



DEBATES

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

HANSARD

7 December 1989

Thursday, 7 December 1989

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MR SPEAKER (Mr Prowse) took the chair at 10.30 am and read the prayer.

MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE

MR WHALAN: Mr Speaker, I seek the leave of the Assembly to move the following motion:

That the ACT Legislative Assembly censures Mr Bernard Collaery for deliberately and wilfully misleading the Assembly by falsely stating in the Assembly that he had, in the company of Trevor Kaine, visited the office of the Speaker on 23 November, a claim denied by Mr Kaine when he said he had no personal knowledge of the matter.

Leave not granted.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND TEMPORARY ORDERS

MR WHALAN (10.31): Mr Speaker, I move:

That so much of the standing and temporary orders be suspended as would prevent me from moving a motion of censure of Mr Collaery.

Mr Speaker, in the debate on Tuesday, 5 December 1989, Mr Collaery made as the centrepiece of his argument for his motion of no confidence in relation to the then Chief Minister, Rosemary Follett, the fact that he had, in the company of Mr Trevor Kaine, visited your office on the morning of 23 November 1989. I quote from the Hansard of that particular day. Mr Collaery said:

On the morning of 23 November 1989 Mr Kaine and I resolved to visit your office to ascertain the substance of the report and you, Mr Speaker, informed Mr Kaine and me that it had been put to you by the Government that the non-passage of the Bill could result in funding difficulties.

Mr Speaker, subsequent to that occasion I have had the opportunity to listen to the tape which was a full record of the - - -

MR SPEAKER: Order! Mr Whalan, I would just point out that you are talking to the suspension, not to the motion.

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MR WHALAN: No, I am establishing the urgency of this matter. The fact has to be stated so that you can understand the urgency. I am just stating the fact first, and then I will relate that to the urgency and the need for the suspension. I appreciate your support in relation to that matter.

Mr Speaker, I have had the opportunity to listen to a tape of a press conference which was conducted by Mr Kaine immediately after the sitting of the Assembly on Tuesday when the then opposition successfully moved their motion of no confidence in Rosemary Follett. In that tape, part of which was reported in the Canberra Times of Wednesday, 6 December, Mr Kaine was questioned again and again by members of the press gallery on this particular issue of an approach being made to you in relation to Mr Collaery and Mr Kaine.

I do not wish to replay the whole tape but, if members of the Assembly wish it, with the leave of the Assembly, I am in a position to replay the whole tape of that interview with Mr Kaine. Mr Collaery does not seem to believe that Mr Kaine would have made this statement. The Canberra Times quite categorically stated when it accurately reported Mr Kaine's remarks:

Outside the Assembly yesterday, Mr Kaine said, "I am in no way involved in the events or the allegations ... I have no personal knowledge of it".

Mr Speaker and members of the Assembly, what this quite clearly shows is that either Mr Collaery is mendacious or Mr Kaine is mendacious. I personally prefer the word of Mr Kaine, and it is for that reason - - -

MR SPEAKER: Order! Mr Whalan, you are making assumptions in the debate. You are really debating the issue now. I would suggest to you that we are looking to the suspension of standing orders rather than the major debate.

MR WHALAN: Yes, you are quite right, Mr Speaker, and I do apologise. I will stick to the suspension. It is this question of establishing the urgency of debating this. In these very first moments of this new Government in the ACT, we have to establish once and for all whether it is a government which can be trusted by the community of the ACT. Is it a government that can be trusted or is it a government that cannot be trusted? I put it to you, Mr Speaker, that that is why the urgency is so great, that it is so important that we have this opportunity to pursue this particular matter at this time.

MR WOOD (10.37): Mr Speaker, I rise to support Mr Whalan. My argument in support of the suspension of standing orders is based on the priority that ought to be given to censure motions. In the Westminster system, a motion of censure, quite properly, is treated as a matter of great importance.

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In any other parliament in the Westminster system, when a motion of censure is raised it is listed for immediate debate. That should be the case in this parliament. If the people opposite have a respect for the parliamentary tradition, they will support the proposal that Mr Whalan outlined. They may argue the case for or against later, but they should support the right of Mr Whalan to move a censure motion. It is one of great priority.

We have today a new government that is coming to present its face to the people for the first time. They were gagged yesterday; they were not able to do that then, so this is the first occasion on which they can come to the people. Before they can do that, a challenge has been made - a censure has been proposed - and it is now the first task of this new Government to establish its credentials. I would suggest to you that, if you seek to evade this long-established and recognised responsibility, you will be immediately doing what you did last Tuesday; that is, if you do not engage in this debate, you will be moving a motion of no confidence in yourself. That is the measure of this.

Mr Kaine: Come on, Bill.

MR WOOD: You may laugh; you may treat it lightly.

Mr Collaery: You are wasting our time this morning. That's the new flavour of your opposition.

MR WOOD: No. You have been challenged. The challenge is to you. You can accept it or you can try to bypass it. If someone had challenged my integrity, I would want to stand up immediately and defend it. I believe that a new government could not proceed unless it was able to justify its integrity, to prove its point. Or is it that Mr Kaine and Mr Collaery do not want to engage in this debate? Has a problem developed in the background to the motion put on Tuesday that they do not now want explored? It is a challenge to Mr Collaery, to Mr Kaine and to the people who sit with them. It is a challenge that they will avoid at their peril.

MR MOORE (10.40): Mr Speaker - - -

MR KAINE (Chief Minister): I move:

That the question be now put.

Mr Moore: The gag - after I deferred to allow him to speak, too!

MR SPEAKER: Based on the fact that Mr Moore actually stood first, Chief Minister, I direct that we allow Mr Moore to speak before the gag. Please proceed, Mr Moore.

MR MOORE: Mr Speaker, what we have at stake here is the reputation of the Assembly, and that is why I am interested

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in speaking to this motion for the suspension of standing orders. I believe - and we are all aware of it - that the reputation of the Assembly over the last six months has been getting worse and worse. We have seen it in polls - - -

Mr Kaine: Yes, under the Follett Government.

MR MOORE: We have seen it on many occasions. Mr Kaine says that it was under the Follett Government. I do not disagree with that. What we have now, though, is the potential to improve. So we have to have this particular problem resolved. It is quite appropriate, therefore, that the motion for the suspension of standing orders be supported by the Government so that they can resolve this matter before they start and so that their reputation and that of the whole Assembly is not sullied. That is the problem. The risk in what is happening is that this Assembly will become laughable.

I have had a number of phone calls on this very matter, Mr Speaker, from people saying, "Isn't it strange that we have already got this split between the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister? Either one is not frank or the other one has been misleading the Assembly". This is a major problem that must be addressed now. If we have a potential Deputy Chief Minister who misleads the Assembly or a Chief Minister who misleads the public, we have a major problem on our hands which should be resolved now.

Last night I was delighted to have the opportunity to go to the Backstage Cafe. There, over dinner and a show, one particular song poked fun at the Assembly during the time of the Follett Government. In itself it was a fine song, and it is appropriate in a democracy that people should be able to enjoy having a shot. However, the major risk is that those shots, those things that are said in jest, can become things that are said seriously, and this is the sort of problem that we are dealing with.

What we need to present to Canberrans is honesty in government, and that is why it is so critical that this be discussed now. It is not a question of whether or not this is true, and it is not a question, I believe, of whether - if I may quote Mr Whalan - Mr Kaine was mendacious or Mr Collaery was mendacious. It is about reassuring the people of the ACT and this Assembly that there is going to be honesty and openness in government.

We have this small problem about open government which needs to be cleared up. Already people are concerned that the Government is going to be less open because the decisions will be made in a closed joint party room instead of on the floor of this Assembly, as they were under the minority Government. The minority Government made its party room decisions in the Cabinet, and then they could be challenged on the floor of the Assembly. Now we will have a situation in which the joint party room will make a

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decision which is binding, contrary to what Mr Donohue, the Sir Robert Sparkes of Canberra, said on the radio yesterday. A binding decision will be made. We will be able to challenge it. I certainly will be doing my very best to challenge it, and I imagine Mr Stevenson and other members of the opposition will be. But the crunch of the matter is still the numbers. Once the decision is binding from that closed-door party room, then we will have a situation in which we cannot have openness in decision making in government. So we have to have honesty at least.

We also have to be seen to have honesty, and that is what the problem is here. We have Mr Collaery stating very clearly to this Assembly that he took certain actions about going to see you, Mr Speaker, and he stated that he did that with Mr Kaine. Then we have Mr Kaine stating exactly the opposite. One of those two people is not being absolutely frank. We need to determine what is the case. It is incumbent upon the Government now to show that it is going to be honest and explain this situation.

MR KAINE: I move:

That the motion be put.

MR SPEAKER: The question is: that the motion for the suspension of standing and temporary orders be agreed to. Those of that opinion say aye, to the contrary no. I think the ayes have it.

Mr Whalan: On a point of order, Mr Speaker; the gag motion is the first motion that you have to put. You did not put the gag motion, Mr Speaker. You must put the gag motion first.

MR SPEAKER: I will take advice.

You are absolutely correct, Mr Whalan.

Question put:

That the question be now put.

The Assembly voted -

AYES, 10

Mr Collaery
Mr Duby
Mr Humphries
Mr Jensen
Mr Kaine
Dr Kinloch
Ms Maher
Mrs Nolan
Mr Prowse
Mr Stefaniak

NOES, 7

Mr Berry
Ms Follett
Mrs Grassby
Mr Moore
Mr Stevenson
Mr Whalan
Mr Wood

Question so resolved in the affirmative.

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Question put:

That the motion be agreed to.

The Assembly voted -

AYES, 6

Mr Berry
Ms Follett
Mrs Grassby
Mr Moore
Mr Whalan
Mr Wood

NOES, 10

Mr Collaery
Mr Duby
Mr Humphries
Mr Jensen
Mr Kaine
Dr Kinloch
Ms Maher
Mrs Nolan
Mr Prowse
Mr Stefaniak

Question so resolved in the negative.

MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS

MR KAINE (Chief Minister) (10.57): Mr Speaker, I ask leave of the Assembly to announce ministerial arrangements.

MR SPEAKER: Is leave granted?

Mr Whalan: On a point of order, Mr Speaker; the standing orders require you to recognise the person first on his or her feet. Ms Follett was on her feet before Mr Kaine. I ask you to observe the appropriate standing orders in relation to that.

MR SPEAKER: I was reading at the time, Mr Whalan. I saw both members stand, and I deferred to the Chief Minister.

Mr Berry: Well, I think fairness is what you should defer to, Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: Yes, that is exactly what happened. Thank you, Mr Berry. The point is that I deferred to the Chief Minister on this occasion. I call the Chief Minister.

MR KAINE: In view of the exchange over the last few minutes, Mr Speaker, I might again ask leave of the Assembly to announce ministerial arrangements.

Leave granted.

MR KAINE: Mr Speaker, on Tuesday I announced that the three members to join me in the Executive were Mr Collaery, Mr Duby and Mr Humphries, and I said that I would provide details today of the allocation of the executive responsibility and of the involvement of other members in a cooperative government.

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Mr Speaker, the four members of the Executive will assume responsibility for major functions as follows: I will be Chief Minister and Treasurer; and will assume responsibility for planning and environment, and public administration; with special interest in veterans' and ethnic affairs, the ageing, the status of women, the family, and the disabled.

Mr Bernard Collaery will be Deputy Chief Minister and also Attorney-General. He will be responsible for welfare and community services; housing; sport and recreation; and youth.

Mr Duby will be responsible for finance; urban services; industrial relations; and the related functions of tourism, business, employment, transport, and rural matters.

Mr Humphries will be responsible for health, education and the arts.

I, as Chief Minister, will be supported in exercising my responsibilities by Mr Jensen, in the functions of planning, environment, heritage and lease management; and by Ms Maher, in the special interest functions of the status of women, the ageing, the family, and the disabled.

The Deputy Chief Minister will be assisted by Mr Stefaniak in the functions of police and justice; and sport and recreation. Mr Duby will be assisted by Mrs Nolan in the functions of business, tourism, employment, transport, and rural matters. Mr Humphries will be assisted by Dr Kinloch in the functions of education and the arts.

Mr Speaker, this arrangement is a model of a fully cooperative government, with all members of the alliance, except the Speaker, participating actively in the processes of government and management of the business of government. Full details of the responsibilities of the four Executive Ministers will be the subject of a gazetted administrative arrangements order as soon as that can be arranged.

Mr Speaker, I present the following paper:

Alliance Government - Executive responsibility.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

MS FOLLETT (Leader of the Opposition): Mr Speaker, I wish to make a short personal explanation.

MR SPEAKER: Please proceed.

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MS FOLLETT: Mr Speaker, in the Chronicle, dated 5 December, there appears the following statement:

... the Leader of the Residents Rally, Bernard Collaery, admitted the Chief Minister, Rosemary Follett, had been offered a Ministry in an alliance Government but had rejected the offer.

Further, in the same article, it is stated:

Residents Rally leader, Bernard Collaery, said he had some "regrets" about Ms Follett "having to go" and an offer of a Ministry in an alliance Government had been rejected by her.

Mr Speaker, I wish to place on record that neither Mr Kaine nor Mr Collaery, nor any other member of the alliance government, approached me at any stage to offer me a ministry or for any other purpose, and that the statement that I had been offered such a ministry is completely and utterly untrue.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND TEMPORARY ORDERS

MR BERRY (11.02): Mr Speaker, I move:

That so much of the standing and temporary orders be suspended as would prevent the Assembly from proceeding to private members' business.

Mr Speaker, it is very clear that the Government has set out to close off debate on private members' business. I think it is very interesting to see that the first motion moved by the Chief Minister was one of adjournment, as was quite rightly pointed out by his former deputy, Mr Humphries, and the second one was the gag.

Mr Humphries: What do you mean by "former"?

MR BERRY: Are you still the deputy?

Mr Humphries: Deputy leader of the Liberal Party, that is right, yes.

MR BERRY: Good. My apologies to Mr Humphries. He remains the deputy leader of the Liberal Party. I notice that his eyes are getting a little green about the Chief Minister's position but, Mr Speaker - - -

Mr Moore: Perhaps the Deputy Chief Minister's position first.

MR BERRY: Start from the top and work down. Mr Speaker, it is extremely important for the people of Canberra that the private members' business on the notice paper, or as much of it as possible, is dealt with today. There are 15

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issues of private members' business listed, and they are all on extremely important issues.

The Government may not have any business. It is understandable that this Government would not have any business at this early stage. I am not suggesting that they are slow starters or anything; the fact is that it takes a short time. Surely, with their experience in opposition, they should be able to come to terms with the delivery of government business fairly quickly, but one can expect that there needs to be a short time.

However, in relation to private members' business, Mr Speaker, I think it is important that the opposition members are able to proceed in presenting that business to the Assembly and that it is dealt with in the interests of the people of Canberra. So far, all that we have seen from the Government is a desire not to allow the opposition to present issues of importance to this Assembly.

I note, just to touch on a few of those issues, Mr Speaker, that Mr Stevenson wants to present a Bill for an Act to amend the Publication Control Act. I understand that has to do with X-rated videos, an issue that should be near to the heart of the new Chief Minister, although it might demonstrate the gap between him and his new deputy.

Mr Collaery: It's three feet.

MR BERRY: I would say it is probably a chasm, unless there has been some changing of colour amongst the lizards again.

Mr Whalan has presented some issues on the notice paper. The first one that I see, Mr Speaker, is that the Assembly acknowledges the need for policies which will increase and diversify the opportunities for employment in the ACT; further acknowledges that the Civic Square redevelopment project will provide 2,700 jobs during the construction phase and 1,800 permanent jobs following the completion of the project; and declares its support for the redevelopment of Civic Square, including the construction of a casino.

I think that is a very important issue for the people of Canberra to fully understand because of the uncertainty which has been created by the very obvious differences with the Residents Rally party, now that they are part of the Liberal coalition. Of course we and the rest of Canberra - and the business sector, I might add - want to see what the differences are between the Liberals and the Residents Rally in their new coalition. Obviously the Government seeks to maintain the uncertainty for the building industry.

The Opposition is about trying to ensure that there is stability - stability for workers, stability for business - and an assured future for Canberra. The opposition seems scared, frightened, to debate these issues.

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Ms Follett: The Government.

Mr Humphries: You're the Opposition.

MR BERRY: The Government, I should say.

Mr Whalan: They're the opposition to employment; they're the opposition to development. That's what it is.

MR BERRY: The opposition to employment and development and indeed of course the opposition in - - -

MR SPEAKER: Your time has expired, Mr Berry.

MR KAINE (Chief Minister) (11.08): The Government opposes this motion. The Opposition has had the advantage of six months in government, when we allowed them to take the initiatives that governments should properly take. We allowed them every opportunity, every courtesy, to put their government business into effect. I must admit that for a lot of the time they simply had no business to put on the agenda. Despite the fact that they were in the government and they had the full weight of the ACT Administration behind them, there were days when we filled in the time on the notice paper because they had no business.

We allowed them 14 days when they took government. We allowed the Assembly to adjourn from 11 to 23 May because we thought it was fair that they should have adequate time to get their act together before they attempted to present their program and undertake the business of government. I would have hoped that they would have done us the same courtesy. But, no - talk about taking a dog-in-the-manger attitude - they are not even prepared to give us five minutes.

Mr Berry knows that the arrangements that have been in place for the last seven months under his Government were that private members' business be debated on the Wednesday morning of each sitting week, and that convention will continue into the future. If the members of the opposition have business, let them put it on the agenda, as we did when we were in opposition, and we will debate it in accordance with the conventions that you, in government, established.

To attempt to usurp the business of government, to deny us the right and the courtesy that we gave you to get your act together and present your business to the Assembly, I believe, is totally unreasonable. I am absolutely astounded that you, Mr Berry, the most reasonable of the four members opposite, would be the one to get up and present this view. I would think sensibly that on reflection - - -

Mr Whalan: You ought to be careful. You'll be getting a reputation.

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Mrs Grassby: That's an insult.

Ms Follett: Will he be in the new ministry?

Mrs Grassby: Don't take it, Wayne. They might take it away from you.

MR KAINE: Mr Speaker, could you control the members opposite and allow me to speak?

MR SPEAKER: Please proceed, Chief Minister.

MR KAINE: Mr Berry, if you thought about it sensibly and if you thought about the courtesies that we allowed you, you would withdraw your motion. In any event, whether you do or not, we will oppose your motion so that we can get on in attempting to explain to you and to the community what we intend to do in government, just as we gave Rosemary Follett the courtesy of allowing her to do that seven months ago.

MR WHALAN (11.10): Bernard Collaery, Mr Speaker, has just said "Jesus Christ". I would ask that that blasphemy be stricken from the record.

Mr Collaery: Mr Speaker, on a point of order; I claim to have been misrepresented by this thing here opposite me.

MR SPEAKER: Order! Let us maintain the dignity of the house. Please resume your seat, Mr Collaery. I call Mr Whalan.

MR WHALAN: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Poor old Bernie.

MR SPEAKER: Order! We have taken a decision on Christian names, Mr Whalan.

MR WHALAN: You took a decision, Mr Speaker; we did not.

MR SPEAKER: I made a direction to the house.

Mr Jensen: On a point of order, Mr Speaker; the member opposite is clearly seeking to dissent from your ruling. I request that you take some action about his activities this morning.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr Jensen. Please abide by that ruling, Mr Whalan.

MR WHALAN: Mr Speaker, it was quite interesting to hear the Chief Minister get up and complain in his whining voice that he was not getting a fair go from the opposition. It was absolutely amazing. All that the opposition has requested in the form of the motion that my colleague Mr Berry has moved, Mr Speaker, is that the rights which were given extremely generously to these people over here, when they were in opposition, by the then Government should be

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reciprocated in relation to the present opposition. We accept the fact that we are in opposition and they are in government. For how long, we do not know; what sort of government they are going to provide, we do know. It will be a mess.

