

OUTCOMES-BASED CURRICULUM, INQUIRY BY EDUCATION AND HEALTH STANDING
COMMITTEE

256. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Minister for Education and Training:

Further to question without notice 220, asked on Thursday 5 May 2005, when the minister said she would be having a look at education protocols that deal with teachers presenting before the inquiry established by the Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Education and Health, I ask -

- (1) Is the minister now prepared to give an assurance to teachers and other public servants working in the education system that they will be able to provide evidence and appear as witnesses before the committee of inquiry without any impediment or fear of victimisation?
- (2) If not, why not?

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:

(1)-(2) I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question. At the heart of this question is the matter of potential victimisation of people who might be called in front of this inquiry. I am concerned, of course, about the potential danger of this. However, before I get to the heart of the question, last Friday when I was in Canberra fighting for the rights of Western Australia and trying to prevent Minister Nelson from trying to take over the constitutional rights of this state in respect of education, I was passed a copy of an article on page 10 of *The West Australian* which reported that the former Minister for Education, Hon Colin Barnett, the member for Cottesloe -

Point of Order

Hon BARRY HOUSE: The information that the minister is relaying to the house has absolutely nothing to do with the question I asked.

The PRESIDENT: Yes. The minister might frame that into a ministerial statement.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: The point I want to make, Mr President, is that Hon Colin Barnett spoke freely and he agreed with me that the federal government should stop interfering in matters of state schooling -

Point of Order

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I have a point of order.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I counsel the minister to proceed to the answer to this question, not another question.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: Thank you, Mr President. I might have to take up that opportunity. The point is that those opposite are in the business of victimisation. The member for Cottesloe decided to support me in relation to this state's rights, when those opposite just sat on their hands and did nothing. In fact, they do not support state rights -

The PRESIDENT: Order! The minister will now proceed to the answer.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: This is actually the press release: Barnett backs state's right to fund schools!

Point of Order

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN: Mr President, that is the fourth time in a row that the minister has blatantly disregarded your direction after a point of order was raised.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I assume the question has been answered. If that was the answer, that was the answer.

Questions without Notice Resumed