

MINISTERS - STANDARD OF CONDUCT

Matter of Public Interest

THE SPEAKER (Mr F. Riebeling): Today I received a letter from the member for Hillarys seeking to debate as a matter of public interest the following motion -

This house notes the failing of ministers to abide by high standards of conduct and calls on the Carpenter government to immediately raise its standards.

If sufficient members agree to this motion, I will allow it.

[At least five members rose in their places.]

The SPEAKER: The matter shall proceed on the usual basis. I point out that, although this is general and a substantive motion, it does not give members a generic right to abuse standing orders in relation to people's motives.

MR R.F. JOHNSON (Hillarys) [3.20 pm]: I move -

This house notes the failing of ministers to abide by high standards of conduct and calls on the Carpenter government to immediately raise its standards.

It is appropriate at this time of the year to do a general assessment of the government's performance. Most school teachers and principals prepare a report card on how their students have been behaving and whether they have met the mark during the year. I have thought about this matter over the past hour. I will start with a maximum benchmark of 10 and knock off points when I think it is warranted.

Mr J.J.M. Bowler interjected.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: The minister's performance may not rate zero. It is important that we review the Premier's performance over the past calendar year, his first year as Premier. He has been Premier since the middle of January. We must judge him on his actions, his decisions and his leadership or lack of it. I had high hopes that the Premier would do a better job than Geoff Gallop; indeed, I actually thought he would. However, I am sadly disappointed. At least Geoff Gallop had certain standards and rules for his ministers from which he would not allow them to stray. He refused to ask the Governor to appoint a former member of this chamber to the cabinet. He showed that strength, but this Premier has not done so. Over the past year the Premier's attitude has reflected that of the three wise monkeys: hear no evil, see no evil, and speak no evil. He has not heard of his ministers or members doing anything wrong; he has not seen his ministers or members doing anything wrong; and he has not spoken about his ministers or members doing anything wrong. However, we must take our hats off to this Premier because he is a bit of a showman at times. I quite like that; however, at the end of the day, it has cost him enormously. It has cost him his integrity and the public perception of him as a good and decisive Premier.

The score card starts at 10. I cannot knock off any points for the former Minister for Tourism, the member for Yokine, resigning his ministerial position because that was during Geoff Gallop's time as Premier. I could bring the member for Yokine into the equation, but I will not do so. I am trying to be generous to the Premier, so I will not include people who should not be included. I must start off with my good friend and colleague the member for Ballajura when he was minister. Come the next election, if the Liberal Party does not use some of the photographs and some of the comments that the Premier has made relating to some of his ministers and members, the Liberal Party does not deserve to win the election. I am looking forward to seeing the photos.

Mr J.J.M. Bowler interjected.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I will come to my friend the minister. Let us look at the first example, which is the member for Ballajura, now the Independent member for Ballajura. There was that picture of him with the Premier when he announced his rising star. The Premier would not hear of anything bad about him; he would not see anything wrong with him. He never said that he had done anything wrong.

Mr J.B. D'Orazio: And still has not!

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: Did the member pay his employees' superannuation?

Mr J.B. D'Orazio: Absolutely.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: On time, under the law?

Mr J.B. D'Orazio: Absolutely.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I do not think he did.

Speaker; Mr Rob Johnson; Mr Brendon Grylls; Mr Max Trenorden; Mr Alan Carpenter; Acting Speaker; Mr Colin Barnett; Dr Elizabeth Constable; Mr Paul Omodei; Mr Tony McRae; Mr Bob Kucera

Mr E.S. Ripper: Did anybody tell you that you were a rising star?

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: Yes, my mother, God bless her, when she was alive. I bring the points down to nine because unfortunately that minister cost the Premier one point. I am being generous; I could make it more, but I will not. How do I bring the number down to eight? The next point involves the photo I am really looking forward to seeing during the advertising campaign for the next election, which is the photo of the Premier with his good friend Norm Marlborough. I will go for Norm's jugular in the chamber, but outside I have always got on very well with him. However, the way in which he conducted himself was disgraceful, in particular his conduct with the disgraced lobbyist Brian Burke. He was a Burkie man through and through, but at least he was honest and always said he was a friend of his. Of course, what he did was very wrong and the way in which he allowed Brian Burke to influence him was very wrong. That means I will knock off another point. We are now down to eight.

I will knock off another point. I have to because the Premier has shown such poor judgment on two occasions. He has been around for quite a long time now and has honed his skills as an investigative journalist over many years. How do we bring the score down? I am trying to be generous. The next point must obviously be taken off because of the Premier's Minister for Indigenous Affairs.

Mr E.S. Ripper: This is a hard-hitting attack!

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I am coming to Jack the Ripper, or the Grim Reaper, rather. A point will be taken off for the Minister for Indigenous Affairs because of what has happened under that portfolio and, more importantly, what happened under her previous portfolio of community development for five years when she was Minister for Community Development. Under her watch, and indeed for one of those years under the Premier's watch while she was Minister for Indigenous Affairs, hundreds of children were abused. Many of them lost their lives because of the incompetence of the minister and her inability to run her department properly. I will have to knock off at least another point. I have now brought it down to six. The Premier is still over the halfway point, but I promise I will bring him down below that halfway point. I am trying to be generous.

Mr J.J.M. Bowler interjected.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I will obviously not knock a point off because the minister interjected on me but the Premier has allowed him to carry on his duties when, we believe, he has unfortunately had contact with Julian Grill and Brian Burke that he should not have had. I know that the minister is good friend of Julian Grill, and I understand that. I like Julian Grill. I have always said that he was a nice bloke. Outside the chamber he is a very nice bloke. However, he is linked with Brian Burke, and that is the problem. After the previous Premier had said that no contact was to be made with those two people and no lobbying was to be allowed by them, the Minister for Resources and Assisting the Minister for State Development allowed his friendship to get in the way of that very clear, responsible and sensible direction. He has admitted that he has had contact with both those people. More will emerge about the contact the minister has had with them, and I think he will fall into a trap similar to the one that caught the ex-member for Peel. I reckon that the Corruption and Crime Commission will be very interested in examining the sort of contact the minister had with those two people and the decisions he might have made following contact with them to see whether they were appropriate or less than appropriate. I will not say any more than that. Therefore, it comes down to five, Premier. The Premier is only halfway now.

