

MS JEAN THORNTON, TABLING OF CORRESPONDENCE

**964. Mrs C.L. EDWARDES to the Premier:**

I refer the Premier to his correspondence of 15 August 2003 from Department of Health whistleblower Jean Thornton, which stated -

As you saw fit to breach confidentiality with my 'private and confidential' letter, and tabled my letters and your responses in Parliament, please table this response as soon as possible upon receipt.

- (1) Why has the Premier not tabled the letter as requested?
- (2) Will he now table Ms Thornton's letters as requested, particularly as he tabled his last response to her correspondence less than 24 hours after she received it, and the Premier has had Ms Thornton's letter since last Friday?

**Dr G.I. GALLOP replied:**

- (1)-(2) I contest part of the question. The member would be well aware that I, through the Leader of the House in the Legislative Council, tabled in that House the letter that was written to me early in 2001. That was done in response to a request from the Liberal Party in that place.

Mrs C.L. Edwardes: You did not need to table it. That was a disgrace.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: There was public awareness of that letter and debate about its -

Mrs C.L. Edwardes: Who else had a copy of that? Only you.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: Would the member let me answer the question? There was awareness of that letter and debate in the media about its contents. I make that point.

Mr B.K. Masters: So?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: It is a very important point. I thought the member would have noted that.

Mrs C.L. Edwardes interjected.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: I do not agree with that.

I take it the member has a copy of the recent correspondence I received.

Mrs C.L. Edwardes: Yes.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: I am considering the matter relating to that correspondence.