

RUGBY WORLD CUP

**997. Mr F.M. LOGAN to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:**

What are the predicted benefits and spin-offs for Western Australia from the forthcoming Rugby World Cup tournament?

**Mr R.C. KUCERA replied:**

I thank the member for his question. Firstly, we will get to see the game that is played in heaven; it is as simple as that.

Mr N.R. Marlborough: The Welsh were thrashed on the weekend. I saw the game. Guess who beat them?

Mr R.C. KUCERA: The member for Peel has just realised that the Welsh are lulling the Australians into a false sense of security. I was pleased this morning to launch the festivities package for the upcoming Rugby World Cup. Between 10 and 19 October this year five of the top world teams will vie in games to be played at Subiaco Oval for the right to play off in the finals in Sydney. The key benefit for Western Australia will come from the overseas visitors this tournament will bring to our State. During that period it is expected that there will be an influx to Western Australia of more than 5 000 supporters of the five teams that will play here. More importantly, the final game to be played in Western Australia will be between South Africa and England and will be one of the key games in the competition. This game will focus almost the entire viewing public of the world on Perth for that one day. It will open a window to the world to what is the best place in the world in which to live.

Mr C.J. Barnett: I hope they don't show you through that window.

Mr R.C. KUCERA: Is it not amazing that the Leader of the Opposition even wants to talk down something like this? He cannot help himself. This will be the third biggest sporting event in the world outside the Olympic and Commonwealth Games. It is expected to bring to this State, which is the best State in Australia, some \$9.4 million during that period, which will be a boost to the economy. I was proud to stand today and represent not just the Government but also all rugby-loving people of this State and nation in promoting a great event for this State.