

COMPULSORY BARGAINING SERVICES FEES, GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

**569. Mrs C.L. EDWARDES to the Minister for Consumer and Employment Protection:**

I refer the minister to the passage through federal Parliament last Thursday of the Workplace Relations Amendment (Prohibition of Compulsory Union Fees) Bill 2002 which prohibits conduct designed to compel people to pay compulsory bargaining services fees; prohibits the inclusion of bargaining service fees clauses in agreements and makes void existing clauses; and provides for the removal of such clauses.

(1) Does the Government support compulsory bargaining services fees?

Mr N.R. Marlborough interjected.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, members.

Mrs C.L. EDWARDES: My question continues -

(2) Given that the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union's most recent pattern of enterprise bargaining agreement includes a bargaining services fee clause, will the Government introduce complementary legislation to the federal Government's Bill; and if not, why not?

Mr N.R. Marlborough interjected.

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Peel to order for the first time.

**Mr J.C. KOBELKE replied:**

(1)-(2) The last part of the question indicates that we have not considered the matter, but the Premier went on record more than a year or so ago to point out that our position was not to support compulsory bargaining fees. We do not support them. The federal Government has the right to legislate in its jurisdiction, and that is what it has done. What the Premier was alluding to by way of a brief interjection was the fact that the member herself has been involved with an issue where wads of money have been handed over and in which she has been implicated. The person who did it could not remember why he had given her all that money at a sporting event where he was trying to gain some support for a particular ethnic community. The member for Kingsley's people were involved in handing over money.

*Point of Order*

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: Mr Speaker, I draw your attention to the standing orders indicating that answers should be relevant to the questions. The Leader of the House is deliberately trying to slur members on this side of the House without any proof whatsoever. I ask that he makes his answer relevant to the question that has been put to him.

The SPEAKER: I am sure the Leader of the House will draw his answer to a conclusion.

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: I think I had answered the substance of the question before I was distracted by an interjection, but obviously that occurs from time to time.