

LIQUOR REFORM - COMPETITION POLICY

895. Mr S.R. HILL to the Treasurer:

Will the Treasurer please advise the house of the government's progress in implementing liquor reform to honour the state's competition policy obligations?

Mr E.S. RIPPER replied:

Members of the house might recall that we had an undertaking from the Liberal Party that it supported the government's liquor reform package, and that it would ensure that the package had a smooth passage in the upper house. However, that undertaking from the Leader of the Opposition that the Liquor and Gaming Legislation Amendment Bill would pass through the council unamended has not been honoured. Although the bill has passed the second reading stage, the delaying tactics of Hon Norman Moore mean that the bill will not be third read until next month. For liquor stores wanting to trade on Sundays, it means, of course, that the provision that would enable free competition and advantage consumers cannot come into immediate effect.

I am disturbed about this. I have been talking about this matter to the minister handling this matter in the upper house, Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich, and she was disturbed.

Mr C.J. Barnett: What time? This morning?

Mr E.S. RIPPER: This morning, actually. She told me this morning that she had taken up this matter with Hon Norman Moore and had asked him -

Withdrawal of Remark

Mr R.C. KUCERA: The member for Cottesloe made some disgusting remarks that are totally out of order in this Parliament. I urge him to withdraw them.

The SPEAKER: I do not know what the comment was so I cannot rule on it.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, members! I call the member for Darling Range to order for the first time.

Mr E.S. RIPPER: Naturally, our minister tackled the Leader of the Opposition in the upper house and said, "What about our agreement? What about the undertaking of the Leader of the Opposition in the lower house?" The response that she received from Hon Norman Moore was that the Leader of the Opposition does not make decisions for the Legislative Council. That is what Hon Norman Moore's public comment was. Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich went back to him and said that not only did the government have an undertaking from the Leader of the Opposition, but also it had an undertaking from the shadow minister for liquor matters, the member for South Perth. Hon Norman Moore then said words to this effect: "It doesn't matter what the Leader of the Opposition says; it doesn't matter what any shadow minister says. We can be absolutely certain that it is not binding on anybody." What an ill-disciplined rabble. The Leader of the Opposition in this place gave an undertaking, and it was expressly repudiated by the Leader of the Opposition in the other place.

Already, the Leader of the Opposition is refusing to take any action against his deputy, who colluded with a person of interest in a corruption inquiry in the car park at Parliament House. The Leader of the Opposition will not take any action against him, and he has no influence whatsoever on his own members in the upper house. We saw it with daylight saving, and now we have seen it again with liquor reform. What sort of a leader is this?

The SPEAKER: I call to order the member for Darling Range and the leader of the National Party.