But the fact remains, Mr Speaker, that at virtually any time that the then opposition sought the indulgence of the then Government by raising private members' business we agreed to that because we believed that all members of this Assembly had the right to represent the people of Canberra on the floor of this chamber. We believed that honestly and sincerely, and we put it into effect by providing them with the opportunity to raise private members' business substantially outside the prescribed period of the Wednesday morning period which is set aside for private members.

It is, Mr Speaker, no accident that the motion which appears on this paper about the special adjournment means that the next sitting day is a Thursday. It is no accident. It is a deliberate act on the part of this new, oppressive, secretive Government to call together the Assembly on a Thursday, rather than a Wednesday, specifically to deny private members the opportunity to discuss private members' business.

They are terrified, Mr Speaker. They are terrified to discuss the motion, which is notice No. 2 standing in my name on the business paper, which seeks the endorsement by this Assembly of the casino project. They are terrified to discuss it because they know they will tear themselves apart. They have no agreement on this, Mr Speaker. They are completely and desperately and irretrievably divided on this particular issue.

Bernard Collaery, Mr Speaker, is committed to the destruction of the casino project. Trevor Kaine claims to support it. But the fact is that they are not prepared to come out and state publicly to the community of Canberra what their position is. So they are pursuing this most undemocratic course of action. By applying the gag to debate within this chamber, they are denying the Assembly and the citizens of Canberra, the residents of the ACT, the opportunity to know precisely and specifically where they stand on this issue. I put it to you that there is a conspiracy within that group of 10 people to destroy the casino, but they do not have the guts to come out and state it publicly.

Motion (by **Mr Collaery**) proposed:

That the question be now put.

Question put.

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The Assembly voted -

AYES, 10

Mr Collaery
Mr Duby
Mr Humphries
Mr Jensen
Mr Kaine
Dr Kinloch
Ms Maher
Mrs Nolan
Mr Prowse
Mr Stefaniak

NOES, 7

Mr Berry
Ms Follett
Mrs Grassby
Mr Moore
Mr Stevenson
Mr Whalan
Mr Wood

Question so resolved in the affirmative.

MR SPEAKER: The question now is that the motion to suspend standing and temporary orders be agreed to. Those of that opinion say aye, to the contrary no. I think the noes have it.

Mr Whalan: The ayes have it, clearly.

Mr Collaery: The noes have it.

MR SPEAKER: Call a vote.

Mr Whalan: On a point of order, Mr Speaker; Mr Collaery called for the division, so he must be counted with the minority.

MR SPEAKER: That is correct.

Question put.

A call of the Assembly having commenced -

Mr Whalan: On a point of order; will you direct that the Clerk record Mr Collaery's vote as a yes?

MR SPEAKER: That will be taken care of. Thank you, Mr Whalan. That is the case.

The Assembly voted -

AYES, 8

Mr Berry
Mr Collaery
Ms Follett
Mrs Grassby
Mr Moore
Mr Stevenson
Mr Whalan
Mr Wood

NOES, 9

Mr Duby
Mr Humphries
Mr Jensen
Mr Kaine
Dr Kinloch
Ms Maher
Mrs Nolan
Mr Prowse
Mr Stefaniak

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Question so resolved in the negative.

MR SPEAKER: Mr Collaery's vote was transferred in accordance with standing order 155.

ALLIANCE GOVERNMENT'S OBJECTIVES AND PROGRAM
Ministerial Statement and Paper

MR KAINE (Chief Minister) (11.21): Mr Speaker - - -

Mr Wood: Mr Speaker, I was up.

MR KAINE: So was I.

Mr Moore: I was there before you, Bill.

MR KAINE: I hope, Mr Speaker, that we are not going to have to put up with all this trivial behaviour for the complete two and a half years' life of this Assembly. It is getting a bit boring already.

Mrs Grassby: I don't think you'll be here for two and a half years, Trevor; don't worry about it.

MR SPEAKER: Order!

MR KAINE: We will.

Mrs Grassby: No, you won't, Trevor.

MR KAINE: Mr Speaker - - -

Mrs Grassby: Don't bet on it, Trevor.

MR SPEAKER: Mrs Grassby!

MR KAINE: Having been given permission to speak by everyone but Mrs Grassby, Mr Speaker, I would like to say that today is a very important day for the alliance Government and for this Assembly. It is an historic occasion, which will see this territorial Government lead the way with its vision for Canberra.

MR SPEAKER: Order! Chief Minister, in the confusion and the noise from the opposition, you did not seek leave of the Assembly to make a statement.

MR KAINE: I thought I had.

MR SPEAKER: I did not hear it. Would you please seek leave.

MR KAINE: Obviously Mrs Grassby did not, either. Mr Speaker, I ask leave of the Assembly to make a ministerial statement on the Executive's objectives and program.

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Leave granted.

MR KAINE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. That was a much more resounding result. I will begin again.

Today is a very important day for the alliance Government and the Assembly. It is an historic occasion, which will see this territorial Government lead the way with its forward vision for the ACT.

The alliance Government will put the people of the ACT first and will do so in a cooperative form of government in which all members will participate actively for the good of our citizens. It is therefore, we believe, essential to put forward a statement of our intentions and vision for the Territory for the next two and a half years. In this way, the people of Canberra will know precisely what this incoming administration will aim to achieve in order to promote a better future for the ACT.

This Government will focus on two major areas: the economic well-being of the Territory, and the vision it has for the future of the ACT, where close to 300,000 people live. To this end we will actively support the committee of inquiry into the assets and public debt of the ACT, which has been set in place in response to my initiative as Opposition leader. This audit will determine what we own, what we owe, where we spend it and how effective that spending is.

We will seek to review the economy and the budget, and I will make an economic statement on future intentions by March of next year. We will develop a comprehensive five-year financial plan, clearly spelling out to the community the Government's priorities and intentions. Our five-year plan will identify the programs which the Government will put into effect to satisfy the needs of this community. It will be an open document so that the community can analyse it and comment on it. It will be updated each year, and constructive community comment will be considered at each annual update.

The plan will enable the community to see where their needs are accommodated in the plan and the priority accorded to them. For example, the private business sector will be able to gauge the Government's commitment to the expansion of the private sector and make judgments about the stability of the ACT's economic environment, to help it to make investment and other decisions.

As another example, the retired and soon-to-be-retired will be able to satisfy themselves about the commitment of the Government in assuring their security and peace of mind, by focusing on the priority accorded to them in the plan.

We will set about constructing the first five-year plan so that it will provide the basis for the compilation of the budget for the next financial year, 1990-91. In the

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meantime, we will insist that the Commonwealth Government maintain, in real terms, its current levels of financial input into the Territory.

We will negotiate for similar financial support, in the longer term, to enable the achievement of a balanced budget without disrupting the ACT economy within a reasonable time period. Our present revenue shortfall is a direct result of previous Commonwealth decision making. However, the Commonwealth has committed itself to assist for five years while we sort it out. We see the five years beginning on self-government day, not some arbitrary prior date, and will negotiate with the Commonwealth on that basis.

We will develop annual budgets derived from the five-year plan, designed to meet identified community needs in priority order and tailored to ensure that we spend only the money that is available. If the community is satisfied with the priorities reflected in the plan, it can be confident those same priorities will govern the derived annual budgets.

The objective is that, by careful planning, achieving efficiencies in operations, and exercising rigorous cost control, we will achieve a balanced budget. This objective may not be achievable, however, in the short term, as the outcome of this current year's budget has already been substantially determined by the previous Government.

We will improve the overall efficiency in the delivery of government services by ensuring that the administration is lean and cost-effective. In achieving this, the Government will depend strongly on the members of the ACT Administration and will rely on their special skills, knowledge and dedication to put our policies into effect.

I refute most strongly, Mr Speaker, the destabilising rumours recently put about that this Government intends to either sack its employees or disrupt the public sector through major reorganisations. We will not. On the contrary, we will depend on their expertise to help build a lean and cost-effective public service with a reputation for excellence.

We will introduce a new management philosophy into the ACT Administration aimed at, firstly, lifting morale; secondly, emphasising the role our public employees play in achieving the ACT's financial objectives; and, thirdly, improving awareness of cost consciousness in these hard economic times that we currently face.

We will transfer to the private sector the responsibility for providing services which can be delivered more efficiently by that sector and where this will lead to a net saving without a reduction in the level of service provided. We will adopt a positive cost recovery policy, but will grant exemptions where justified on social, hardship or other compelling grounds.

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We will provide adequate resources to the ACT Treasury to ensure that tax avoidance and evasion are minimised and to improve the effectiveness of tax assessment and collection. We will expand the revenue base of the Territory by encouraging development, including the stimulation of high-technology industries, tourism and small business.

We will review the capital works program to ensure that all projects included in it are consistent with community requirements and priorities and that they can be accommodated within the five-year financial plan. We must achieve growth in the private sector and acknowledge that, as time goes on, it will become the predominant source of increasing revenues and increasing job opportunities.

A major contribution by government to this required economic growth can and must be to provide a stable economic and financial climate, to permit the making of business and investment decisions with some degree of certainty in terms of the intentions of government.

Planning and development, along with the environment, are an integral part of the economic well-being of the Territory. Here we have to ensure that there is a balance. Maintenance and enhancement of our habitat are necessary, and caution must be exercised to ensure the preservation of our forests; the maintenance of the general amenity of Canberra deriving from our open-space planning; the preservation of our heritage assets; the regulation of the transportation, use and disposal of hazardous and toxic materials, the disposal generally and recycling where possible of all waste products. It is necessary that we address all these issues.

Closely associated with these environmental issues is that of the continuing growth of the city of Canberra and the issues associated with that growth, issues such as the proper and controlled planning of the city centre; the dispersal of business and commercial activity across the regions of Belconnen, north and south Canberra, Woden, Weston and Tuggeranong; the construction of supporting road networks, urban redevelopment and further expansion into Gungahlin. All of these issues will be addressed and a new city plan will be developed, keeping the balance between competing interests and upholding the rights of the people.