I will bring it down to four rapidly because of the bloke who sits on the right of the Premier, and that is the Treasurer. He calls himself the Treasurer, but he is known as the Grim Reaper by many people. He has mugged so many Western Australians with such high taxes that it is unbelievable. It is a disgrace. Taxpayers are paying for the government's surpluses now. The Treasurer is not doing it by good management. If the Treasurer was a businessperson, he would be bankrupt, because he would not have any customers. I can tell the house that not one customer would go into his shop. Unfortunately, his customers, the taxpayers of Western Australia, have to, by law. I would not mind a shop like that whereby the customers were compelled, by law, to come into it, or otherwise be sent to prison. All this Treasurer has done is mug the taxpayers of Western Australia. The Treasurer should be ashamed of himself. He is making it impossible for those wishing to enter the housing market for the first time to buy a house. House prices have gone up so much that people must take out mortgages to pay the stamp duty that the Treasurer mugs them for.

I have already brought the score down to four. I will bring it down to three now. The Premier will have three out of 10 now because of the bloke who sits on his left, the very hardworking Leader of the House. He looks as though he is very hardworking. It is always said that if a person walks around with a bit of paper in his hand, he looks as though he is busy. That is what the Leader of the House does.

Mr A.J. Carpenter: Who are you talking about now?

Speaker; Mr Rob Johnson; Mr Brendon Grylls; Mr Max Trenorden; Mr Alan Carpenter; Acting Speaker; Mr Colin Barnett; Dr Elizabeth Constable; Mr Paul Omodei; Mr Tony McRae; Mr Bob Kucera

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I am talking about the bloke who sits on the Premier's left - left in situation and left by nature. The Premier has a Minister for Police and Emergency Services who is an absolute failure in his job. He is despised by the police officers throughout the state because he does not have the guts to fight for what those police officers deserve. He is just a puppet of the Treasurer, who is responsible for the funding at the end of the day. The Premier could have intervened in the argument. If he had had the guts and the leadership skills, he could have stepped into that police dispute and made sure that our police officers received an appropriate pay rise. We know that at the moment we are 400 police officers down in the metropolitan area alone. I heard the Commissioner of Police say on the radio yesterday that the service is up to strength, but the police are down in numbers. He said that included in the authorised strength are all the officers who are on sick leave, long service leave or absent without leave. That should not be the authorised strength; the authorised strength should be the number of officers who are needed. Therefore, I take issue with the commissioner on that. Unfortunately, the Premier's minister will not because he does not have the guts to do it. Therefore, I must bring the score down to three. At the moment the Premier is sitting on three.

I will knock off another point because I do not like three; it is an odd number. Therefore, I will bring it down to two out of 10. I am bringing it down another number because of the overall, abysmal administration and decision making of the Premier since he has been in office. Therefore, I am blanketing the Premier an extra point. On the Premier's report card, I will say two out of 10.

Mr A.J. Carpenter: That's quite generous.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I am a generous man. The Premier could do so much better if only he had the bottle.

Mr A.J. Carpenter: The bottle?

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: The bottle. By that I mean if only the Premier had the guts to act as a leader and make decisions - morally and legally right decisions - and not simply pander to the factions that control his position. I could go on and make it a minus point scorecard, but because it is Christmas I do not want to do that. I want to give the Premier some points. If I really started on the Minister for the Environment, the one who peeks from behind the curtains, I could knock off another point, but I will not do that. I could knock off a couple of points for the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, but I will not do that because it is Christmas and because I want the Premier to at least have a plus figure rather than a minus figure.

I think it is a great shame for Western Australians that the government, the Premier and his ministers do not abide by, firstly, the code of conduct that is in place; secondly, the code of morals that is in place; and, thirdly, the integrity that, under the Westminster system, the public expects and demands.

MR B.J. GRYLLES (Merredin - Leader of the National Party) [3.35 pm]: The Nationals will also be supporting this motion. Most definitely a dark cloud hangs over this Parliament as a result of the events of the past few months. Somehow the spectre of WA Inc has returned to the corridors of power in Western Australia. That is very disappointing not just for the government but for all members of Parliament and the whole Western Australian community. Many people are now calling for the abolition of state jurisdictions because of the scandals that have engulfed the Carpenter Labor government. We must remember that this Premier has been in the top job for less than 12 months and has seemingly lurched from one scandal to the next. That has called into question the very existence of the state Parliament of Western Australia. I and my colleagues believe it is very important for the Carpenter government to re-instil faith in the Western Australian government and the state jurisdiction, otherwise calls for the abolition of our Parliament will continue to grow.

In relation to this motion, my particular concern is that ministers continue to muzzle government employees in the very important health, education, and law and order sectors. Those services are under enormous pressure in regional Western Australia. I want to give a couple of examples. Probably the most important one is that of the nurse in Tom Price who raised very real concerns about the delivery of health services in that community. That nurse was vilified for her action and it became a statewide issue. In my electorate, although we have had concerns about teacher numbers and service delivery to country schools, the teachers are reluctant and scared to voice their concerns about what is happening in those schools. That can only be traced to ministerial and government direction. As I understand it, there is nothing in the acts that govern those employees that would restrict them from talking to their local member of Parliament, but very often they are not prepared to make complaints about the system in my electorate because of their fears of the repercussions. In relation to law and order, my local police in Merredin will tell me off the record of the many changes and downgrades that are occurring to law services, but they do not feel able to put those complaints on the record. The health sector in my electorate is under enormous pressure and employees do not feel they have the right to come out and say what is happening and where things are going wrong. When things do go wrong and issues arise, it is very

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important that people have the opportunity to speak out and raise their concerns. It is very disappointing to me that those employees said that the minister would not look kindly on the fact that they made complaints.

At the same time, we have disgraced lobbyists who seem to have their own hotline to cabinet influence. We have already seen the loss of one minister in a very sorry tale. I was reading the Corruption and Crime Commission transcripts last night and some of the conversations that were recorded were very disturbing. It is worrying to think that someone who has reached the position of cabinet minister and has the taxpayers' chequebook in his back pocket could have such influence exerted on him. Again today we have further questions to ask of the Minister for Resources about his role in relation to those same lobbyists.

