

INTERSTATE AND OVERSEAS TRAVEL, MINISTER FOR RACING AND GAMING

548. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

- (1) Will the minister be attending the spring racing carnival in Melbourne this year?
- (2) What interstate or international trips relating to his racing and gaming portfolio does the minister have planned for the near future?

Hon N.D. GRIFFITHS replied:

- (1)-(2) I am pleased that it is about 28 minutes to six o'clock. I would like to say where I would like to go to but, unfortunately, I do not have firm plans, other than the information I am about to give the member. A racing ministers conference will take place in Victoria during the first week of November. I will be travelling to Melbourne and returning to Perth. Unfortunately, the conference will take place on the first Friday in November and not the following Tuesday, which is the day for the running of the Melbourne Cup. I regret I will not be attending the Melbourne Cup but, as part of the conference, the minister hosting the conference - Hon Rob Hulls - wishes ministers from other jurisdictions to confer with leaders of the Australian thoroughbred racing industry. I hope to take advantage of that opportunity on the first Saturday in November. I think that will take place at Flemington. While I am in Victoria for two to three days - I plan to return on the Sunday, subject to availability of the airlines - I hope to have the opportunity to see how Moonee Valley functions. Members will be aware that that is a dual racing track. In answer to a question by Hon Murray Criddle a few weeks ago, I made reference to a dual racing track in Geraldton which seemed to be working very well, so I am keen to see how Moonee Valley operates. I have no plans for any other travel of that kind in the near future. Does the member wish to know where I have been so far?

The PRESIDENT: Order! That was not the question.

Hon N.D. GRIFFITHS: I have had the good fortune to have been to a number of places around Western Australia and have met a number of people involved in the racing industry. I have attended a racing ministers conference in the metropolis of Alice Springs, and I have been to gambling ministers conferences. I attended one in Adelaide. I was there for about 24 hours; it was a fly in, fly out job; I spent the night in Adelaide. Last week I attended a gambling ministers conference in Canberra. I left on the Monday night and stayed overnight in an airport hotel in Melbourne. I attended the conference in Canberra the next day and came back that evening. I think that is the full extent of my interstate and overseas travel to date in this capacity.