

BUSINESS-RELATED TAXES

221. Mr T.R. BUSWELL to the Minister for Small Business:

Will the minister advise the house if he has discussed with either the Premier or the Treasurer the possibility of the state government abolishing or reducing any of the business-related taxes that are mentioned in the GST agreement, including mortgage stamp duty, stamp duty on the hire of goods and business conveyancing?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, members! It is very difficult for members to ask questions without interjections. I call the member for Girrawheen to order for the first time. I am sure that the minister does not need her assistance in answering.

Mr J.B. D'ORAZIO replied:

The member is a day late with his question. He is not a very good agent for *The West Australian*. I will not disclose the private discussions I have had with anybody on this issue. The member should be targeting what business thinks of this government compared with the Liberals. Small businesses in this state support the stand taken by this government because they understand that the long-term survival and encouragement of small business in this state is well placed because of the support of the Gallop government. That is why business in the state is prospering so much. Members on the other side of the house do not understand small business. The government will continue to set in place the framework for business to prosper in the state.