My message to the Premier on the second last day of this year's sittings of the house is that it has been a very disappointing year for the accountability of this Labor administration. The confidence of the people of Western Australia, not just in the Labor Party but in politics in general, has been diminished as a result of this chapter of events. I hope that over the break the Carpenter Labor government will begin to recognise that it is a government in crisis and will return to ensuring that in these strong economic times it delivers long-term benefits to the people of Western Australia, in particular regional Western Australia. The people of regional Western Australia are the ones who are doing the hard work that is delivering the economic boom that Western Australia is now experiencing. However, the people in the wheatbelt, the Pilbara, the Kimberley and the great southern are not benefiting from that economic boom. All they are seeing is the crumbling administration of the Carpenter Labor government. That situation must be rectified. That is why the Nationals support this motion.

MR M.W. TRENORDEN (Avon) [3.41 pm]: I wish the Premier a merry Christmas. I hope he has a good break, because he and I both know he needs one! I congratulated the Premier when he became Premier. He is the Premier of Western Australia, so he is also my Premier. However, I think the Premier would have to agree that, even on his measure, he certainly has not had a good year. We have heard today about a process that is simply not acceptable. I put it to the Premier that the minimum requirement of the Premier today is that he direct the Minister for Resources and Assisting the Minister for State Development to provide to this house the contact dates from his diary. That is the minimum requirement of the Premier. I am being as honest and straightforward as I can. The Premier knows where he stands in this process. It is very important. There has been a fair amount of commentary in the media - not just in *The West Australian*, which the Premier likes to denigrate - that the standing of members of this chamber is now below nine per cent. We always used to be able to get above second-hand car salesmen. Now we cannot even do that! Even members of the Premier's party would not like to get down to such a low level as that. I am putting to the Premier that the minimum requirement is that he direct the Minister for Resources to provide those dates to this chamber. If the Premier does not do that, he will suffer ramifications in the next few months that will not be pleasant. It would be better for the Premier to deal with this issue now than have to face the pressures that will emerge in a few months. The Premier has experienced the same set of circumstances with a range of ministers. I would have thought that after the events of the past six months, which must have been very painful for the Premier, he would have learnt the lesson that it is worth being proactive on certain occasions. This is one occasion on which the Premier would find it worth being proactive. That is the minimum requirement.

MR A.J. CARPENTER (Willagee - Premier) [3.43 pm]: I am grateful for the opportunity to respond to this motion. I find it almost inconceivable that the Leader of the Opposition would promote this motion given what has happened to him and his deputy in the past two weeks. The Leader of the Opposition has been exposed as totally lacking the capacity to take action against his deputy when it has been revealed for all the world to see that he has acted improperly.

Mr P.D. Omodei interjected.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: The Leader of the Opposition has taken no action whatsoever against his deputy, when it has been revealed for all the world to see that that member of Parliament sat in a car in the car park of Parliament House, where he thought he could not be observed or heard, and had a clandestine meeting with a person who was a central figure in a Corruption and Crime Commission inquiry -

Mr P.D. Omodei: He was not a central figure.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: Yes, he was. He was a central figure.

Mr P.D. Omodei: The central figures were Brian Burke and your former minister.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: He had that meeting in the full knowledge - that was the very purpose of the meeting - that the following day he would be required to give evidence to the CCC inquiry. It is inconceivable that the Leader of the Opposition would tolerate such behaviour. That man, the deputy leader of the Liberal Party, sat in the car park colluding with a person who was a central figure in the inquiry.

Mr P.D. Omodei: Why don't you say it outside? You know what will happen!

Speaker; Mr Rob Johnson; Mr Brendon Grylls; Mr Max Trenorden; Mr Alan Carpenter; Acting Speaker; Mr Colin Barnett; Dr Elizabeth Constable; Mr Paul Omodei; Mr Tony McRae; Mr Bob Kucera

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: I do not have to. It is in his own testimony to the CCC inquiry that they discussed what issues the CCC wanted to speak to the member for Vasse about. There was some performance from Noel Crichton-Browne about the answers he might give to the sort of questions that were likely to be asked. If that is not coaching or collusion, I do not know what is. Can members imagine the outcry that would have been heard in this Parliament or Western Australia if, instead of it being the member for Vasse, it had been one of the ministers in this government or even the former member for Peel in that car park behaving in that way? There would have been absolute outrage.

Mr P.D. Omodei: He was in the chamber with his mobile.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: I will get to that because I will contrast what the Leader of the Opposition has not done with what I did. He did nothing and he is sitting in this house now defending that behaviour. It is unbelievable that the Leader of the Opposition would have such low standards as a leader. Then what happened? These were not public hearings that all the world would know about; these were hearings behind closed doors. Nobody knew that the member for Vasse had been asked to give evidence or make a statement or answer questions about this issue, although it is an established fact that Noel Crichton-Browne knew. Noel Crichton-Browne who was and remains a central character in the investigation knew that the member for Vasse was going to that commission to answer questions behind closed doors. It was not a public inquiry at that stage. The member for Vasse did not tell anyone in his party room. Did he tell the Leader of the Opposition? This Leader of the Opposition was not the Leader of the Liberal Party at that stage.

Mr P.D. Omodei: He told me he was going there on 28 September.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: Did he tell the Leader of the Opposition in March? Do not be confused. I am referring not to the open public hearings in which people can sit and watch, but the hearings behind closed doors. Then, on his own evidence, after he had been to the CCC and been asked the questions, there was contact again between the member for Vasse and Noel Crichton-Browne and they discussed what had happened. There is a real question about whether that is in breach of the law.

Mr P.D. Omodei: Are you sure that is true?

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: It is on his own evidence. He spoke to him again the following day. If the Leader of the Opposition does not know that by now, it is a remarkable piece of ignorance. He is the leader of his party and the alternative Premier. He is sitting in this chamber day after day next to the member for Vasse, who is his deputy and by whose single vote the Leader of the Opposition took the position that he is in. The Leader of the Opposition won by one vote and the vote that was critical was the vote of the member for Vasse. Perhaps, although I doubt this, that is why he does not know what he has been up to. Perhaps that explains why, when the Leader of the Opposition was asked about his behaviour outside the Parliament, his answer was so transparently grossly improper. If the circumstances had been different and another person was in his position, that person would have at least seen that member ejected from his position, if not the Parliament. When he was asked about that publicly, the best he could come up with was: what Troy Buswell does is Troy Buswell's business. I might have said to the member for Peel, "What you do is your business." Maybe I should have. The member for Vasse is the Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party. Does the Leader of the Opposition think that what he did was proper or improper? He will not answer the question. No member opposite will answer that very simple question.

