

CONSTRUCTION, FORESTRY, MINING AND ENERGY UNION, MEMBERSHIP, PRESSURE TACTICS
1373. Hon. C.L. Edwardes to the Minister for Consumer and Employment Protection

I refer the Minister to the finding of the Cole Royal Commission that 'Membership of the union is enforced by the CFMEU on sites claimed by that union in the building industry in Perth,' and that in particular the CFMEU have been known to enforce a 'no ticket, no start' policy by using pressure tactics to induce workers to join their union and extract payments from contractors and subcontractors in exchange for their tolerance of non-union workers, and I ask: -

- (a) does the Minister agree that such behaviour violates individuals right to freedom of association, one of the principle objects of the *Industrial Relations Act 1979*; and
- (b) what does the government intend to do to ensure that this type of behaviour does not continue?

Mr J.C. KOBELKE replied:

- (a)-(b) The Cole Royal Commission spent \$60 m and had the full armoury of investigative powers at its disposal, which is well beyond the resources and powers available to DOCEP to investigate such matters. If the Royal commission found that there were breaches of the Freedom of Association then I assume it would have recommended prosecutions by the appropriate authority.

Both the Minister and DOCEP take very seriously any alleged breach of Freedom of Association. There has already been one successful prosecution under Freedom of Association provisions of the Industrial Relations Act 1979 since I became the Minister with responsibility in this area.