

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND EMPLOYMENT PROTECTION, PROPERTY INVESTMENT
SEMINAR

1259. Mr J.B. D'ORAZIO to the Minister for Consumer and Employment Protection:

Will the minister provide the House with information about the property investment seminar that is being run by the Department of Consumer and Employment Protection?

Mr J.C. KOBELKE replied:

I thank the member for the question.

I have previously alerted the House to concerns about people who promote investment seminars, particularly those that relate to real estate. Such people often make money by charging large fees of which people are not advised up front or, alternatively, they may try to sell properties on behalf of people who are associated with the running of the investment seminars. We have sought to have the Commonwealth Government regulate - it clearly has the power in this area - but it has been loath to do so. The Department of Consumer and Employment Protection advertised a seminar that will be conducted tomorrow night. A range of people will provide unbiased opinions to assist people, including representatives from the Australian Securities and Investment Commission, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, Curtin University of Technology, the Valuer General's Office, the Real Estate and Business Agents Supervisory Board and the Finance Brokers Supervisory Board -

Mr C.J. Barnett interjected.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: I did not catch the Leader of the Opposition's interjection.

Mr C.J. Barnett: "How to lose \$400 million overnight by the Australian Labor Party" would probably be the title of an ALP investment seminar. It would be really interesting.

The SPEAKER: I call the Leader of the Opposition to order for the third time. Therein lies the problem of taking interjections. Ministers should get on with their answers.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: The Leader of the Opposition seems to have a problem today because he continues to interject. However, his last interjection was worthwhile. He wants people to forget the fact that he was in government when pensioners and self-funded retirees were ripped off and that he did nothing to protect them. The now Leader of the Opposition was an accomplice to the people who put in place the scandal of the finance brokers. He was a member of the Court Government and did absolutely nothing -

Withdrawal of Remark

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: To say that the Leader of the Opposition was an accomplice of those who defrauded people out of their money is unparliamentary and disgraceful. The Leader of the House should apologise and withdraw his remark.

The SPEAKER: I heard the comment and I direct the minister to withdraw the allegation.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: I withdraw the comment.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: The Leader of the Opposition could have acted to protect people, but he did not. That does not make him complicit; it simply tells us that when he saw that money was being stolen from people in his own electorate, he sat on his hands and did absolutely nothing. Time after time Labor raised the fact that the Court Government was not willing to act to protect people when the finance broking scandal was raging across this State. The Leader of the Opposition did absolutely nothing and when the Gallop Government seeks to implement a range of education measures to protect and advise people of the potential dangers, the Leader of the Opposition thinks it is a joke. The Leader of the Opposition thinks it is an absolute joke to run seminars that give people information. Fortunately, many people know that it is the Leader of the Opposition who is the joke. Applications to attend the seminar have had to be closed because 600 people have already enrolled. The Leader of the Opposition thinks it is a joke. Very soon not only will all members in this House know that the Leader of the Opposition is a joke, but up and down the whole of Western Australia people will know that the biggest joke in this town sits in the Leader of the Opposition's seat.