Mr T.R. Sprigg interjected.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: No, we are talking about comparative standards. I am comparing what I did with the member for Peel with what the Leader of the Opposition did with his deputy.

Mr P.D. Omodei interjected.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: If the Leader of the Opposition wants to talk about Brian Burke and Julian Grill, is it a fact that he has said that he would not stop any of his members speaking to them?

Mr P.D. Omodei: I do not know that any of my members would want to speak to Brian Burke. Why would any of them want to talk to Brian Burke?

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: Has the Leader of the Opposition said publicly that he would not have stopped -

Mr P.D. Omodei: What are you going to do if your members continue to speak to Brian Burke?

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mrs J. Hughes): Order! Allow the Premier to speak.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: I think the contrast is getting quite sharp.

Extract from Hansard

[ASSEMBLY - Thursday, 30 November 2006]

p9072c-9084a

Speaker; Mr Rob Johnson; Mr Brendon Grylls; Mr Max Trenorden; Mr Alan Carpenter; Acting Speaker; Mr Colin Barnett; Dr Elizabeth Constable; Mr Paul Omodei; Mr Tony McRae; Mr Bob Kucera

Mr P.D. Omodei: I think the problem is that Brian Burke is a problem for you. He is not a problem on this side.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: The Leader of the Opposition has said zero - and still does - concerning the member for Vasse, who everybody in this place knows should have been sacked. Every single person in this chamber, including the Leader of the Opposition, knows that he should have been sacked. It is a gross black mark against the Leader of the Opposition's name that he has not been sacked. Remarkably, he gets up and blathers on in an almost hysterical way day after day whilst praying to God that nobody interjects on him.

Mr P.D. Omodei: The only person praying to God is you!

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: As a political figure goes, he is a walking dead man. The Leader of the Opposition knows it. Everybody in this chamber knows that no-one in Western Australia would countenance the member for Vasse being the leader of a political party. Should they countenance the Leader of the Opposition if he is not prepared to act? That is a question that is very pertinent to this debate, which the Leader of the Opposition has foolishly brought on.

The member for Peel was thrown out of the cabinet. What is more, he was thrown out of the Parliament. To be quite honest, I pity him.

Mr P.D. Omodei: Why haven't you expelled him from the Labor Party? You expelled the member for Ballajura.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: I will get to the member for Ballajura in a minute. I put my position - not just my leadership - as a member of Parliament on the line.

Mr P.D. Omodei: What else were you going to do?

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: If I had not -

Mr P.D. Omodei: What else were you going to do?

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: What has the Leader of the Opposition done? I could have done what the Leader of the Opposition has done.

Mr P.D. Omodei: None of my members have been caught talking on a mobile phone tapped by the CCC.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: Let me ask this question: does the Leader of the Opposition believe that what the member for Vasse has done is quite proper - yes or no? Answer the question.

Mr P.D. Omodei: The CCC will come to that conclusion.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: The CCC has not come to a conclusion on Norm Marlborough. The CCC has not come to a conclusion on the member for Ballajura. It has not come to a conclusion on the former member for Peel. Guess what? I came to a conclusion. I said to the member for Ballajura that on the evidence of my own eyes and ears he had to go. He has gone. I do not need to wait for the CCC on this. The member for Peel is an ex-member; he is a "no longer" member. The Leader of the Opposition is sitting there and he has done nothing; absolutely nothing. Everybody sitting around him knows - they nod; they know; they talk between themselves - that it is a critical weakness of the Leader of the Opposition's shadow government. Can the Leader of the Opposition run an election campaign with that man as his deputy? Of course he cannot. They are talking about people holding up pictures of me with Norm Marlborough. All that will remind people of is the fact that I got rid of him. I sacked him, and I forced Brian Burke out of the Labor Party.

Mr P.D. Omodei: Oh yes? We'll see about that.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: Yes, we will.

Dr E. Constable: You embraced him 12 months ago.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: Embraced whom?

Dr E. Constable: Brian Burke.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: I have never embraced Brian Burke; I could not get my arms around him. I treated people like adults. People in this Parliament should be trustworthy. I gave Norm Marlborough the chance of a lifetime, and he let himself, me, the Labor Party, his family and the community down. The member for Vasse has done the same, but the opposition is so steeped in hypocrisy that it cannot see that.

Mr D.F. Barron-Sullivan: Have you ever had a beer with Mr Burke at the Coolbellup pub?

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: No, nor at any other pub at any other place or at any other time. If the member wants to enlighten me about the background to that question, he may do so some other time.

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I got rid of Norm Marlborough, ending a 20-year political career just like that - "You're gone, get out, don't come back." I forced the member for Ballajura out of the Labor Party. I also said that if former Premier Brian Burke did not leave the Labor Party, I would go. I could have gone and lived another life; I did not care. If he stayed, there would have been no room for me. So I stayed and he went.

Mr P.D. Omodei: You brought him into the cabinet by appointing Norm Marlborough, and you know it.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: Let us talk about the Leader of the Opposition. He has talked about the next election campaign and what advertisements might be running. Well, let us talk about the next election campaign and what ads might be running. I can visualise ads showing the Leader of the Opposition, now that he has got into his present position. I have found that being in this position is very different from being over the other side or anywhere else. Here, I am under a very bright light. I said to the member for Kalgoorlie once that when someone moves into that position, it is tough and the light is bright. The light is now shining on the Leader of the Opposition, and it will not stop shining. The problem for the Leader of the Opposition is that he has a history, and the light will shine on every single crack along his historic path in politics. Already it has shown that he is unelectable. No political party can go into an election with a leader who has done what the Leader of the Opposition has done. He will be dismantled, every single day.

Mr P.D. Omodei: The only difference is that you will have to do it outside the Parliament, and that is when I take your house and the Treasurer's house.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: With the state my house is in, the Leader of the Opposition might be welcome to it! We do not have to use our words; we will use the words of the former Premier about the present Leader of the Opposition. He carpeted the present Leader of the Opposition for awarding a contract to Scott Four Colour Print without going to tender. If he did that now, he would probably end up in jail.

Mr P.D. Omodei: Rubbish!

