

ONE VOTE, ONE VALUE

933. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Minister for Local Government and Regional Development:

I refer to media reports quoting the minister as saying that the Labor Party's proposal for one vote, one value is dead.

- (1) Was the minister quoted accurately?
- (2) Is that her personal opinion or is it the official position of the Labor Government?

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:

I thank Hon Barry House for that question.

- (1)-(2) No, I was not quoted accurately, but having said that, I want to put this into context. Since taking up my appointment just over two months ago I have travelled extensively throughout the regions and met local government authorities. In the Kimberley Region I visited the Shires of Halls Creek, Broome, Wyndham-East Kimberley and Derby-West Kimberley. In the Pilbara region I met the Shires of East Pilbara and Ashburton, the Town of Port Hedland and the Shire of Roebourne. In the south west region I met the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River. I have also met the City of Fremantle, the City of Bunbury and the Shires of Capel and Dardanup. In the Peel region I met the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale and in the Gascoyne region I met the Shires of Shark Bay, Exmouth and Carnarvon. I also visited Cue Parliament where I was joined by some other members, including Hon Kim Chance and Hon Norman Moore. Representatives also attended from the Shires of Yalgoo, Mt Magnet, Meekatharra, Murchison, Sandstone -

Hon Norman Moore: Come on; we all know this.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: Members opposite want to hear it, so they will hear it. I also visited the Shires of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, Menzies, Leonora, Coolgardie and Laverton. As the song says, "I've been everywhere, man"! When we met, not one of those shires formally placed on their agenda the question of one vote, one value. I cannot even remember it being raised informally. As far as I am concerned, and based on comments of the people I met, that issue is dead because a Bill will not be introduced into this House in this term of Parliament. The Labor Party is of course committed to democracy, which includes equal vote weighting. This is just a beat up by the member for Kalgoorlie, who must be desperate and have very little to do. He is pathetic.

The PRESIDENT: Order, members!