

SMALL BUSINESS, INSURANCE COSTS

926. Mr D.F. BARRON-SULLIVAN to the Minister for Small Business:

I ask a supplementary question. Is the minister aware of the comprehensive report by Trowbridge Deloitte entitled “Effect of State Taxes on Insurance for Small Business”, which found that in addition to the introduction of Labor’s new fire services levy Perth now has the highest rate of tax on business insurance premiums anywhere in the nation and amongst the highest in the world?

Point of Order

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: Mr Speaker, the standard procedure under the standing orders is that a supplementary question should relate directly and concisely to an issue that follows on. The member is now seeking to raise a lot of additional information. I do not believe it is a supplementary question.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: The Leader of the House is just trying to protect the Minister for Small Business. Clearly the supplementary question goes directly to the main part of the previous question about small business taxation, and I ask you to rule as such, Mr Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Order! It is quite plain that a supplementary question must be related directly to the question that was asked. The question is in compliance with that part of the ruling. However, the length of the question was excessive. It should be a short supplementary question, not another lengthy question.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr R.C. KUCERA replied:

I am aware of the Trowbridge report. I would expect the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to at least afford me the courtesy -

Mr D.F. Barron-Sullivan: Why did you not explain that in your answer?

Mr R.C. KUCERA: I answer questions in the way I choose. With the kind of detail that is being asked for by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, he could at least do me the common courtesy of putting the question on notice.