

**REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGE ON A MATTER ARISING IN THE  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS**

*As to Motion*

**HON KIM CHANCE (Agricultural - Leader of the House)** [4.42 pm]: I move without notice -

That it be an order of the house that during consideration -

*Point of Order*

**Hon NORMAN MOORE:** My understanding is that there is a matter before the Chair; that is, the consideration of a motion moved by Hon Murray Criddle to deal with the Select Committee of Privilege on a matter arising in the Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations. I do not think we can interrupt that to do the business that the Leader of the House seems to be contemplating.

**The PRESIDENT:** My understanding is that the chamber was in the Committee of the Whole and then it went into question time, so we are still in the Committee of the Whole. For the Leader of the House to move a motion - I do not know what he is about to move - we need to go out of Committee of the Whole and back into the house. We now return at this stage to the Committee of the Whole.

*Committee*

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting. The Chairman of Committees (Hon George Cash) in the chair.

*Motion*

Committee was interrupted after the motion had been partly considered.

**Hon NORMAN MOORE:** I was just getting into my comments on this particular matter when we were interrupted by afternoon tea and question time. I did hope that during the time when the break from this particular debate occurred and now, the Leader of the House might have seen the sense of my proposition.

**Hon Kim Chance:** I do not know what your proposition is yet.

**Hon NORMAN MOORE:** The proposition was that we desist from the temptation to move a stack of amendments to the motion moved by Hon Murray Criddle, as the Leader of the House has sought to do, and simply get on with dealing with the recommendations of the committee. The Leader of the House indicated before the afternoon tea suspension that he intended to move a further amendment to the motion moved by Hon Murray Criddle, to do all the things that he sought to do by way of his previous amendment. Presumably, that is still his position.

**Hon Kim Chance:** It would allow us to deal with the recommendations of the committee en bloc rather than one by one, or in logical blocks.

**Hon NORMAN MOORE:** It does that in part, but it also deals with a number of other matters that have nothing at all to do with the recommendations of the committee, including: expelling both the members; directing the Attorney General to look at some of the observations of the committee, as opposed to the recommendations of the committee; and having evidence provided to this committee made available to not only the Director of Public Prosecutions, but also any other agency it deems necessary, which I find quite an extraordinary proposition.

**Hon Kim Chance:** You do not think that the Australian Securities and Investments Commission should look at this?

**Hon NORMAN MOORE:** That is for ASIC to make decisions about.

**Hon Kim Chance:** How is it going to look at it if we do not provide it with the evidence?

**Hon NORMAN MOORE:** With respect to the Leader of the House, he seems to have a misunderstanding of the notion of evidence being taken in private by committees and the fact that that is generally where it remains. It would be quite an unusual state of affairs for any evidence given to a committee of this place to be given to anybody.

**Hon Kim Chance:** It depends how seriously you take the issues that are raised in that report. I happen to think they are serious and that ASIC should look at them.

**Hon NORMAN MOORE:** ASIC can look at the report and carry out its own investigation if it so desires; indeed, I think the Corruption and Crime Commission can do the same thing. It also has evidence that has been provided to it. I draw the attention of the Leader of the House to article 9 of the Bill of Rights. The Leader of the House might spend a bit of time at the weekend contemplating that when he says that we should be giving

evidence to other organisations. He should get some legal advice about it and then we will debate it if it comes on next time.

I simply repeat that the proposition I am putting to the chamber, had the Leader of the House agreed, could have resulted in most of the recommendations of this committee being dealt with this afternoon, but that is not going to happen because what the leader now wants to do as soon as he gets the call is to move, first of all, an amendment to expel two members. We have had vast argument about that, and I suspect we will have vastly more argument about it if it comes back on again. The same applies to all the other issues that are contained within the proposed amendment of the Leader of the House, assuming, as I am, and I may be wrong, that it is in the same terms as the previous amendment.

