

STANDING ORDERS, MEMBERS' CONDUCT

Mr BROCK (Frome) (11:40): Along with my fellow Independents, I stand to support the motion by the member for Fisher. As the member for Mount Gambier has just indicated, he was appalled and surprised at the behaviour and the noise factor that is in this chamber during question time and in other periods of debate and discussion of the house.

I have had 20 years' experience in local government. When I came here I was very, very surprised at the interaction and what I call the disrespect for somebody who may be speaking; the disinclination to listen in silence and to actually hear exactly what that person, whether they be a member of the government or a member of the opposition, is trying to get across. We are here to represent the people of our electorate and we need to ensure that we hear all of the arguments put forward by any member of the house.

I feel for you, Madam Speaker. I think you are doing an excellent job up there. As the member for Fisher has indicated, I think we need to have a point at which the Speaker can act without having to get permission of the whole house, because, as the member for Fisher has indicated, whoever is in government has the numbers and they certainly would not expel one of their own members.

I certainly believe that you as the Speaker, or any Speaker, should be able to expel from this house an unruly person who does not adhere to the Speaker's instructions for a period of time. I believe five minutes is inadequate, but the member for Fisher has put 'for five minutes' there, and I will support that at this particular point.

He also says there that the member may enter the chamber to vote in any division called during the period in which they have been withdrawn. If this goes through I will be talking about that because, again, if that member is expelled or withdrawn from the house it is not damaging to the party or the person putting that motion up. In actual fact, that person should not be able to be paired, nor should they be able to participate in any of the divisions.

Again, I am talking about respect for each other, I am talking about respect for our constituents and I am talking about respect for the chair. So, I commend this motion to the house.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mrs Geraghty.