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: I am sorry, but he would. It was so blatantly wrong. What was the contract worth? He awarded a contract worth thousands of dollars - let us say it was \$20 000 - to a company part owned by the husband of a parliamentary colleague, without going to tender. The Leader of the Opposition cannot survive in an election campaign with that hanging over him. He will be destroyed, and members opposite will know that. They will have to decide who is next in the chair, because this leader cannot last; he cannot get there. Can the member for Kalgoorlie come back? The Leader of the Opposition is finished. *The West Australian*, in general terms, has chosen to ignore all this, but that is okay, it cannot ignore the story forever, because it is on the leader's record. What did we hear today about the water licence? He was the Minister for Water Resources or the Minister for Local Government in the previous government -

Mr P.D. Omodei: Why don't you say this outside the house? You will find that you are wrong again.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: I do not have to say it outside the house; it is on the public record. He had a part ownership of a company called the Koorian Land Co Ltd.

Mr P.D. Omodei: When was this?

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: It was 1999. It does not matter how long ago it was. When election campaigns are run, the light shines all the way back to the time the Leader of the Opposition was conceived. That is the reality. People will not care that it happened in 1999. The Leader of the Opposition looks the same; he still looks youthful and handsome. There will be no mistaking who he is.

Mr P.D. Omodei interjected.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: I take no pleasure in this.

Mr P.D. Omodei: I think you should say this outside Parliament.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: The Liberal Party moved the motion. I can see the newsreaders now, with one eyebrow up and one eyebrow down.

In March 1999 the Leader of the Opposition was accused of a significant conflict of interest over his private business interests. Amazing changes have been made to the declaration requirements of cabinet ministers since we came to government. These guys opposite were unbelievable. They were selling assets to companies that they had shares in. If the Corruption and Crime Commission had been in existence when they were in government, there would have been a trail of dead political bodies all the way down St Georges Terrace. In March 1999 Moltoni Agricultural Pty Ltd applied for a water licence for the Koorian estate, which was not in the Leader of the Opposition's electorate, but in Gingin. The water licence was issued in 1999. At that time the Leader of the Opposition was a director of the company.

Mr P.D. Omodei interjected.

Speaker; Mr Rob Johnson; Mr Brendon Grylls; Mr Max Trenorden; Mr Alan Carpenter; Acting Speaker; Mr Colin Barnett; Dr Elizabeth Constable; Mr Paul Omodei; Mr Tony McRae; Mr Bob Kucera

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: This is in Gingin. Was the Leader of the Opposition a director of that company?

Mr P.D. Omodei: It got a licence before I became a director.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: Moltoni Agricultural Pty Ltd applied for a water licence for the Koorian Land Co Ltd around the time that the Rights in Water and Irrigation Amendment Bill was introduced in Parliament on 30 June. Did the Leader of the Opposition declare an interest? That legislation made water licences a valuable asset, and the water licence in question was at that time estimated to be worth \$900 000 a year.

Several members interjected.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: He stepped up from \$20 000. Can members imagine what would happen if I issued a contract to a friend or a parliamentary colleague who owned a printing business? What has happened to the former Deputy Premier of Tasmania?

Several members interjected.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: Members should look it up.

Mr J.H.D. Day: That is a completely different set of circumstances.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: All situations are different, but it is not completely different and the member opposite knows it. Is that the sort of standard that we are being measured against? Where has he gone? Where has the little left-handed full-toss slow bowler gone with his 10, nine, eight, seven? I am starting from the other end. The Leader of the Opposition is in subterranean political territory. I could rattle off examples. I have spent time in the press gallery and I have spent time in this place. I have been around for 20 years. I know all the history. I started coming to this place in 1986. I remember the night that I interviewed Kevin Prince on *The 7.30 Report* after he had bolted out of the Liberal Party room with a significant piece of information about changes to the workers' compensation laws, which provided to his legal practice in Albany a massive financial benefit that no other legal practice in Western Australia had the benefit of. Guess what happened to him? He was promoted to cabinet! He should have been on his way to a corruption commission hearing to explain what he had done, but one did not exist at the time.

Mr J.H.D. Day: Didn't he pass it on after it was announced in Parliament?

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: Mysteriously, the record shows that all the requisite forms had been filled in and people were waiting for the phone call, which came about two minutes before the cut-off time. It was one of the worst acts of impropriety that members could imagine, yet Kevin Prince was promoted.

Shall I run through all the share deals that members opposite were involved in? Under the previous government, a minister transferred Wesfarmers shares from his name into his wife's name to avoid scrutiny. There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that if the Corruption and Crime Commission had existed while members opposite were in government -

Mr P.D. Omodei: In the 1980s half the Labor Party would have been in jail.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: The royal commission sorted them out.

Mr P.D. Omodei: There weren't any phone taps.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: That is true. The royal commission sorted them out. I was at the royal commission as well. I have been in here and watched. I have seen them come and go and I know what I am talking about. The Leader of the Opposition is absolutely not well placed to be making comparisons about parliamentary standards with any person in this house. He is not well placed, and he will not survive. He has zero chance of survival because it is all there. Nobody took any notice in the 1990s because after WA Inc, nothing seemed all that important; it was all a bit trivial. However, in looking back and isolating each incident, it has to be asked how the Leader of the Opposition got away with any of it. He is so obviously wrong. In some cases, some of the members involved in the issues I am talking about would have been in prison if the Corruption and Crime Commission had existed then. Sad though it is for the member for Ballajura, I forced him out of the Labor Party. It was a very, very tense time.

Mr P.D. Omodei: Why haven't you forced Norm Marlborough out?

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: Norm Marlborough is no longer here. He is gone.

Mr P.D. Omodei: Out of the Labor Party.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: I did not tell him to get out of the Labor Party; I told him to get out of Parliament and to not come back.

Mr P.D. Omodei interjected.

Speaker; Mr Rob Johnson; Mr Brendon Grylls; Mr Max Trenorden; Mr Alan Carpenter; Acting Speaker; Mr Colin Barnett; Dr Elizabeth Constable; Mr Paul Omodei; Mr Tony McRae; Mr Bob Kucera

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr A.P. O’Gorman): Order, Leader of the Opposition.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: Brian Burke, whom I would describe as the person who was pulling Norm’s strings, is out of the Labor Party.

Ms S.E. Walker: That doesn’t make any difference whatsoever.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: Is the member saying that I should not have done it?

Ms S.E. Walker interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order, member for Nedlands.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: Is that the problem? I should not have done it?

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: It is not appropriate for members to be shouting across the chamber in large numbers. I ask that members hold their interjections, remain quiet and let the Premier finish his comments.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: If anybody in government is found to have acted corruptly, improperly -

Ms S.E. Walker: It took you ages with the member for Ballajura.