There are those who do not wish to see Canberra expand. Unfortunately, Canberra cannot be retained as it was in 1969, or 1979, nor can it be frozen at the 1989 level, much as we may wish to do so. Our task is to ensure that the future growth of Canberra is properly planned, as past growth generally has been, and the development is controlled, orderly, and acceptable. We have a responsibility not only to ourselves but to the entire Australian community to retain standards appropriate to the national capital and the seat of government. We must balance the needs and aspirations of this community with those of the wider one.

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The alliance Government is sensitive to these requirements and will work for beneficial growth. We acknowledge that the community is entitled to a planning system which is open, accessible and responsive to its needs. As a matter of priority this Government will set in place a territorial planning authority as required by the ACT (Planning and Land Management) Act. We will produce a plan with respect to land, incorporating appropriate principles and policies; conditions for planning, design and development of land; procedures for ascertaining and considering the views of the public; arrangements for review of and appeals against recommendations and/or decisions; and the mechanisms for involving the Legislative Assembly in this process.

We will develop subordinate plans to the territorial plan for each area identified as being a potential problem area. In particular, review of the Civic plan will be undertaken as a priority matter. Such a plan should incorporate, among other things, the treatment of City Hill, balancing any development on section 19 with the other precincts of the area bounded by London Circuit. We accept that the only outstanding matter concerning section 19 is whether the project will generate sufficient funds to provide the promised community facilities. The control process now in place will continue, and this matter must be resolved quickly.

The plan should also treat comprehensively the future public transport needs of the city centre. We will ensure that decisions affecting new area development - for example, Gungahlin - follow comprehensive consideration of the needs of residents, infrastructure and other development costs and impacts on the community.

We will move to review and simplify existing lease administration proceedings. Where circumstances require a change of leasing purpose, a betterment tax will be levied. Depending on the degree of change, this tax will be set at a level which balances the interests of the community and those committing their financial and other resources to the particular project.

We will seek to open negotiations with the Commonwealth Government on its unilateral decision identifying national land, on the basis that not all land so designated falls within the definition of section 27(2) of the planning and land management Act; that is, that it "is, or intended to be, used by or on behalf of the Commonwealth". The Gowrie Hostel is an example of a location determined by the Minister as national land which was clearly not intended to be used by the Commonwealth. The intent of the legislation has clearly been set aside in this case.

We will also negotiate with the Commonwealth concerning areas of designated land identified in volume 1 of the national capital plan, having regard for the fact that significant land areas will be removed from ACT Government control under the current proposals.

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This Government will address the community's real concerns. Education will be maintained at the present level of excellence. The Government will build on the good foundations of our education system to create an environment where high standards and excellence are the primary objectives.

This Government will create a schools board of management to administer ACT schools. This will reverse the previous Government's policy of centralising control and restricting input from those involved in education. It will also restore the ideals of participation and autonomy developed in the ACT in the late 1970s - ideals that the minority Labor Government has sought to erode in the past six months.

The board will operate on a similar basis to the present hospitals board of management and will have responsibility for day-to-day administration of ACT schools. The board will, however, work within the policy guidelines set down by the Minister for Education. Non-government schools will also be invited and encouraged to join the board, although their continued independence will be guaranteed by the alliance Government.

By including non-government schools representatives on the board, the alliance Government will attempt to defuse the friction between the government and non-government sectors, a feature of our education system for a number of years, and something which the previous Government did nothing about. Community consultation on the proposal will be a priority for the incoming alliance Education Minister. A green paper will be developed and released for community comment early next year.

In the health area we will confirm the role of the hospitals board of directors closely modelled on the Kearney report recommendation. We will ensure that the board reports directly to the Minister and not to any intermediary body. We will proceed with hospital redevelopment plans and accelerate financial planning arrangements.

We will enter into immediate negotiations with all relevant health unions to foster a cooperative environment for alliance health initiatives. We will enter into immediate negotiations with the Commonwealth to determine the level of funding that the Commonwealth is prepared to provide to assist with hospital redevelopment. We will review the current proposals for hospital redevelopment in the light of the Commonwealth's response on capital funding. We will restructure the Department of Community Services and Health to improve the delivery of services, increase efficiency and streamline administration. We will investigate the feasibility of the sale of the Health Authority building in Moore Street.

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We will thoroughly examine the direction of previous decisions regarding funding for non-government welfare organisations to ensure equity of treatment and efficiency in administration. We will establish boards of management for government nursing homes. We will review legislation dealing with mental health and take immediate action to correct inadequacies in the present law. The ALP has had a policy of social justice, and we also believe that we must attain social equity.

We support unreservedly the proposition that the disadvantaged in our community must receive our support and assistance, whether that disability arises from age, economic circumstances, social or ethnic background or physical or intellectual disability. We will address the issues of homelessness in general and youth homelessness specifically. We will maintain our services and we will ensure that programs for the disabled are continued.

Our community includes an increasing number of retirees. They have earned the right to a serene and dignified retirement. Hardships suffered by our retirees may be financial or the result of infirmity, isolation or simply a lack of mobility. An alliance administration will take steps to alleviate the difficulties confronting the ageing to ensure that in their later years they continue to enjoy reasonable standards of living, in recognition of their contributions in the past.

In particular, the alliance administration will examine existing support services for those ageing people wishing to remain in their own homes, to determine whether they need to be supplemented and, if so, how. We will review current planning policies for the provision of accommodation for those ageing persons not living in their own homes, to ensure that adequate provision is made for the increasingly ageing population. We will review existing arrangements for nursing homes, hostels, convalescence and hospice care, to ensure adequacy of facilities.

To ensure that all of the needs of the ageing are adequately catered for, we will immediately set up arrangements for frequent consultation with the ACT Council on the Ageing and senior citizens organisations to identify the matters that are of most concern to them, and we will take steps to implement the recommendations of the recent Assembly inquiry into the longer-term needs of the increasing population of ageing people in the community, an inquiry, I might add, that was undertaken at the request of the former Opposition and not by the past Government. In fact, it was taken over the objections of the past Government.

Within our ageing population there are many veterans of World War II. There are also many veterans from Korea and Vietnam, not yet in the ageing group but needing and warranting special attention. These veterans have earned a

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special place in our community. Many of their needs are met by the Commonwealth Government. To the extent that some are not, our administration will set up an inquiry to ascertain the special provisions that should be made within the ACT community. Formal arrangements for consultation with the RSL and other organisations representing veterans will be put into place.

The alliance Government firmly endorses the principle of equal opportunity based on merit and fair competition. We recognise that all women, whether at home or in the work place, should have equal opportunity to pursue their chosen lifestyle without prejudice. Our policies will address the need for the improvement of equal opportunity in the areas of employment, health, welfare, child-care, education, training and retraining, with special provisions to assist aged women, women of other ethnic origins, Aboriginal women and disabled women.

To these ends the alliance Government will pursue a comprehensive range of measures, including measures to promote equality for women in the work place and society as a whole; more flexible working arrangements and encouraging additional opportunities through permanent part-time work; access to high-quality health care and maintenance of the existing preventive and early intervention programs such as cervical cancer testing; and preparation of an annual ACT women's budget paper which will cover the Government's priorities and the needs of the community.

The ACT has the chance to create a new model justice system. My Attorney-General will work closely with all elements of the community, including the legal profession, to ensure that what we establish after June 1990 will lead this country's standards, particularly in areas such as criminal law.

Mr Speaker, this Government has a vision for the Territory - a territory that has financial security, a territory that has no debt, a territory that encourages competition, a community that encourages excellence, a community that is proud of the Territory that we live in, a community that cares for its citizens - but, more so, a government that will inspire pride and confidence in this community and strive to achieve all of our objectives in the time available to us.

MR COLLAERY (Deputy Chief Minister) (11.41): Mr Speaker, I move:

That the Assembly, at its rising, adjourn until Thursday, 14 December 1989, at 10.30 am, unless the Speaker fixes an alternative day or hour of meeting on receipt of a request in writing from an absolute majority of members.

Mr Whalan: On a point of order, Mr Speaker; in relation to the statement which has been made by Mr Kaine, it has been

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the tradition, the convention, of this rather short-lived Assembly, that with statements of that sort there is a motion associated with them. That motion is usually moved by the - - -

MR SPEAKER: Make your point of order, please, Mr Whalan.

Mr Whalan: The point of order is that it was appropriate for Mr Kaine to have moved a motion along the lines that the paper be noted.

MR SPEAKER: Please resume your seat, Mr Whalan. That is not a point of order. You are debating an issue and that is not a point of order.

Mr Whalan: Well, will you rule whether or not Mr Kaine should move that the paper be noted?

Mr Collaery: The Speaker cannot order someone to move a motion.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for your point there.

Mr Whalan: I move then, Mr Speaker, that the paper be noted.

MR SPEAKER: I will take advice on that.

According to standing orders, only a Minister can so move.

MR COLLAERY (Deputy Chief Minister) (11.44): Mr Speaker, I move:

That the Assembly takes note of the following paper:

Alliance Government's objectives and program - Ministerial statement, 7 December 1989.

Mr Whalan: I rise on a point of order, Mr Speaker.

MR COLLAERY: Mr Speaker - - -

MR SPEAKER: Just a moment, Mr Collaery. Allow me to hear the point of order. Please be quiet.

Mr Whalan: Mr Speaker, it is appropriate that the person who delivers the paper moves the motion. Now, if Mr Kaine is not up to that, then it is quite - - -

MR SPEAKER: Order! Mr Whalan, you are not addressing a point of order. It is up to the Government to decide who will move that motion.

MR COLLAERY: Mr Speaker, I have moved that the Assembly take note of the paper delivered by Mr Kaine. I refer to my motion. Shall I read it again, Mr Speaker?

Ms Follett: No, you cannot do that.

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MR SPEAKER: Just wait until we get to the motion.

MS FOLLETT (Leader of the Opposition): I move:

That the debate be adjourned.

I would ask also while I am on my feet that the paper be circulated. Members of the opposition do not have a copy of it.

