

## Legislative Council

Wednesday, 26 May 2010, Page 242

### BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

**The Hon. A. BRESSINGTON** (17:48): Just very briefly—

The Hon. T.J. Stephens interjecting:

The Hon. A. BRESSINGTON: No, I'm not going to—well, I am, sort of.

The ACTING PRESIDENT: I think the honourable member should proceed.

The Hon. A. BRESSINGTON: I will. First of all, I get a bit sick and tired every time a proposal for a select committee, or whatever, comes up in this place that we either have the Hon. Bernie Finnigan or the Hon. Paul Holloway saying that the Independents are being sucked in and duped, and that we don't know what we are doing and we don't know why we are doing it. How insulting is that, for a start!

The second point is about breaking conventions, about not having government members sitting in chairs of select committees. I sat on eight committees last year and not all of them were chaired by government members. In fact, the Hon. John Dawkins chaired a select committee that we established.

The Hon. M. Parnell: And water.

The Hon. A. BRESSINGTON: And the Hon. Mr Parnell here, for water.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. A. BRESSINGTON: But has it killed us? Has it really killed us? Has it changed the way this place works? I think not. Anyway, you should just watch what you say—that we have been duped into this—because some of us might just dig our heels in and vote for it despite the comments. Give us some credit for the fact that we come here every day, the same as you, and do our job. We have a pretty fair idea of what is going on and why we are voting for issues.

The Hon. P. Holloway interjecting:

The Hon. A. BRESSINGTON: Hang on. To say that the decision has already been made is not true. I have not been approached by Rob Lucas or the Liberal Party to vote anybody into this chair, or anything else. This is an independent vote. The last time I attended the Budget and Finance Committee, when Families SA officers were in attendance, the evidence they gave to the Budget and Finance Committee was completely different to the evidence given to the select committee inquiry, and it was a discrepancy that was pursued. So, there is value in this. I think it was in the Budget and Finance Committee that Mr Hamilton-Smith picked up on the poor reporting of Drug and Alcohol Services, involving its expenditure of almost \$14 million. So, there is a reason for this committee, and it does serve a purpose. It might not serve it for you guys, but it actually does for us. Just be careful about what you say.