

ATTORNEY GENERAL — GIFTS AND TRAVEL — HELICOPTER FLIGHT

**557. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Premier:**

I refer to the Attorney General's helicopter flight to a private function in Yallingup last December.

- (1) If as required under the Ministerial Code of Conduct the Attorney General had sought permission for this offer of transport prior to accepting the offer, would the Premier have approved it?
- (2) If yes to (1), why?
- (3) If no to (1), surely the Attorney General must be asked to resign.

*Point of Order*

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** The question is hypothetical in its nature and not a direct question seeking a factual answer. Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** As a general rule, hypotheticals are not permitted, but I will give the Leader of the Opposition a moment if she would like to perhaps rephrase her question and ask a question on the same topic.

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

**Ms M.J. DAVIES:** I refer to the Attorney General's helicopter flight to a private function in Yallingup last December. Should the Attorney General have sought permission for this offer of transport prior to accepting the offer and should it have been approved by the Premier?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

Thank you for the question. The Attorney General has at all times complied with the Ministerial Code of Conduct. Ministers are required to comply with the Ministerial Code of Conduct and he has. If the Leader of the Opposition has a look at the Ministerial Code of Conduct, it quite clearly refers to gifts or hospitality given to ministers or their immediate families by family members or personal friends in a genuinely personal capacity.

Now, as I understand it, if indeed this occurred, the minister attended a birthday party. If he had been driven to the birthday party, would it be an issue? If he had gone in a car with someone, would that be an issue? Is that the point that the member is making? Has the member been in a car with someone and been driven to a birthday party? Has she? If she has, has she breached the Ministerial Code of Conduct? I mean, seriously, someone gets a lift to a birthday party and the Leader of the Opposition is trying to make out that it is somehow inappropriate. Is it the case that the member is objecting because the Attorney General's friend happened to have a position with Crown? Is that the objection? If that is the objection, raise that as the objection. I do not know what the objection is. If the objection is that someone went to a birthday party with someone else, tell us exactly what the problem is.