Mr Kaine: It will be.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

DAY OF NEXT MEETING

MR COLLAERY (Deputy Chief Minister) (11.47): Mr Speaker, this motion to create a special adjournment is a tradition, as I see it, in the parliamentary practice of democracies. It is also a tradition, may I remind this fledgling opposition, that you give the courtesy to a new leader of the house, a new government, to give its statement. It is very clear; it has been the practice of successive Federal parliaments since Federation to allow that courtesy. We have seen a gross discourtesy, Mr Speaker, from this group opposite us - and I exclude some members from that - but the principal malefactors have been well identified by their performance.

Mr Speaker, the fact of the matter is that this Government has, firstly, to appoint a series of committees and reform the standing committees and the select committees. There are six standing committees, as you know, Mr Speaker, and four select committees. Time is needed to do that. As well, given the delays in this Assembly, the opposition has lost the opportunity to give this Assembly the dignified appearance that a lot of us sincerely hoped we would get on the resumption of this new Government. It is a shame this has occurred again this morning, and I think it should be evident to all members of the public where this behaviour originally started and where it should be sheeted home to. The former Deputy Chief Minister is again off the leash, without control from his Chief Minister.

A member: Hear, hear!

Mr Kaine: I am his Chief Minister and he did get off the leash.

MR SPEAKER: Order!

MR COLLAERY: I mean his former Chief Minister. Mr Speaker, I may be confused in my identification as to where Mr Whalan sits on this floor because - - -

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Mr Whalan: Foot in mouth again - you certainly are confused.

MR SPEAKER: Order, Mr Whalan!

MR COLLAERY: One of his motions on the notice paper today is to note "with alarm the amount of land held by one private land developer". It is an extraordinary motion to put forward. There is no real sense of organisation inherent in these panic motions that the former Minister opposite me is going to argue, no doubt in the adjournment debate, with great passion, for democracy and for discussion of further business. It is very clear in the parliamentary practice that governments are given the traditional right to introduce their programs and that is generally heard in silence.

Mr Whalan: I raise a point of order, Mr Speaker. Could the Assembly be informed of the matter before the Assembly, please?

MR SPEAKER: The matter before the Assembly is a special adjournment debate. Please proceed, Mr Collaery.

Mr Wood: Did he move that?

Mr Whalan: He did not move it.

Mr Humphries: He did move it. You were not paying attention. You were talking.

MR COLLAERY: Mr Speaker, I close my remarks by reminding you that the morning's events were put on, on two issues initially. One was in that gross breach of parliamentary practice, and the other was to move a fatuous censure motion, a censure motion that all of us sitting here, particularly Mr Kaine, me and you, know was an empty, absolutely pointless exercise because there are three of us in this house who could have simply given you the answer immediately.

Mr Whalan: I trust the word of the other two people.

MR SPEAKER: Order! Mr Whalan, please address your comments through the Chair.

Mr Whalan: Mr Speaker, I just want to state on record that I do trust you and I trust Mr Kaine.

MR SPEAKER: Do you seek leave to make a statement?

Mr Whalan: I do not trust Mr Collaery.

MR SPEAKER: Order! Standing order 202(e) will be used if you keep this up, Mr Whalan. Please proceed, Mr Collaery.

MR COLLAERY: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The fact is that the second diversion offered was a personal statement by the

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Chief Minister that she had not been offered a ministry. The fact is that Mr Kaine and I have said for a long, long time, on the subject of collegiate government, that we would offer a ministry, and that a ministry was on offer whenever we could form a government, to all parties in the Assembly.

On several occasions the Chief Minister mentioned publicly that that was not a sensible proposal and not a practical proposition. I think the whole town knows that that was her response, and she has declined a ministry. But in the event that the former Deputy Chief Minister has a hankering to see his colleague cross the floor, then I am authorised by Mr Kaine now to offer Ms Follett a ministry, if she wishes to approach us. So I repeat that earlier public offer.

Mr Moore: And Mr Stevenson. You said "every party".

MR SPEAKER: Order, Mr Moore!

MR COLLAERY: Finally, the alliance Government set out today to see whether we could have a dignified chamber. We resolved to do our best to put this Assembly's interests as a parliamentary institution forward for the community, knowing that there still would be certainly some interstate press interest in the Assembly. We have not fared very well interstate, and I think all members recognise that. Again we have been pulled down by this type of behaviour. Mr Speaker, I sincerely hope that this alliance Government can go away shortly today and form the necessary machinery for government and will come back in the new year with a renewed program - an honest, open program of government. And, Mr Speaker, the gag will be moved in this Assembly by the alliance Government whenever the debate degenerates as it did this morning.

MR WHALAN (11.50): Mr Speaker, I move as an amendment to the motion:

Omit "Thursday, 14", substitute "Wednesday, 13".

I move that amendment because this motion is clearly designed to deny those of us on this side of the chamber the opportunity to raise matters under the private members' area of the agenda of this Assembly. It is quite clearly a device to deny democracy to the citizens of Canberra and to deny democracy to the members of the opposition. At every time throughout the life of the period when we were in government, Mr Speaker, we sought to provide every possible opportunity for the members of the then opposition to raise matters of private business. I think that the extent to which we pursued that practice is evidenced by our willingness on frequent occasions to extend the period of - - -

Mr Jensen: On a point of order, Mr Speaker; I might draw the house's attention to standing order 35, which states:

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A motion for the adjournment of the Assembly may be moved only by a Minister. An amendment may not be moved to this motion.

MR SPEAKER: This is a special adjournment. Please proceed, Mr Whalan.

MR WHALAN: Thank you, Mr Speaker. That is yet another example of attempts by the people over there to deny rights to members on this side of the chamber.

Mr Speaker, the evidence of our willingness to allow frank and open debate is contained in the Hansard, where you will see that we provided numerous occasions for the members of the then opposition to raise private members' business virtually at will. We frequently gave leave for special private members' motions to be raised in the Assembly, and that was as part of our recognition of our position as a minority government. It is a reality. Now what, of course, has changed is that we have seen by a process of bribery a majority stitched up.

MR SPEAKER: Order! I request you to withdraw those comments, Mr Whalan.

MR WHALAN: I withdraw. Thank you, Mr Speaker. It was a moment of passion. Now that we have seen stitched together this gang of 10, we can see that the Liberal coalition will constantly apply the gag. Mr Collaery has already threatened it. He said, "We will apply the gag at every opportunity", and this is - - -

Mr Collaery: On a point of order, Mr Speaker; I claim to have been misrepresented.

Mr Whalan: On a point of order, Mr Speaker, if he claims to have been misrepresented, he has to wait till the end of the discussion.

MR SPEAKER: He has not got that out yet, Mr Whalan.

Mr Whalan: Yes, he has. I heard him.

Mr Collaery: The former Minister, the never-to-be-Minister, just said to me, Mr Speaker, across the floor a number of words which clearly did not reflect the Hansard - - -

Mr Whalan: On a point of order - - -

MR SPEAKER: Order! I can deal with one point of order at a time. Please resume your chair, Mr Whalan. You get to your point, please, Mr Collaery.

Mr Collaery: Mr Whalan indicated that we would move from this side of the house a gag at any time.

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MR SPEAKER: That is not a point of order, Mr Collaery. Please resume your chair. Please proceed, Mr Whalan.

MR WHALAN: Thank you for your support on that, Mr Speaker. The purpose of that interjection was to deny me time. When I am finished, I am going to ask for an extension of time to cover the period that these frivolous points of order have taken up, raised by this person over here.

One of the things about this adjournment which is particularly worrying is the fact that these people want to scuttle away and squeak and hide from scrutiny. They are not game to stand up in the public forum of this Assembly and have their proposals, their policies and their divisions scrutinised. They are not prepared to stand up in public and have themselves scrutinised.

One of the many things that have to be discussed in this Assembly is the question of the security of employment for public servants. We have got two views being expressed. We are going to have 10 views expressed from time to time by this coalition, Mr Speaker. But on the question of sackings of public servants, today's Canberra Times clearly demonstrates the divisions. Collaery wants to sack Townsend; Trevor Kaine says he will not. Now who is telling the truth? Which one of them is an honest man? Collaery has consistently said he intends to sack Townsend, and the mechanism for the sacking of Townsend is contained in this document which has been tabled in this Assembly today. That is the division of the public service responsibilities. In this division of public service responsibilities, Mr Speaker, you will see that the division has been very cleverly made to eliminate Jeff Townsend's job. Have a look at it, members of the press gallery.

Mr Kaine: On a point of order; the deputy leader of the Opposition is clearly impugning my character. I have made a statement to the public quite positively that what he is now asserting is untrue. I have made that on the record. I can only assume that the deputy leader of the Opposition is calling me a liar. I object to that most strongly, and I ask him to withdraw that imputation.

MR SPEAKER: I agree with that. Please withdraw that imputation, Mr Whalan.

MR WHALAN: I withdraw the imputation that Trevor Kaine is a liar.

Mr Collaery: On a point of order, Mr Speaker; I ask that the former Minister withdraw the corollary of his imputation which is against me. He is saying that I am a liar. I ask him to withdraw that imputation.

Mrs Grassby: Well, one of you is, according to the Canberra Times. Which one is it?

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MR SPEAKER: Please uphold the dignity of this chamber. Mr Whalan, would you please make an unreserved withdrawal.

MR WHALAN: I unreservedly withdraw any imputation that Trevor Kaine is a liar.

Mr Kaine: Thank you.

MR WHALAN: And Mr Kaine accepts that.

MR SPEAKER: That is not acceptable. The point, I believe, is that both members were called up. It was an either/or situation. I would ask you to withdraw both.

MR WHALAN: With respect, Mr Speaker, are we going to be allowed to put this Government under the microscope? Are we going to be allowed to highlight the deep divisions within this Government?

MR SPEAKER: Order! Mr Whalan, please make an unconditional withdrawal.

MR WHALAN: Mr Speaker, at no stage did I suggest that Mr Collaery was a liar, and if anyone is so sensitive as to think that - - -

MR SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr Whalan. If you did not make that statement, please proceed.

