

UNFAIR DISMISSAL PROVISIONS

98. Mr A.J. SIMPSON to the Minister for Small Business:

I refer the minister to the recent moves to exempt small businesses with fewer than 20 staff from existing unfair dismissal provisions. Does the minister support small business being granted this exemption?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members, it is extremely difficult when the interjections prevent the minister from uttering his first word. I call the minister.

Mr J.B. D'ORAZIO replied:

As indicated across the media, the state government has argued in support of an exemption. Our position is obviously that -

Mr T.R. Buswell: That is not the case and you know it. Answer the question!

Mr J.B. D'ORAZIO: Once again I point out -

Mr T.R. Buswell: Should Western Australian small businesses -

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mrs M.H. Roberts: Ask the right minister.

Mr T.R. Buswell: He is the Minister for Small Business.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: I am sure that the member for Vasse has lots of interesting things to say, but now is not the time for him to be saying them. I call the minister.

Several members interjected.

Mr J.B. D'ORAZIO: Jesus, guys! Sorry. I apologise for using the Lord's name in vain. Members should understand that an exemption for small business is part of the push by the state government.

Mr J.C. Kobelke: Can I interject on you?

Several members interjected.

Mr J.C. Kobelke: The Industrial Relations Commission today brought down a determination that exempted small business, which is what the Gallop government argued for.

Mr J.B. D'ORAZIO: Exactly.

Several members interjected.

Point of Order

Mr D.F. BARRON-SULLIVAN: Our question was to the quiet minister over in the corner, not to this one!

The SPEAKER: There is no point of order. I call the minister.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr J.B. D'ORAZIO: Thank you, Mr Speaker. As members know, the right minister has answered the question. I thank the member for the question.