The ACTING SPEAKER: I call the member for Nedlands to order.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: There has not been a finding against the member for Ballajura.

Several members interjected.

Point of Order

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Mr Acting Speaker, my point of order is somewhat unusual; it relates to the position of Acting Speaker. If I may, I suggest that you remove your badge while you are in the chair.

The ACTING SPEAKER: The badge is removed.

Debate Resumed

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: Mr Acting Speaker, I would not worry about that too much, if that is the best response the opposition has to this debate. If people are found to have acted improperly or corruptly, they will suffer the consequences. However, the Leader of the Opposition has a choice every day. He has some honest people on his side. He has some people of good judgement on his side. They all know how hollow it all sounds. It is embarrassing to them. The Leader of the Opposition knows that. He has said that he hates them all; the only problem is that they all hate him! That is his situation. He knows that what they are saying is utterly indefensible. The Leader of the Opposition knows that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition should be gone. The member for Cottesloe knows he should be gone. The member for Hillarys knows he should be gone. Every day that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition remains, it is the Leader of the Opposition’s problem. He has already seen and heard it.

It is getting close to Christmas. The Assembly will be sitting for one more day, so we will save our jollity and frivolity until that time. In the meantime - the member for Avon has disappeared - yes; it has been a difficult time, but I have shown that if something needs to be done, I will do it. If something needs to be done tomorrow or the next day, I will do it. I will do it because I would rather go away and pursue some other interest than not do the right thing. The Leader of the Opposition has had the chance; he has not done a thing.

DR E. CONSTABLE (Churchlands) [4.09 pm]: This motion in part reads -

This house notes the failings of ministers to abide by high standards of conduct . . .

I will talk about an aspect of ministerial behaviour and responsibility that relates to question time. I refer to the Commission on Government reports, which I consider to be a bit of a bible. I will read a couple of sentences from page 228 of “Commission on Government Report No. 2 - Part 2”, in which the commission stated -

We are concerned at the capacity of ministers to avoid answering questions. We are aware that any minister who persistently refuses to answer questions on a controversial topic is likely to come under the glare of publicity. Such a haphazard check on a primary accountability measure is inadequate. We believe ministers should be obliged to answer properly formulated questions.

The past two weeks have probably been the worst two weeks in question time that I can recall in my fifteen and a half years as a member of this place.

Mr A.J. Carpenter: You have a very bad memory then.

Speaker; Mr Rob Johnson; Mr Brendon Grylls; Mr Max Trenorden; Mr Alan Carpenter; Acting Speaker; Mr
Colin Barnett; Dr Elizabeth Constable; Mr Paul Omodei; Mr Tony McRae; Mr Bob Kucera

Dr E. CONSTABLE: If we went back through *Hansard* and counted the number of questions asked of ministers and the number of questions that ministers asked back of those who asked the questions, we would find that ministers' questions are probably outnumbered by about a five to one ratio. Question time, therefore, has become ministers asking members of the opposition questions. I have to say that I interjected on the minister a couple of times and said, "This is boring" because I was not getting an answer to my question. Today we dealt with a motion for suspension of standing orders to force a minister to answer a question, which he sort of answered but did not really answer.

Mr J.C. Kobelke: He fully answered it. Be an Independent for a change!

Mr R.F. Johnson: No, he didn't.

Mr J.C. Kobelke: He fully answered the question put to him.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: No, he did not.

Mr J.C. Kobelke: You go and look at *Hansard*.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: I do not think he did.

Mr J.C. Kobelke: You look at *Hansard* and you will find he did.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order, members!

Dr E. CONSTABLE: It is a matter of opinion. I do not think he did.

Mr A.J. Carpenter: That is only because you did not like the answer.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: It was nothing to do with liking the answer. I was listening for it and I believe he did not answer it.

Mr J.C. Kobelke: I will give you a challenge, member: you look at what he said in the statement following the suspension of standing orders, and you will find he fully answered it.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: I have only three more minutes, so the Leader of the House should leave it.

I asked the Minister for Health a very straightforward question today, of which I had given him 24 hours' notice. I believe he tried his very best to get an answer to that question. However, what is really interesting about it is that he tabled pages 5 to 11 of a document about one hospital in answer to my question about five hospitals. Pages 1 to 4 relating to the other four hospitals were not tabled. The minister said that he would table the information he had on Royal Perth Hospital, which is what he tabled. He gave no answer to the part of my question that related to Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. What can I do but suspect that he did not want to give me that information? It was a perfectly straightforward question, and a large chunk of the answer was left out. All I have of the document are pages 5 to 11. Why did I not get the whole document? The minister tells me that the rest of it was just his notes. This is a very formally typed document that was provided to the minister from the department as the answer. That is a pretty pathetic way of dealing with a very straightforward question that sought basic information about what hospitals are doing over the holiday season.

Mr R.C. Kucera: He tabled the whole of the information for you.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: He tabled one-fifth of the information.

Mr A.J. Carpenter: What is the problem; the numbering?

Dr E. CONSTABLE: No. The problem is I did not get an answer to the question I asked and it was a straightforward question.

Mr A.J. Carpenter: The only problem you've identified is that the numbering is not to your liking.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: No; the Premier is not listening.

Dr K.D. Hames: He's left four pages out.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: He has left four pages out.

Mr A.J. Carpenter: How do you know?

Dr E. CONSTABLE: I know because this document says pages 5 to 11, and that was all that was tabled.

Mr A.J. Carpenter: If pages 5 to 11 had been pages 1 to 6, would you be happy?

Dr E. CONSTABLE: No, because he did not answer the question.

Mr A.J. Carpenter: It is just the numbering you don't like.

Speaker; Mr Rob Johnson; Mr Brendon Grylls; Mr Max Trenorden; Mr Alan Carpenter; Acting Speaker; Mr Colin Barnett; Dr Elizabeth Constable; Mr Paul Omodei; Mr Tony McRae; Mr Bob Kucera

Dr E. CONSTABLE: No! Listen! If the Premier listened, he might learn something. I asked the minister about five hospitals. I got seven pages on one hospital. I do not have the information on the other four hospitals.

Mr A.J. Carpenter: Okay, I have listened.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: Good! The Premier heard?

Mr A.J. Carpenter: Yes.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: He understood?

Mr A.J. Carpenter: Yes.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: That is a revelation too!

