

GAMBLING ON THE INTERNET

**55. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Minister for Racing and Gaming:**

- (1) Is the minister aware of proposals to ban gambling on the Internet and the potential of this measure to dramatically affect the racing industry?
- (2) What action does the minister intend to take to protect the average punter's ability to place a bet with the Totalisator Agency Board over the Internet?

**Hon N.D. GRIFFITHS replied:**

- (1)-(2) I am very much aware of the Howard Government's ill-conceived proposition to ban gambling, including wagering on the Internet.

Hon N.F. Moore: Do you support gambling on the Internet?

Hon N.D. GRIFFITHS: Although the Western Australian Government does not want to see casino-type gambling proliferate in the community, it is opposed to the Howard Government's proposed ban on wagering. I am aware of the damage that proposal would do to the TAB and to the operations of the Lotteries Commission. I trust the Howard Government will desist from its proposal. So far I have written to each Western Australian senator and I have raised the matter with the relevant federal minister, the federal Opposition and ministers in other Australian jurisdictions. I have raised the matter also with industry bodies and have asked them to raise the matter directly with Western Australians who represent us in Canberra. I raised the matter directly also with Senator Amanda Vanstone at a ministerial conference in Adelaide a few weeks ago.

I understand that this Government's action is similar to the action taken by the previous Government.

Hon N.F. Moore: It is identical.