MR WHALAN: In the Canberra Times on Friday, 24 November, Mr Collaery quite clearly and categorically indicated that he was out to savage a particular public servant.

Mr Collaery: On a point of order, Mr Speaker; I do not savage public servants.

MR SPEAKER: That is a frivolous point of order. Please proceed, Mr Whalan.

MR WHALAN: We will not talk about his bestiality. Mr Speaker - - -

MR SPEAKER: Order! Please, Mr Whalan, withdraw those words. They were recorded.

MR WHALAN: I withdraw them. Mr Speaker, the other things that, of course, we have got to be concerned about are the questions that we would like to raise with the Government. I assume that what they are going to try to do is to gag this Assembly further. This motion relates to when we next meet. What I can see happening is that, after this motion is put, there will be a further motion that the Assembly do now adjourn. The effect of that motion will be to gag the Assembly, and we will not have the opportunity to ask questions of Trevor Kaine.

There is a whole series of questions that the opposition wishes to raise with Trevor Kaine about the probity of

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certain actions taken by a certain member of the Government, and it is very important that we do have that opportunity at the earliest possible time. But, if we are going to have no question time today, then we will be denied that opportunity. So we see once again further evidence of the determination of these people to deny democracy within the ACT.

Mr Kaine: On a point of order, Mr Speaker; I am not clear on just what motion the deputy leader of the Opposition is speaking. He seems now to be speaking to some motion that has not even been foreshadowed, let alone is on the books, and I would like to have him brought back to debate the matter that is before the house.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you, Chief Minister. I take the point. Please stick close to the point, Mr Whalan.

MR WHALAN: Mr Kaine, in moving this motion, pleaded for time, Mr Speaker, to get his act together. Now, of course, this is further confirmation - - -

Mr Humphries: We gave you that time.

MR WHALAN: This is further confirmation. Mr Humphries, no doubt you will be the ringmaster in getting the act together for Trevor's circus. I cannot understand why the time which is being allowed to Mr Kaine to get his circus act together should in any way detract from the rights of private members. There is no role for the Government other than to respond to private members. We have got a full agenda on the notice paper of business for private members. There are 15 items on that particular notice paper. Whether or not the circus is together and performing is irrelevant because they do not have to participate in this debate if they do not wish to do so. This is private members' business. So what they are doing is hiding behind their lack of preparation to try to conceal their divisions and the fact that they cannot reach agreement on important issues like which of the senior public servants are going to get sacked.

I predict that, in the same way as they are going to reorganise Jeff Townsend's department so that his job disappears - he will not be sacked, he just will not have a job; it will be as simple as that - and Mr Humphries has already said it, they are going to do that with Eric Willmot. They are going to eliminate Eric Willmot's job and then he will be welcome to apply for the new position which is created. Of course, we all know, tongue in cheek, what that means. What is going to be Geoff Campbell's future, Trevor? Can you give us an unequivocal assurance that Geoff Campbell will not be sacked? We know that Collaery - - -

Mr Moore: And Jensen.

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MR WHALAN: We know that Collaery and Jensen have been gunning for Campbell for months and months. He has been in your military gun sights, Norm, for months. If I were Townsend, Campbell or Willmot, I would be shaking in my boots, because I know what their fate is. They are up for the big jump, and Bernard will be there to push them over. It is not just one person that he wants to sack, as the papers confirm, but there are several on that hit list.

Mr Speaker, one of the things which I find interesting about this particular list of jobs, apart from the fact that it is designed specifically to organise Mr Townsend out of a job - - -

Mr Jensen: On a point of order, Mr Speaker; I thought we were in the process of debating the special adjournment, not the Government's operations. I would suggest that that should be the form of debate for a future issue.

Suspension of Standing and Temporary Orders

Motion (by **Mr Berry**) agreed to:

That so much of the standing and temporary orders be suspended as would prevent Mr Whalan from concluding his speech.

MR WHALAN: I really appreciate the indulgence of the Assembly. It is quite out of character from the earlier pattern of the Government. Obviously, Mr Speaker, they have been chastened. They are rather concerned that the Canberra Times headline tomorrow will be "Trevor Kaine's first motion to apply the gag".

Ms Follett: First four motions.

MR WHALAN: It was the first of several. Quite clearly they have been chastened. I think we should all be grateful for that because they are now going to reverse that previous policy of applying the gag when they heard things that did not suit them.

What I was talking about, Mr Speaker, was this particular chart here which sets out the ministerial responsibilities. What is rather curious about this is that we heard the Chief Minister say that the administration of health is going to be at arm's length from the Government. The administration of health is going to be at arm's length from the Minister. There will be a management board set up for the hospital and that management board will have the full administrative responsibility for the management of the hospital. I ask you to look at this list. What is Gary going to do?

Mrs Grassby: What he always does - nothing.

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MR WHALAN: There is nothing. He is going to be at arm's length; I can just see him standing there at arm's length. He will stand there all day long with his arm outstretched - -

MR SPEAKER: Order! Mr Whalan, please resume your seat.

Mr Jensen: On a point of order, Mr Speaker; I am afraid he is doing it again. He is not debating the motion of adjournment but an entirely different matter altogether.

MR SPEAKER: I will take that point of order. Please stick to the point, Mr Whalan.

MR WHALAN: But, Mr Speaker, look at the list. Poor old Gary is just going to be bored rotten. There will be nothing to do. They have taken welfare and given it to Bernard and everything else is stripped off so that he will have the hospitals run by an arm's length board.

MR SPEAKER: Order! Mr Whalan, resume your seat. We are debating an amendment proposed by you and I really believe you are away from your point. Please proceed closer to the point.

MR WHALAN: Mr Speaker, we have put on notice an MPI for today, and all the indications are that this Government is afraid to stand up and be counted, afraid to subject itself to scrutiny. Its members want to hide away so that the press cannot see them, so that the press do not have the opportunity to analyse them and to identify the divisions and the differences that exist between this "gang of 10". It is because of this that they are seeking to move the adjournment so that they can scuttle back to their holes and they can hide away there while they work out some clandestine explanation for what their aspirations for the future are. But where they should be, Mr Speaker, is here in this chamber where the opposition can have an opportunity to press them, to ask questions.

I, personally, have a whole range of questions to ask Mr Kaine that I would like answers for. I think that the people of Canberra are entitled to know the questions and also know the answers from Trevor Kaine. But are we going to have that opportunity?

Mr Wood: Will we have it next Wednesday or Thursday?

MR WHALAN: Certainly, on the basis of this we will not have the opportunity on Wednesday. What happens on Thursday remains to be seen. Will they allow us a question time then? Will they gag us then? I ask you, Mr Speaker, is this going to be the pattern that is going to continue? I am not blaming you, Mr Speaker. You are a person of considerable integrity. It is the others who are likely to be involved in this plot to deny democracy to the citizens of the ACT.

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I thought one of the most important interjections that came from Mr Collaery today was when we were on the floor debating and he said, "You're wasting taxpayers' money". That is his idea of democracy. His idea of democracy is not for us to be in this chamber with the Government under scrutiny, with the Government under pressure, with us analysing the deep divisions, the inconsistencies that exist within this Government.

Quite clearly, there was one that we saw there today when we moved the censure motion - which they, of course, ran away from and broke all the conventions. They broke every convention of the parliamentary process. It is the invariable practice of parliaments in the Westminster system, it is the invariable practice of parliaments within Australia, that as soon as a censure motion is moved in relation to a Minister that motion is immediately debated.

But they ran away from it. They ran scared. They were not prepared to debate that particular issue. Then they, of course, applied the gag. When we tried to suspend standing orders in order to have that issue debated, Mr Kaine applied the gag. Once again, we see an abuse of democracy. Then we see this motion here today - this one that we are currently debating, Mr Speaker - which seeks to deny private members that sacred right. A sacred right of the parliamentary process is the right of private members to raise issues in that period of time designated to them for private members' business. Sacrilege! Sacrilege on the parliamentary process! An act of desecration of the parliamentary process by denying the right to debate private members' business!

One of the features of the previous Government was that we adopted the procedure that we discussed with all groups within the Assembly - and that was eventually refined to a process of a meeting on the Mondays of the parliamentary sitting week - the business of the Assembly for the coming sitting period. That was a practice which resulted in quite harmonious conduct of the business of the Assembly. The net result of that was that the conduct of business was quite straightforward. All members of the Assembly knew how it was going to proceed. All members of the Assembly, Mr Speaker, knew precisely what the business before the Assembly at any point of time would be.

We knew what Bills were going to be discussed. We cooperated in reordering legislation to suit the convenience of different members of the Assembly who wanted to make a contribution. Indeed, I must congratulate so many members for the very constructive contribution that they have made in debating the legislation which was initiated by the Government during those last few months of the Follett Government.

So we had very close cooperation with all the elements of the Assembly at that point in time. Now, what has happened is that all of a sudden there is no consultation with the

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opposition. There was no consultation with Michael Moore, because I did take the trouble to ask Michael whether there had been any consultation with him about this order of business. I asked Rosemary Follett, the leader of the Labor Party and Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly, whether she had been consulted by the Government in relation to this business paper or indeed in relation to the notice paper, which contains many important items of business. But no approach was made.

So here we have a complete abandonment of the great and longstanding traditions of this Assembly, where consultation between all members of the Assembly was a point on which the whole operation of the Assembly turned, Mr Speaker. But now we see that practice abandoned. Did Mr Kaine approach us at all and say, "Well, what we would like to do is abandon question time, abandon the opportunity for matters of public importance and abandon private members business"? All he had to do was come and tell us that that was his intention. Instead, he sneaked up on us here in the chamber and we were completely unprepared for this ambush that they perpetrated. They arrived here and indicated quite clearly their intention to deny the people of Canberra democracy, to deny democracy to the members here, who have been elected by the community of Canberra and who legitimately represent the interests of the people of Canberra.

