

PRISONER RECREATION ACTIVITIES

732. Mr J.B. D'ORAZIO to the Minister for Justice:

I thank the minister for increasing the number of police at Ballajura from five to 15 in her capacity as the Minister for Police and Emergency Services.

I refer the minister to the recent comments about the Government's record on prisoner recreation activities. What can she advise the House about the record of the previous Government on this issue?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS replied:

This is a very good question from the member for Ballajura, because the members for Kalgoorlie and Nedlands have been even more deceptive. Members may have read about the comments of the members for Kalgoorlie and Nedlands, who have tried to score a few cheap points by complaining about minimum security approved prisoners engaging in recreational activities. Now residents of Collie have seen an advertisement in their local paper, authorised by the Liberal Party state director, that makes false claims about prisoner activities. The truth simply must be told, and the two members interjecting at present are the two who need to listen, because the list of activities was approved in December 2000 by then Attorney General Hon Peter Foss. That list makes very interesting reading. The Leader of the Opposition and other members opposite were part of a Government that allowed prisoners to go fishing, have barbecues, go sailing on the STS *Leeuwin*, go rollerskating, play indoor cricket and volleyball, go to quiz nights, attend art galleries and so on. All those activities were approved by Hon Peter Foss in December 2000. The member for Nedlands said that she was surprised that the Government did not give prisoners free entry to the Royal Show. The previous Government did just that! Can members believe the hypocrisy? The previous Government actually gave prisoners tickets for the Royal Show! That is what it did. Under the previous Government, prisoners from Riverbank Prison, in which the State's most serious and disturbed sex offenders are incarcerated, attended the Royal Show. They also attended Fremantle art shows and Swan View shows, where they staffed stalls and assisted with show events. All this happened under a coalition Government. I will be very clear about this - the Leader of the Opposition was part of a Government that let prisoners, including some of the most notorious and disturbed sex offenders, go to the Royal Show for free. All I have done since that time is rule lines through all the excessive activities that Hon Peter Foss and the Leader of the Opposition's Government allowed. The Government has had to patch up the appalling record of the previous Government in the area of justice. Members opposite know that this Government has ruled out all those excessive recreational activities.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: I call to order the member for Peel, and I warn the member for Nedlands that she has been called to order three times. I hope she does not wish to be thrown out.