchers have exercised their freedom of speech this week and over the last couple of weeks? They have been very willing to exercise their freedom of speech. I notice that some of the members up there—the member for Bundaberg, the member for Nicklin and the member for Hervey Bay—who are enjoying their last 13 months in this House—

Mr BAILEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Clearly the member is straying off the topic of the business motion and is now making extraneous points. I ask that he be brought back to the motion at hand.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Everton, I ask you to come to the substance of the motion.

Mr MANDER: It really comes down to the principles of democracy and the fact that we should be able to speak here as long as we can—actually, not only speak as long as we can but get an opportunity to speak—but that does not happen. All I was doing was pointing out that the backbenchers have voiced their frustration over the last week or two, and they have the right to do that. That is what we can do in a democratic society. They do not have the courage to put their names to it, where we have. We want to get up and say that we represent our electorate.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member has been called into order and he is now flagrantly disobeying direction. I ask that he be brought back to the business program motion and ask whether he should be disciplined or not.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I make determinations around whether people are following the directions of the Deputy Speaker. Member for Everton, you have the call.

Mr MANDER: I think the member for Miller protests too much. I think it is striking a bit of a nerve with the member for Miller and I can understand that—because it was not just backbenchers; it was ministers. Somebody else is leaking. They actually leaked during the caucus meeting. Can you believe that?

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Before I take the point of order: member for Everton, I have been listening to your contribution. You are off the motion. I ask you to come back to the substance of the motion. Leader of the House, do you have a point of order?

Mrs D'ATH: No.

Mr MANDER: Last sitting we had an example of 57—

Mr Skelton: Bill Harrigan knew better.

Mr MANDER: I will take that interjection from the member for Bundaberg.

Mr Smith: No, it was him.

Mr MANDER: Who was it?

Mr Smith: The member for Nicklin.

Mr MANDER: I will take that interjection. The member for Nicklin—the man who has achieved much in his life, the man who will be a one-term wonder, a man who will spend 13 months waiting for the death knell with Marty Hunt waiting to take his seat back.

Ms GRACE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Before I take your point of order: member for Everton, I recognise that you were taking an interjection when using some descriptors about another member, but you are not coming to the point that you are trying to make. I ask you to make that point, and it had better be relevant to the motion.

Mr MANDER: Thank you. I was trying to make the point but I was interrupted.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr MANDER: I will take that interjection from the member for Logan, talking about controlling themselves. Why can't these backbenchers control themselves and have the courage to put their name to their comments against the Premier? Where is their courage?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Resume your seat. I am going to take some advice. Member for Everton, you have been repeatedly brought back to order. I have attempted to allow you to take some interjections. I am going to sit you down. There being no further speakers, I will put the question.