**Hon Kim Chance:** It is.

**Hon NORMAN MOORE:** I guess it would be tacked on to the end of the motion.

I want to do a couple of things this afternoon before we finish this debate. I want to set a couple of things straight that have been said during this debate so far. The Minister for Local Government made some comments about the so-called conspiracy that is referred to in the report. Although I will not spend any time commenting on her inference of my being somehow or other involved in all this and I will treat it with the total contempt it deserves, one thing I do need to make clear to her, as I have already in this chamber, is to draw her attention to page viii of the committee report, which is part of the executive summary and recommendations. I will read it to the minister, so that when she starts making allegations about people in this place, she gets her facts straight.

**Hon Kim Chance:** You might speak to some of your own members about that, such as Hon Helen Morton, who accused us of being criminal.

**Hon NORMAN MOORE:** I am quite happy to talk to her about that. The Leader of the House did not miss her on the way past.

**Hon Kim Chance:** I still have not heard her retraction, sadly.

**Hon NORMAN MOORE:** I am not asking for a retraction from the Minister for Local Government because I would not get one, and I would not expect to get one. I will just tell her what I think of what she said, and that will be the end of it as far as I am concerned. I am not here to have long, ongoing arguments about it. She said that this conspiracy was being carried out by Mr Grill, Mr Burke and Mr Crichton-Browne. It is easy to say certain things because it mixes up a bit of Liberal-Labor stuff, or former Labor as we would have to call Mr Grill, because he has been expelled, has he not? Mr Burke has resigned - I am not sure who did what. However, it is still Liberal-Labor in the context of the broader political spectrum. Page viii reads -

The Committee observes that the strategy was devised and implemented principally by Mr Brian Burke and Mr Julian Grill on the authority of Mr Nathan McMahon, Managing Director, Cazaly Resources Limited and Mr Clive Jones, Joint Managing Director, Cazaly Resources Limited.

That basically says that the fundamental strategy was devised by Mr Burke and Mr Grill with Mr McMahon and Mr Jones. It reads -

The Committee notes that a number of people were involved at varying degrees in the implementation of the strategy and, based on the evidence before the Committee, without knowledge of the full details of the strategy and its true purpose, including Mr Noel Crichton-Browne, Lobbyist for Cazaly Resources Limited; Dr Walawski, Chief Executive, the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies Inc.; Mr Ian Loftus, Policy and Public Affairs Manager, the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies Inc.; and Mr Malcolm McCusker QC, Barrister.

The report also states -

The Committee observes that Hon Shelley Archer MLC and Hon Anthony Fels MLC were not informed as to the full details of the strategy and its true purpose.

That means, to me, and, I hope to the Minister for Local Government, that the people who invented this particular scheme were indeed Mr Grill and Mr Burke. They then engaged other persons to assist in carrying out the strategy. Those other persons knew bits and pieces of the strategy, but the committee itself stated that they were not involved in the initial determination of the strategy and did not have full knowledge of it.

**Hon Ljiljana Ravlich:** I thought I made that point quite clearly in respect of -

**HON NORMAN MOORE:** The minister actually did not, because every time she mentioned who had been involved in determining this strategy, she mentioned Mr Crichton-Browne. I will defend him on this occasion because the minister sought to say something that the committee did not say. For some strange reason, Mr Crichton-Browne seems to evoke all sorts of strange comments by people in various places. Indeed, for some reason the Minister for Education and Training seems to have a fixation about Mr Crichton-Browne and

me, and spends a lot of time in the other place making comments about this relationship I am supposed to have and how I am going through this process in this chamber on this report as a mechanism to try to somehow or other protect him. I will just say this; Mr Crichton-Browne is absolutely and totally capable of protecting himself. He does not need me, and indeed is not getting me to protect him at all. I am not protecting him, but for some strange reason the Minister for Education and Training has this strange fixation. It may have something to do with the Minister for Education and Training's own relationship with Mr Crichton-Browne. Perhaps that is what the fixation is about!

**Hon Ljiljana Ravlich:** What's my relationship with Mr Crichton-Browne?

**Hon NORMAN MOORE:** Maybe the Minister for Education and Training has a relationship with Mr Crichton-Browne he does not want anyone to know about!

**Hon Ken Travers:** This is what you did to Liam Bartlett. I heard you talking -

**Hon NORMAN MOORE:** That is exactly right.

Several members interjected.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order, members! One at a time.

