

STATUTES (REPEALS AND MINOR AMENDMENTS) BILL 2001

Restoration to Notice Paper, Motion

HON KIM CHANCE (Agricultural - Leader of the House) [4.51 pm]: I move -

That the Statutes (Repeal and Minor Amendments) Bill 2001 be restored to the Legislative Council Notice Paper and thereafter be dealt with at the stage it had reached in the previous session.

It has been necessary to treat this motion in this way. It is a matter that was previously on the Notice Paper. The Bill commenced in this House and that is why the House is now dealing with it separately from the other Bills. This is simply a restoration motion; I am not aware of any other reasons that this Bill is being dealt with differently. This is a cut and dried motion for restoration.

HON GEORGE CASH (North Metropolitan) [4.52 pm]: The Opposition supports the restoration of this Bill because the Bill was on the Notice Paper at the time the House was prorogued. As such, the Bill existed. The practice and procedure of this House enables the House to restore Bills previously on the Notice Paper. I emphasise that. It has been the custom and practice of this House for some years; however, many years ago it was not the practice of the House to restore Bills. The House has since decided that it is an appropriate mechanism and it has been the case for some time. Had this Bill not been on the Notice Paper, other questions would come into play. We cannot restore to the Notice Paper something that is dead; that is, something that was never on the Notice Paper in the first instance. Without going into any of the debate in the other House - I would not - I have heard some very strange propositions advanced today by the Legislative Assembly about how the Legislative Council should manage its affairs. I repeat what I said in the previous debate: the more government ministers in the Legislative Assembly try to impose their will on the Legislative Council, the more they highlight their lack of confidence in the ministers in this House. The Leader of the House in the Legislative Council has the capacity to run this place in a reasonable and proper manner. He is the sort of person who, left to his own devices, will talk to members about what he proposes. Hon Nick Griffiths has clearly demonstrated, by the manner in which he has handled legislation in the last session, that he has a very clear understanding of legislation of which he is put in charge. He has acquitted himself in a very competent manner, notwithstanding the fact that I do not necessarily agree with the legislation he has handled. I am not backward in saying that of all the ministers I have seen in this place and the other place, Hon Nick Griffiths is near the top of the list in being on top of the legislation he has handled.

Government ministers in the Legislative Assembly seem to be inventing new rules about the restoration of legislation. That might be convenient for them but just because something feels good today does not make it good forever. We have rules, practices and customs. Some may need modernisation or modification. That can be worked on. I am not one to stand back if we must modernise the ways in which we carry out our duties, especially if it improves the management and efficiency of the House. For anyone to suggest that something can be restored to the Notice Paper that was never on it beggars belief. The Opposition supports the motion before the House.

HON MURRAY CRIDDLE (Agricultural) [4.56 pm]: I put on record for those who are interested that I support the restoration of this Bill to the Notice Paper. I do not support some of the issues raised today; I do not agree that Bills not originally on the Notice Paper should be put on the Notice Paper. Such Bills should be dealt with in the other House before being dealt with here. That is the normal manner of things. We are two separate Houses and we will deal with issues as we see fit.

Question put and passed.