

OUTCOMES-BASED EDUCATION - RALLY

450. Hon SHELLEY ARCHER to the Minister for Education and Training:

Was the minister surprised at the number of people at the outcomes-based education rally yesterday?

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:

Let us just not mention the rally! I am amazed that no-one has mentioned the rally. It is similar to years ago when I took part in an exchange scheme and went to Germany, and I got a briefing note in which the first paragraph said not to mention the war. I came into the chamber today expecting to get a question from Hon Peter Collier.

Hon Peter Collier: There was no question time yesterday.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: There was no rally yesterday! I have on numerous occasions said in this place that I am confident that the majority of teachers want to get on with their jobs.

Hon Kim Chance: Yesterday they proved it.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: Yes. I am amazed that Hon Peter Collier has been so quiet about this. I was told that almost 200 people were at the rally yesterday. Do members know what? Of those, 50 were children and the other 50 to 70 were parents.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! One interjector at a time, please.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: I figured that there must have been about 100 teachers -

Hon Barbara Scott: And no minister!

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: And no ministers; Hon Barbara Scott is dead right. I will get to that.

I repeat that there were 100 teachers at that rally. Anyone who knows about education in this state knows that we have a work force of nearly 30 000 full-time equivalents across the three sectors. Do members know what? There were 100 teachers at that rally. I have been put under some pressure by Hon Peter Collier to change the government's direction because of the widespread opposition to outcomes-based education and its implementation.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! The Hansard reporter cannot hear the minister, and I think it is very important that the Hansard reporter be in a position to hear the minister.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: I have been under a bit of pressure to change my direction, and I have always run the line that I think the majority of teachers support the direction of the government. In fact, what really surprised me about that rally is that although it had been organised to take place not in school time but at 4.30 in the afternoon so that it could be attended by all teachers - they would have had ample time, after finishing school at three o'clock or 3.30 pm, to drive to Parliament House and voice their objections - only 100 teachers out of 30 000 full-time equivalents attended! It just goes to show how out of touch Hon Peter Collier is. Where were they? Hon Peter Collier just wants to forge ahead in his career at anyone's expense -

The PRESIDENT: Order! The Minister for Education and Training has answered the question.