

DAYLIGHT SAVING TRIAL - ASSESSMENT

70. Mr A.P. O'GORMAN to the Treasurer:

Sunday marks the end of the first trial period of daylight saving. Has daylight saving been a success and a benefit to this state?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: I call to order the members for South Perth and Roe.

Mr E.S. RIPPER replied:

Before I answer the question, I acknowledge the attendance in the public gallery of some students from Thornlie Senior High School. A very significant upgrade of their school is occurring under this government. On behalf of the members for Southern River and Kenwick, I welcome them to the Legislative Assembly chamber.

I thank the member for the question on daylight saving. Whether or not daylight saving has been a success ultimately will be judged by the people of Western Australia in 2009. Personally, I believe that it has been a success and that it is good for Western Australia. Last year this Parliament, in a free vote in both houses, decided that a three-year trial of daylight saving should be conducted, followed by a referendum. The houses did that for a good reason. We need more than one summer to gauge the success or failure of daylight saving. I am interested in not only those issues but also the lack of leadership on the other side of the House. I will start with the Leader of the Opposition, who declared last year that he supported daylight saving. He even voted in favour of it. On 31 October last year he said in Parliament -

In the past two weeks in particular . . . I have taken it upon myself to conduct a straw poll at each place I have visited . . . In most cases people have overwhelmingly been in favour of a trial of daylight saving.

That is what the Leader of the Opposition said in October last year. Now he has flip-flopped. What a weak leader! On 18 March in the *Sunday Times* he said that his personal view had changed. What a weak leader!

Mr P.D. Omodei: How many people have you spoken to about daylight saving?

Mr E.S. RIPPER: Does the Leader of the Opposition know what his problem is? It is the fact that Noel Crichton-Browne pulls the strings in the Liberal Party and the Leader of the Opposition is scared of him. That is his problem. Noel Crichton-Browne pulls the strings and that is why the Leader of the Opposition will not do anything about his deputy. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition is Noel Crichton-Browne's toady. The Leader of the Opposition does not dare to discipline him. Noel Crichton-Browne pulls the strings and the Leader of the Opposition is scared. Let us move on from the terminal leadership of the Leader of the Opposition, who will not be the Leader of the Opposition at the next election. Let us move to the member for Kalgoorlie, a former Leader of the Opposition and wannabe future leader who cosponsored the Daylight Saving Bill. What a leadership performance we have had from the member for Kalgoorlie! It is farcical. He has been flip-flopping all over the place. He has said that daylight saving should run from October to December and then said that it should run through to January as well. Soon he will be suggesting that we have daylight saving in June! The leadership credentials of the brave new young leader from the National Party are in tatters. In late 2005 he took courage in his hands and declared that he would use daylight saving to drag the National Party into the twenty-first century.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! I call to order the Leader of the Opposition and the members for Roe, Moore and South Perth.

Mr E.S. RIPPER: Mr Speaker -

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: I call to order the members for Stirling and Ballajura.

Mr E.S. RIPPER: I do not know whether the National Party has been consistent, but its leader has not, member for Stirling. Does the member not want to hear what the Leader of the National Party said?

The SPEAKER: Order, members! I call to order the member for Greenough.

Mr E.S. RIPPER: I hope that I eventually get to read out this quote because it is a beauty. I know that members on this side of the House want me to read this quote. The Leader of the National Party said -

My job is not about always running the popular view all of the time, but coming up with new ideas and putting them in the public domain and seeing what people think. People's views need to be challenged.

Mr G. Woodhams interjected.

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Greenough to order for the second time.

Mr E.S. RIPPER: The Leader of the National Party said -

Daylight saving has been a contentious issue for some time, but I am not in politics for the easy press release.

That is what the brave new Leader of the National Party said. After just one summer, the Leader of the National Party has changed his mind. He is not going into the twenty-first century; he is going back to the nineteenth century. The member for Merredin is not the brave new leader that he pretended to be; he is a follower.

To come back to daylight saving and to leave the topic of leadership for a moment, the trial ends at 3.00 am summer time on Sunday. Western Australians should turn back their clocks one hour before they go to bed on Saturday night. I look forward to the second summer of the trial beginning this year on 28 October. It is a very good thing for Western Australia.

Dr K.D. Hames: Does your wife hate it as much as my wife does?

Dr S.C. Thomas: Are we still talking about daylight saving?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: I am rapidly forming the view that we should not have any further question time. If members continue with this rabble, we will not.