When members read this document they will see that the minister avoided providing an answer to a very straightforward question that asked for facts. That is the sort of thing members have to put up with generally, and the sort of thing the public has to put up with. We do not get information about very basic matters and we certainly do not get questions answered about the most important issues before the state.

MR P.D. OMODEI (Warren-Blackwood - Leader of the Opposition) [4.14 pm]: I would not have thought that the Labor Party would have done any less than what it has tried to do today. It has tried to besmirch my name. All the issues it raised today are on the public record. I challenge the Premier and the Deputy Premier to repeat their accusations outside the house.

Mr A.J. Carpenter: They are on the public record.

Mr P.D. OMODEI: We will see what will result with that. I stand by my record. I am not perfect and I have made mistakes. However, I am not the Premier of Western Australia; I am the Leader of the Opposition. When the Premier came into the job, he came with great promise and fanfare. The public relations machine of the Labor Party talked about all the wonderful things that would happen. The Premier has made fundamental mistakes. His judgment is under scrutiny. By bringing Norm Marlborough into the cabinet, the Premier brought Brian Burke into the cabinet. To pretend that the Premier did not know about the influence of Brian Burke and Julian Grill in the Labor Party is to defy truth and logic. The track record of the Labor Party since the member for Willagee has been the Premier is the most abysmal record of any Premier that I have seen in the 18 years that I have been a member.

Government members interjected.

Mr P.D. OMODEI: Government members can squawk all they like. The truth is that one minister had gone before the member for Willagee became Premier and another two have gone since. The members for Ballajura and Peel have been sacked and one was expelled from the Labor Party. The question must be asked: what else could a Premier do, given the revelations that the member for Peel -

Government members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr A.P. O’Gorman): Order members! The Leader of the Opposition has the call. Opposition members listened mostly in silence to the government members. I ask government members to show the same courtesy.

Mr P.D. OMODEI: Given that the member for Peel was heard on Brian Burke’s tapped phone talking to Brian Burke in this Parliament, what alternative did the Premier have other than to sack the minister? The Premier can spruik as much as he likes and say that he took decisive action. What else would he have done? The Premier described the member for Ballajura, who was the then Minister for Police and Emergency Services, as the Labor Party’s rising star. The Premier described Hon Sheila McHale as a person of great integrity. Since the member for Willagee became Premier, two ministers have been sacked and another two are about to go. A number of inquiries are being conducted into the Labor Party, its ministers and departments. The reports of the Corruption and Crime Commission include: “Sexual Contact with Children by Persons in Authority in the Department of Education and Training of Western Australia”; “A Report on the First Two Years of the Western Australia Police Reform Program”; “Report in the Matter of an Allegation of Public Sector Misconduct Concerning Mr D’Orazio MLA”; “Report on Misconduct Handling Procedures in the Western Australian Public Sector: Department of Local Government and Regional Development”; “Report in the Matter of an Allegation Concerning the Honourable John D’Orazio MLA”; “Western Australia Police Property Management Practices”; “Organised Crime Report to the Joint Standing Committee”; “Protecting Personal Data in the Public Sector”; “Transcripts of Lewandowski Private Hearings at Police Royal Commission”; “Report on Investigation into CALM Officer Involvement in Oil Mallee Industry”; “Report on Investigation into Department of Treasury Leaks”; “Report on Allegations Surrounding Riverton Election” -

Speaker; Mr Rob Johnson; Mr Brendon Grylls; Mr Max Trenorden; Mr Alan Carpenter; Acting Speaker; Mr Colin Barnett; Dr Elizabeth Constable; Mr Paul Omodei; Mr Tony McRae; Mr Bob Kucera

Point of Order

Mr A.D. McRAE: The fine details of what is being asserted in this debate are important for the public record. For the Leader of the Opposition to assert that these are current investigations being conducted by the Corruption and Crime Commission is wrong and is misleading the house. He is putting on the record something that is false.

Ms S.E. Walker: There was no fine detail from the Premier.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr A.P. O’Gorman): Would the member for Nedlands like to continue to have a conversation or does she want to hear what I will say about the point of order? There is no point of order.

Debate Resumed

Mr P.D. OMODEI: Another publication listed on the CCC web site is the “Report on Western Power Corporation Payment to ASU”. Currently the CCC is inquiring into the Balga Works program, which the Premier has admitted, and the Canal Rocks development. Today we understand that an announcement has been made that an inquiry will start in February 2007 into Brian Burke inter alia. The CCC will inquire into the training contracts inquiry, the Commissioner for Public Sector Standards’ report and Norm Marlborough and so on.

For the Premier to come into this chamber and say that what has happened in the past is a problem for us beggars belief. The problem for the Premier is that he is the Premier of the government of Western Australia and all these inquiries are into his government, the accountability of his ministers and the way they have handled themselves during his time in government. What has happened? The Labor Party has been trawling through the poor old member for Warren-Blackwood’s career, trawling through all those terrible things. I will stack my record up against any member of the Labor Party. The Labor Party can go back as far as it likes; it will not find the member for Warren-Blackwood involved in any corrupt activity. Is that what the community liaison unit does? It is headed by the president of the Labor Party, Sharryn Jackson, and has a membership of 10 other people. It is a Labor Party propaganda unit - yet another blight on the Labor Party’s reputation in Western Australia.

We have to ask: who is running the state? What is the government doing about people in Western Australia who are trying to buy a house today? Who is solving that crisis? Hospital bed numbers have increased by 77 in the past six years, despite the population growing by almost a quarter. That is a three per cent increase in bed numbers compared with a 25 per cent increase in the population. Who is solving that crisis? Police strength is down by 20 per cent at the moment. We still have the outcomes-based education debacle. We see minister after minister popping up every week. It is like a smorgasbord on this side; it is just a question of who we will question next. We are allowed to ask five questions at question time.

We can play the same silly games. We can talk about the Deputy Premier’s relationship with the Minister for Education and Training and whether he has a conflict of interest. We can talk about the Premier’s history and the questions asked about his family in this Parliament when he first became a member. The Premier has protested a little too much because the record shows that his sister would have been the member for Albany if she had handled herself properly. I do not plan to delve into that too far but I will if the Premier wants me to. The Premier has tried very hard. He has attacked me over my personal affairs, along with his right-hand man and members in the other house. If he wants to adopt that approach, two can play that game. The fact remains that, as the Independent member for Churchlands has said, the standards of government in Western Australia have dropped considerably. In the past two weeks in this Parliament a series of questions have been directed at ministers and those -

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr A.P. O’Gorman): Members! The Leader of the Opposition has quite a loud voice but I am struggling to hear him. I ask that members hold their interjections.