They did not tell us. They tried to spring an ambush on us. They want to close this place down; they want to deny access to the press; they want to deny access by us to their conduct of government business; they do not wish to be the subject of scrutiny. That makes me wonder what the sitting pattern for next year will be, Mr Speaker. It is relevant to this particular motion, of course, as under this proposal we will sit on Thursday of next week, but how often do you think we will sit next year? How often do you think we will sit next year if this is the tradition which is being created as a result of this sort of motion and as a result of the behaviour of the Government here this morning? They will not let us come together.

I predict now that they will try to have the Assembly sit as infrequently as possible. I suggest that, say, for the first six months of the new year, they will try to introduce a pattern whereby we sit once every four weeks, or something like that, or once every eight weeks even, just in order to meet the statutory requirements. This is the way they will operate because they are not game to subject themselves to scrutiny.

They have denied us question time; they have denied us MPI time; they have denied us the opportunity to raise private members' business. I predict that next year we will see the sort of pattern that Bjelke-Petersen had in Queensland. Now, Joh used to sit about two or three weeks a year. There were periods of months - - -

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Mr Wood: Steady on; not as much as that.

MR WHALAN: It was not as much as that. Once a year would be good enough for Joh.

MR SPEAKER: Order! Mr Whalan, you are getting away from the point.

MR WHALAN: Yes, but it is important because it is relevant to this part of the motion which says that we should adjourn. The point is that, as was stated so eloquently by an earlier speaker about the traditions of the National Party being grafted onto the Residents Rally party of the ACT, those traditions of the National Party which have been adopted are the same sorts of traditions that we will see adopted in relation to the sitting pattern of this Assembly in the future. We will see the people opposite imposing upon this Assembly a sitting pattern which will confine us to two or three sitting days in the first six months of next year. Three days will be required in order to comply with the statutory requirement that we do sit at least every two months. That is quite an important statutory requirement, and there is no doubt at all that Mr Kaine, being a man of principle and a man of honour, would not do anything that would in any way be contrary to the law. So we can anticipate one day's sitting every two months. In the process of doing that - - -

Mr Kaine: If you keep this up, we will still be sitting.

Mrs Grassby: That is good. That is what we want to do. We want to keep you sitting to do some work. That is the only way we can get you in here.

Mr Kaine: And we can listen to all this garbage for the next two hours.

MR SPEAKER: Order! Mr Whalan, I draw your attention to standing order 62. It refers to repetitious - - -

MR WHALAN: Can I just get my standing orders out, please.

MR SPEAKER: Certainly; I will read it to you, if you wish.

MR WHALAN: No, I can read. What is the point, Mr Speaker?

MR SPEAKER: Please stick closely to the point, Mr Whalan.

MR WHALAN: The point of this discussion, Mr Speaker, is the question of the adjournment, and that raises then the whole question of the democratic processes and practices of this Assembly. Quite clearly, we now have in place a government which is going to abuse the processes of democracy, those traditions which have been built up in this chamber over the life of this Assembly. There has been opportunity for consultation and cooperation in determining the sitting patterns, in determining the business arrangements and in providing all members with

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virtually every opportunity that they requested. Never once - - -

Mr Collaery: On a point of order, Mr Speaker; I have listened to the member opposite, and again, Mr Speaker, under standing order 62, he has completed a total re-rendition for about the thirtieth or fortieth time of the very same phraseology, the very same statements.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr Collaery. I believe he was making a concluding statement.

Mr Jensen: Mr Speaker, in accordance with standing order 70, I move that the motion now be put.

Mrs Grassby: Another gag!

MR WHALAN: Just when I was in the middle of my argument.

MR SPEAKER: Order, order! Mr Jensen, please listen. Temporary and standing orders have been suspended to allow Mr Whalan to proceed as long as he may wish.

MR WHALAN: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I do appreciate that. I will just go back, as I was in the middle of making a very important point. Mr Speaker, this particular issue is fundamental. That is right; I know what I was saying. Not once, Mr Speaker, when we were in government did we apply the gag. I think that is a very, very important point to remember. Not once did the Follett Government apply the gag, attempt to apply the gag. Yet the very first motion on the very first day moved by this new fledgling Chief Minister is a motion to gag debate, to gag democracy within this chamber. We have seen, now, a further attempt by Mr Jensen to attempt to gag my democratic right to speak and address this Assembly on this very important motion which is before the Assembly now.

So this, then, is the sort of democracy that we can expect, and this is the reason why, of course, there was no sitting yesterday. We sought to have the Assembly sit yesterday so that private members' business could be discussed. We had already been given a clear indication that, if the Government was not prepared yesterday to face question time, they could have moved the adjournment and scuttled away.

They could have adjourned the debate and scuttled away, but they were not even prepared to give private members the right, the democratic right, to discuss the important issues. Of course, the reason why they did not want private members to have that democratic right was that they knew that within the business which was the agenda for private members were motions that would rip them apart. The divisions in the gang of 10 would be so apparent.

Mr Speaker, look at the situation, for example, on the casinos. They are terrified about having the divisions

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between Mr Kaine and Mr Collaery in relation to the casino brought to the surface. Now, these divisions are absolutely fundamental. They are irreconcilable. Collaery will not permit the casino to go ahead in the Civic Square redevelopment. Collaery has indicated the veto. Hector Kinloch, Dr Kinloch, a man of principle, a man of integrity, a man who came into this chamber on one issue alone - nothing else; just the casino - is not going to allow a casino to be built, are you, Hector?

MR SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Jensen: On a point of order, Mr Speaker; I would suggest that the - - -

MR SPEAKER: Yes, thank you. Please refrain from - - -

Mr Jensen: I was just waiting, Mr Speaker, until the member opposite resumed his seat so I could continue with my point of order. I understand that that is the normal convention, Mr Speaker.

MR WHALAN: You are not the Speaker yet.

MR SPEAKER: Order! Please proceed, Mr Jensen.

Mr Jensen: Mr Speaker, once again the past and previous Deputy Chief Minister, now deputy leader of the Opposition, is continuing to flaunt conventions within this house by referring to persons within this chamber by their first name, in direct contravention of instructions given by you. I request, Mr Speaker, that you ask him to desist immediately.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for that direction, Mr Jensen. Mr Whalan, please abide by standing order 62 as you continue your speech.

MR WHALAN: There has been a plea, Mr Speaker, from the Chief Minister that there should be time for the Government to get their act together - to get the circus going - but they keep interjecting and saying, "Well, you know, when you were in government you had 14 days". I think one of the important things is that when we came into government there was that amount of business on the business paper. There was nothing.

Mr Humphries: Because we gave you the time to develop a full program.

MR WHALAN: No, there was nothing on the business paper.

Mr Humphries: We could have put things there.

MR WHALAN: The fact is that there was nothing on the business paper, Mr Speaker. It was just a blank sheet of paper. So this situation is fundamentally different from the situation that prevailed on 11 May, when this Assembly was brought together for the first time.

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Mr Humphries: We had the good grace to give you time to get your act together.

MR WHALAN: No. It was the fact that at that point of time there was no business. But what is the situation now, Mr Speaker? Let me show you the notice paper. It is 294 pages long. That is a slight exaggeration. It is one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight pages long. There is a notice paper, eight pages long, and on that notice paper is a whole range of fundamental issues which can be raised and debated within this chamber. That range of issues includes issues dear to the heart of particular members of this Assembly.

I draw your attention, Mr Speaker, to notice No. 2 in private members' business. Now, notice No. 2 in private members' business, Mr Speaker, is a motion by me, and Dr Kinloch will be interested in this particular motion. This particular motion acknowledges the need to increase and diversify the opportunities for employment in the ACT. There is not one person in this chamber who would disagree with that sentiment. Is there? Hands up. No-one. No-one, Mr Speaker - not one person - would disagree with the sentiment of that first paragraph of that motion. It is quite clear that it is non-contentious. With the figures about employment, I do not think there is any single person who would deny that when the Civic Square redevelopment project gets under way it is going to create thousands of jobs - 2,700 jobs.

Dr Kinloch: Well - - -

Members interjected.

MR WHALAN: Mr Speaker, it is obvious that there could be some disagreement on the number of jobs created. Of course, it is impossible to predict the exact number of jobs that would be created by this particular project when it does get under way. But then, of course, it is the third part of the motion which is going to cause problems because it is going to tear apart the gang of 10. Mr Speaker, it will tear apart the gang of 10 because it seeks a declaration of support for the redevelopment of Civic Square, including the construction of a casino. We know, Mr Speaker, that there are irreconcilable differences within the gang of 10 on this particular issue.

MR SPEAKER: Order! Mr Whalan, this is the third or fourth time you have repeated that. I draw your attention again to standing order 62. It is tedious repetition.

MR WHALAN: The point is, Mr Speaker, that it really worries me. I feel sorry for Trevor - for Mr Kaine - on this particular issue because I do know from personal conversations that I have had with Mr Kaine of his firm commitment to the casino project. It is clear and unequivocal. Mr Kaine is a person who is convinced of the

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validity of the arguments in favour of that particular project.

He recognises, Mr Speaker, that the construction industry in the Australian Capital Territory has reached a point where major jobs have now been completed. The last big one was section 38. That was the last major construction job here in Canberra. It has now been completed, and it is desperate that we have on line a construction project of sufficient size to provide continuing employment and continuity of employment to sustain the building industry.

The building industry is our second largest employer in the private sector. It should be an ongoing industry. It will change its location, Mr Speaker, from place to place and from time to time, but what we should be aiming for is an industry which - - -

MR SPEAKER: Order! Mr Whalan, you are debating issues that are before the house. I believe you really should be debating your amendment.

MR WHALAN: Yes, the amendment plus the motion, if that is permitted. Can I speak to the motion as well?

MR SPEAKER: You certainly can. The point is that you are really debating other business that is before this house.

MR WHALAN: The point is, Mr Speaker, if we carry this adjournment and we are sort of swept out of here, we will be denied the opportunity to debate these other issues of considerable importance. The argument that there should be a different pattern of sitting, that 14 days was given to the Government on 11 May, is not valid. That is not a legitimate argument because, as I am in the process of pointing out, Mr Speaker, on this business paper there are eight pages of business that can be conducted. There is no reason for us to scuttle away and hide.