**Hon NORMAN MOORE:** That is exactly right. If members do not believe me -

**Hon Ken Travers:** What, Liam Bartlett and the Minister for Education and Training -

**Hon NORMAN MOORE:** Hon Ken Travers would be extraordinarily surprised about the number of people who have contact with Mr Crichton-Browne from time to time, most of whom would not want it to be known publicly -

Several members interjected.

**Hon NORMAN MOORE:** I simply say to Mr McGowan -

Several members interjected.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order! I call to order the honourable Minister for Local Government and Hon Ken Travers.

**Hon NORMAN MOORE:** I say to Hon Mark McGowan that if he wants to stop telling lies about me, I will stop telling the truth about him, which is a phrase used regularly by the Leader of the House. Mr McGowan has been involved in certain conversations with Mr Crichton-Browne that I am sure he would not want any members opposite to know about. If members opposite do not believe me, go and ask him about the Blue Duck meeting some time or other! Ask him what it was all about. Ask him what he was having a relationship with Mr Crichton-Browne about! If members opposite ask him, he will tell them. The Minister for Education and Training is a very, very interesting character. He is an extraordinarily ambitious man - a man whose ambition vastly exceeds his capacity. He is a man with a strange nickname, given to him by the Labor Party, because of the way he operates within the Labor Party.

**Hon Simon O'Brien:** What is that?

**Hon NORMAN MOORE:** I have said enough about that.

**Hon Simon O'Brien:** I want to know what his nickname is!

**Hon NORMAN MOORE:** Let me just come back to -

**Hon Ken Travers:** Someone had to start the mud throwing, didn't they? Listen to you!

**Hon NORMAN MOORE:** Not at all. Hon Ken Travers should go and listen to question time in the other place sometime, and listen to how my name gets thrown around constantly, not just by Hon Mark McGowan, but indeed by the Premier. I would love both those gentleman to go out to the media of Western Australia, outside of Parliament, and throw the allegations around there. I can then do a Bob Hawke and I will probably live in absolute luxury for the rest of my life - defamation pays very well!

I have had to sit in this place and know about the rubbish members in the other place say about me, and up until now I have said nothing. Indeed, in this whole debate I have not criticised anybody. I have not made any judgements about anybody; I have simply asked this house and told the media and the public that due process should be followed. That is all I have said, yet I am being abused in the other place by the Premier and Hon Mark McGowan, who are saying that I am somehow or other protecting Mr Crichton-Browne and other contemptible people in the community. That is defamatory. I am doing my job, as I hope all members will do. That is what it is all about. Today, having listened to the Minister for Local Government try to somehow imply that Mr Crichton-Browne is in the same boat as Mr Burke and Mr Grill on this matter, I have been provoked into saying what I have just said.

**Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich:** So why do you feel compelled to defend him?

**Hon NORMAN MOORE:** I am not defending him at all! Did I say I was defending him?

**Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich:** It certainly sounds like it.

**Hon NORMAN MOORE:** Not at all! I simply told the Minister for Local Government to get her facts right before she started throwing these allegations around. I have read out what the committee said. I will quote it again -

... the strategy was devised and implemented principally by Mr Brian Burke and Mr Julian Grill ...  
Mr Nathan McMahan ...

The other people came in afterwards. I am trying to make that point, and if that is not as clear as the nose on the minister's face, I do not know what is -

**Hon Ken Travers:** They were still parties to an improper strategy, weren't they?

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order!

**Hon Ken Travers:** You accept that, don't you?

**Hon NORMAN MOORE:** Hon Ken Travers, read page (ix) of the report, which I read out the other day. I will read it again for the member's information -

The Committee notes that a mere intention to have the State's iron ore policy investigated and discredited is not, of itself an improper motive for referring a matter to a parliamentary committee for inquiry.

**Hon Ken Travers:** That was not the motivation for Mr Crichton-Browne, was it?

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order! He is trying to read the paragraph.

**Hon NORMAN MOORE:** The report continues -

Such inquiries are regularly conducted by parliamentary committees, and they are an important mechanism by which members of the public may legitimately initiate a review of the actions and policies of the Executive.

Not my words, Hon Ken Travers - they are the committee's words.

**Progress reported and leave granted to sit again, pursuant to standing orders.**