

POKER MACHINES IN PUBS AND CLUBS

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

I refer to the article in *The West Australian* today, titled "Pubs in push for pokies". Despite two denials that I recall from the minister in this Chamber this year, the matter continues to arise. The minister is referred to in the last paragraph in the article as follows -

A spokesman for Mr Griffiths said yesterday the Minister was not aware of the report but he would look forward to seeing it.

In view of the fact that Treasury has already taken over the Lotteries Commission, does this indicate that the Premier or Treasury will entertain a proposal to introduce poker machines into pubs and clubs in order to pocket the anticipated extra revenue of \$246 million a year to pay for its unfunded election promises?

Hon N.D. GRIFFITHS replied:

With the greatest of respect, I correct Hon Barry House's reading of the article, which refers to a spokeswoman not a spokesman.

Treasury has not taken over the Lotteries Commission, and will not take it over. The Government's policy, which is very firm on this issue, is stated with accuracy in the article.