




Speech By
Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 17 April 2024

MOTION

Crime, Media Reporting

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (5.26 pm): I have been in this place some little while, but I have never ever seen a government fall apart over a division as fast as this one has. I want to say thank you. Thank you to the member for Bundaberg who was one of 48 people who voted against himself speaking in this place. All I can say, member for Bundaberg, is that is just the first 48, because they are coming for you in October and they will be voting against you in far bigger numbers. Member for Bundaberg, you are not supported by your own team and you are not wanted by us. It is a very lonely place for you to be at. When you talk about a gift being given to you, member for Bundaberg, today has been the gift of all gifts and you have delivered it hands down. Your foray into philosophy—true, false, false, true—your conclusions, your discussions about alternate reality—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Member for Clayfield, your comments will come through the chair, please.

Mr NICHOLLS: The member has had discussions about alternate reality. We want to know what reality you actually operate in, member for Bundaberg. Here is the reality: the reality is that crime is out of control in Queensland, and you and your colleagues are denying it. Member for Bundaberg, in relation to the reporting of any events by the media, you state—

The embarrassing scenes of mega wealthy television personalities, the likes of who have not only spent extravagant amounts of money on luxury overseas holiday...

Does that sound like any Labor members to you? Do we know any Labor members who have been on luxury overseas holidays—to ski resorts; to Whistler—mega wealthy Labor mates who have resorts overseas? That is who they are. Live on morning television 'demonstrates just who the LNP are really bound to when it comes to representing Queenslanders.' He disregards and disrespects the media who do a job of holding the government and the opposition to account each and every day. Each and every day that occurs in this place and around this place.

While this motion is addressed to the statements of denial of a crime crisis and its consequent reporting by the media by certain government members who have been named in the motion subsequently amended, I want to make it abundantly clear that the crime crisis is not confined to the electorates of Nicklin, Capalaba and Bundaberg. In my own electorate of Clayfield, the most common issue raised with me is the very high rate of crime. That is borne out by the numbers. Unlawful use of motor vehicle offences increased by 87 per cent from 340 in 2015 to 635 in 2023. Unlawful entry offences up 98 per cent—from 611 in 2015 to 1,209 in 2023. Assaults went up by 230 per cent in that same period. These are not media beat-ups as the government whip has claimed. These are real events affecting real people in their homes and their businesses. These are crimes being recorded on home security cameras and shared on community Facebook pages. These are crimes that are happening because, as the Premier admitted only last Sunday, the Labor government has vacated the field. They have left Queenslanders alone to defend themselves.

The Labor government has systematically weakened laws over the last nine years, beginning in 2016, and this has spawned a generation of untouchables. When members come in here and say, 'We have the toughest laws in Queensland and we are tough on crime and we believe it,' we call out their hypocrisy because we know from 2016 that this government and this Premier and those members who were in that government and subsequently have systematically voted in favour of every step to reduce those crimes. They have been caught out. That is why we need to remove detention as a last resort; that is why we need to rewrite the Youth Justice Act; that is why we need to unshackle the judiciary; and that is why we need investment in gold standard early intervention. It is so that we can deal with the untouchables, so we can deal with the mistakes made by a failed youth justice minister. We know why she does not like the media, because we remember her performance on the *7.30 Report* as well.

An opposition member: *Four Corners*.

Mr NICHOLLS: And *Four Corners*. Exactly, who could forget it? When it comes to crime, when it comes to the causes of the crime and when it comes to rehabilitation, Labor is weak. They will get shown the door in 2024.