MR SPEAKER: Order! Mr Whalan, you are now repeating those same points. I would ask you now to make a concluding statement.

MR WHALAN: Mr Speaker, I am concerned about the adjournment and the virtual abolition of this Assembly. You know, Dennis Stevenson - Mr Stevenson - from the Abolish Self Government Coalition, of course, has achieved his objective in a very subtle sort of way because the Assembly will still exist in name but it will never meet. It will be there in name. So Dennis - Mr Stevenson - will have had a great victory.

Mr Stevenson will have achieved his objective, because the Assembly will never meet. It will meet once every two months to meet the statutory requirement and that will be it. But there will never be an opportunity for those of us who are concerned about - - -

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Mr Humphries: Is he on hallucinogenic drugs? What have you been smoking, Paul? Have you been taking something?

MR WHALAN: Those of us who are concerned, Mr Speaker - - -

Mr Humphries: I want to see the needle holes in his arm. He has been taking something.

MR WHALAN: For those of us who are concerned to ensure - - -

Mrs Nolan: Grass.

Mr Humphries: Smoking grass.

MR SPEAKER: Order!

MR WHALAN: What?

Mrs Grassby: He says you have been smoking grass.

Mr Moore: He says you have been breaking the law.

Mr Humphries: Hallucinogenic drugs, Paul.

MR SPEAKER: Order! I would ask you to withdraw that statement, Mr Humphries.

Mr Humphries: I will withdraw, Mr Speaker.

Mrs Grassby: I should think so.

MR WHALAN: Thank you. It was a hideous remark.

Mrs Grassby: Oh, he said needle marks first. That was worse.

MR WHALAN: Mr Speaker, it is tragic when the debate sinks to the level of those interjections of Mr Humphries and we have to see people playing - what is the expression?

Mr Kaine: Playing to an empty house.

MR WHALAN: Playing the player, rather than playing the game.

MR SPEAKER: Order!

MR WHALAN: Playing the man and not the ball; that is right.

MR SPEAKER: Mr Whalan, please resume your seat. Under standing order 62, I now direct you to cease speaking.

Mr Whalan: Mr Speaker, this is a gag.

MR COLLAERY (12.38): I move:

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That the question be now put.

Mr Berry: On a point of order, Mr Speaker; this Assembly gave open-ended leave for - - -

Mr Kaine: We will not do it again, you can believe me. It will never happen again.

Mr Collaery: You broke another convention.

MR SPEAKER: Order! Mr Berry, please proceed.

Mr Berry: This Assembly, of course, agreed in a very open-ended way to allow Mr Whalan to proceed with the debate until he finished his speech. Now, quite clearly, he has not finished his speech.

Mr Jensen: Read standing order 62, Mr Berry.

Mr Berry: Including standing order 62.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you for that. I understand the provision that was made available to Mr Whalan but I do believe he has repeated himself on such a number of occasions that the Speaker should take control. I believe that we must maintain some order and dignity in the house.

Mr Moore: On a point of order, Mr Speaker; standing orders were suspended, and that includes standing order 62.

MR COLLAERY: I move that the amendment motion be put.

MR SPEAKER: The question is that Mr Whalan's amendment be agreed to. Those of that opinion say Aye, to the contrary No. I think the Noes have it.

Mr Whalan: The Ayes have it.

MR SPEAKER: Ring the bells.

Mr Whalan: On a point of order, Mr Speaker; you did not put the gag motion.

MR SPEAKER: I will take advice on that.

I take Mr Whalan's point. The question is that the question be now put.

Question put.

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The Assembly voted -

AYES, 10

Mr Collaery
Mr Duby
Mr Humphries
Mr Jensen
Mr Kaine
Dr Kinloch
Ms Maher
Mrs Nolan
Mr Prowse
Mr Stefaniak

NOES, 7

Mr Berry
Ms Follett
Mrs Grassby
Mr Moore
Mr Stevenson
Mr Whalan
Mr Wood

Question so resolved in the affirmative.

Question put:

That the amendment (**Mr Whalan's**) be agreed to.

The Assembly voted -

AYES, 6

Mr Berry
Ms Follett
Mrs Grassby
Mr Moore
Mr Stevenson
Mr Wood

NOES, 11

Mr Collaery
Mr Duby
Mr Humphries
Mr Jensen
Mr Kaine
Dr Kinloch
Ms Maher
Mrs Nolan
Mr Prowse
Mr Stefaniak
Mr Whalan

Question so resolved in the negative.

Mr Whalan: Mr Speaker, I seek leave to move a motion that the order of business on - - -

MR SPEAKER: Order! You have not been called, Mr Whalan.

MR COLLAERY (12.45): I move:

That the question be now put.

Mr Moore: I wanted to move an amendment to this motion and it has been gagged again.

Question put.

A call of the Assembly having commenced -

MR SPEAKER: Clerk, call Mr Moore again.

The Clerk: Mr Moore.

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MR SPEAKER: Mr Moore, in accordance with standing order 202(e) I request that you vote one way or the other on this issue.

Mr Moore: Mr Speaker, I wanted to put an amendment to this motion, and I find the behaviour of the - - -

MR SPEAKER: Please stand when you speak, Mr Moore.

Mr Moore: I find this behaviour of the Government absolutely reprehensible, Mr Speaker. I had a sensible amendment to put about suggesting that on that Thursday we start with private members' business - a perfectly sensible thing - and then we have this. Mr Speaker, "no" is the answer - is the vote, I mean. It is absolutely reprehensible. They did not even give us a chance to do that. And, Mr Speaker, I might say I was first to my feet too.

The Assembly voted -

AYES, 10

NOES,

7

Mr Collaery
Mr Duby
Mr Humphries
Mr Jensen
Mr Kaine
Dr Kinloch
Ms Maher
Mrs Nolan
Mr Prowse
Mr Stefaniak

Mr Berry
Ms Follett
Mrs Grassby
Mr Moore
Mr Stevenson
Mr Whalan
Mr Wood

Question so resolved in the affirmative.

MR WHALAN (12.47): I seek leave to move that the order of business on Thursday 14 December be structured to allow for private members' business at 10.30 am.

MR SPEAKER: I am sorry; you are out of order, Mr Whalan. I must put the question. The question is that the motion for the special adjournment be agreed to.

Question put.

A call of the Assembly having commenced -

Member named and suspended

MR SPEAKER: Mr Moore, again, if you wish to abstain you must leave the chamber. You had the opportunity; you are aware of the standing orders; please abide by them. Call him again, Mr Clerk.

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The Clerk: Mr Moore.

MR SPEAKER: I hereby name Mr Moore for refusing to comply with standing order 160.

MR KAINE: Mr Speaker, I move that the Assembly do now adjourn.

MR SPEAKER: Order! I am looking for support on a suspension motion.

MR KAINE: Mr Speaker, I move:

That Mr Moore be suspended from the service of the Assembly.

Mr Whalan: Can we speak to this motion, Mr Speaker?

MR SPEAKER: I believe not.

Mr Wood: "Suspended" means suspended - never to come back.

MR SPEAKER: In accordance with standing order 160 the member is now suspended from the service of the Assembly.

Mr Whalan: I take a point of order. You have not put it to the vote.

Question put.

The Assembly voted -

AYES, 10

NOES, 6

Mr Collaery
Mr Duby
Mr Humphries
Mr Jensen
Mr Kaine
Dr Kinloch
Ms Maher
Mrs Nolan
Mr Prowse
Mr Stefaniak

Mr Berry
Ms Follett
Mrs Grassby
Mr Moore
Mr Whalan
Mr Wood

Question so resolved in the affirmative.

MR SPEAKER: I request Mr Moore to withdraw.

Mr Moore was, therefore, suspended at 12.57 pm for three sitting hours under standing order 204 and he accordingly withdrew from the chamber

MR SPEAKER: Order! We were halfway through a vote. Due to the interruption caused by the previous event, we will commence the call from the beginning. Ring the bells.

Mr Humphries: What was the motion again?

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MR SPEAKER: The question is that the special adjournment be agreed to.

Question put.

The Assembly voted -

AYES, 10

NOES, 1

Mr Collaery
Mr Duby
Mr Humphries
Mr Jensen
Mr Kaine
Dr Kinloch
Ms Maher
Mrs Nolan
Mr Prowse
Mr Stefaniak

Mr Stevenson

Question so resolved in the affirmative.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion (by **Mr Collaery**) proposed:

That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Private Members' Business

MR STEVENSON (1.03): Private members' business is a right. It is not so much a right for private members but a right and a responsibility on behalf of the people of Canberra. The members of the Liberal Party and the Residents Rally in this Assembly have spoken strongly and correctly against any attempt to curtail private members' business. There was certainly a reasonable justification for adjourning the debate on Tuesday and not sitting yesterday, and I voted for that. There is some justification for not having private members' business today, but very little for not having private members' business next week, considering that Christmas will soon be upon us.

I seek the opportunity before Christmas to present my Bill to ban X-rated videos so that public debate can ensue over Christmas, over that two-month period. I implore members of the alliance to grant that request.

Pearl Harbour

MR COLLAERY (1.05): Mr Speaker, I think it is appropriate, given our long and friendly relationship with the United

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States of America, that this Assembly record - or those members present at the moment record - that today is the anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbour, the great historic event that precipitated the Pacific war. Mr Speaker, I am sure that all members of this house regard with chilling fear the possibility of that event happening again. The more than 3,000 casualties, just during that attack at 7.55 am on this day 48 years ago, should be remembered and recalled for being in place to guard democracy, which was being threatened in our region.

That day has gone down, of course, as a day of infamy. It is with increasing sadness that I record the knowledge that the world is still not free of warfare, still not free of persecution, torture and all those occurrences of mankind that many other people work so hard to free it from. Especially with the ex-servicemen in this house, I join in expressing again our great debt to the United States in the Second World War.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Assembly adjourned at 1.06 pm until Thursday, 14 December 1989, at 10.30 am