Mr P.D. OMODEI: We have asked a series of questions of ministers, and those ministers have failed to respond. In most cases on most days we do not get a decent or accurate answer to any question. Yesterday, two questions were not even answered at all when ministers brazenly stood. What does the Labor Party have to hide? Since the Premier took office, his judgment has been in question. He said that the career of a member on my side was under threat. I say to the Premier that if one more mistake is made, the guy on his left will have his job.

MR R.C. KUCERA (Yokine) [4.25 pm]: It is interesting to listen to the other side talk about standards. I first stood for Parliament in 2001 after I had been approached by Dr Geoff Gallop. I indicated that I would. Two or three days later I met with the then Premier of this state and another member of this house who asked me the

Extract from Hansard

[ASSEMBLY - Thursday, 30 November 2006]

p9072c-9084a

Speaker; Mr Rob Johnson; Mr Brendon Grylls; Mr Max Trenorden; Mr Alan Carpenter; Acting Speaker; Mr Colin Barnett; Dr Elizabeth Constable; Mr Paul Omodei; Mr Tony McRae; Mr Bob Kucera

same question. I made it quite clear at that time that the manifesto of the Labor Party and the standards that were applied, particularly by Geoff Gallop, were the kinds of things that appealed to me. I very quietly declined the other side's offer. Nowadays I am so glad that I did. Last year when I proffered my resignation to the then Premier, I went home and read the statement that I made to this house on share dealing, an issue that was raised by the then Leader of the Opposition, the member for Kalgoorlie. When I arrived home my daughter was also there. She said, "Dad, I do not think I have ever been as proud of you as I was today." My daughter is a fairly politically astute young woman. She said, "You know why I am proud of you? Not just because you got up and did what you did as a person; but because you upheld the Westminster system; I have always been proud of you, as a daughter and as a person, for doing that." Members can make what they like of the fact that I resigned last year, and they can make what they like of the fact that the member for Ballajura resigned. I resigned on a matter of principle. If anybody wants to read my principles, they can read the statement I made at the time. The member for Murdoch just made some throwaway comments. My integrity has never been in question, other than the slurs that have been made in this house.

Several members interjected.

Mr R.F. Johnson: Go and talk to the Mickelbergs and see what they have to say. What did Lewandowski have to say?

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr T. O'Gorman): I call the member for Hillarys to order.

Mr R.C. KUCERA: I raised an issue with the Speaker the other day and it was respected. Obviously, the member for Hillarys either was not in the house or he ignores the order that was made by the Speaker.

When I tendered my resignation last year, I did so because I believed that I had put my leader in jeopardy due to a potential conflict of interest. I was not ordered to resign. Had I applied the standards that are applied by the other side of the house, I would still be a minister. I probably would have been the leader by now. It is about time the other side had a good look at itself. The one thing in this house that is bigger than all the individuals is the Westminster system, something that I believe in absolutely.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order, members! Again, the speaker on his feet has a fairly powerful voice, yet I am struggling to hear what he is saying. I ask that members allow him to continue his speech in silence.

Mr R.C. KUCERA: Last Friday week I rang the Premier when the article was in the newspaper, and he said that if Burke did not go from the party he would offer his resignation. I said I would stand right alongside him shoulder to shoulder. I was absolutely happy to do the same thing, because in the past six years I have been proud to stand in front of, and work alongside, two leaders who, like me, think that this Parliament is bigger and more important than all of us individually.

Several members interjected.

Mr R.C. KUCERA: He has never answered the question yet. We have had our arguments in this house with the previous leader, the member for Cottesloe. I know that the deputy leader would not be deputy if the member for Cottesloe was the current Leader of the Opposition. With all the arguments that I have had with him, and with the remarks he has made, he would not condone that. The member for Vasse would certainly still be the deputy if the member for Kalgoorlie had won the leadership. He applies the same standard as the man sitting opposite. It is about time the member for Warren-Blackwood had some guts and, for once in his life, respected the Westminster system, rather than put his own interests first. If he did that, we would have better government in this state.

Question put and a division taken with the following result -

Extract from *Hansard*
[ASSEMBLY - Thursday, 30 November 2006]
p9072c-9084a

Speaker; Mr Rob Johnson; Mr Brendon Grylls; Mr Max Trenorden; Mr Alan Carpenter; Acting Speaker; Mr
Colin Barnett; Dr Elizabeth Constable; Mr Paul Omodei; Mr Tony McRae; Mr Bob Kucera

Ayes (18)

Mr C.J. Barnett
Mr D.F. Barron-Sullivan
Mr M.J. Birney
Dr E. Constable
Mr J.H.D. Day

Mr B.J. Grylls
Dr K.D. Hames
Ms K. Hodson-Thomas
Dr G.G. Jacobs
Mr R.F. Johnson

Mr J.E. McGrath
Mr P.D. Omodei
Mr D.T. Redman
Mr A.J. Simpson
Dr S.C. Thomas

Mr M.W. Trenorden
Ms S.E. Walker
Mr T.R. Sprigg (*Teller*)

Noes (25)

Mr J.J.M. Bowler
Mr A.J. Carpenter
Mr J.B. D'Orazio
Dr J.M. Edwards
Mrs J. Hughes
Mr J.N. Hyde
Mr J.C. Kobelke

Mr R.C. Kucera
Mr F.M. Logan
Ms A.J.G. MacTiernan
Mr J.A. McGinty
Mr M. McGowan
Ms S.M. McHale
Mr A.D. McRae

Mr M.P. Murray
Mr J.R. Quigley
Ms M.M. Quirk
Ms J.A. Radisich
Mr E.S. Ripper
Mrs M.H. Roberts
Mr T.G. Stephens

Mr P.B. Watson
Mr M.P. Whitely
Mr B.S. Wyatt
Mr S.R. Hill (*Teller*)

Pairs

Mr M.J. Cowper
Mr T.K. Waldron
Mr T.R. Buswell
Mr G. Snook

Mr P.W. Andrews
Mr D.A. Templeman
Mrs D.J. Guise
Mrs C.A. Martin

Independent Pair

Dr J.M. Woollard

Question thus negatived.