

POLICE, PAY DISPUTE

1031. Mrs C.L. EDWARDES to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

I refer the minister to the pay dispute between Western Australian police officers and her Government, which was forced into the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission last night.

- (1) What action has the minister taken to resolve this dispute?
- (2) Will the minister inform this House whether all the information contained in today's \$4 000 newspaper advertisement, placed by the Department of Consumer and Employment Protection, is accurate and factual?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS replied:

- (1) Yesterday I ensured that this matter was taken to the Industrial Relations Commission, and an order was subsequently made by it. For the record of the House and so that people understand why I answer the question in this way, it is appropriate that I read that order. The order states -

NOW THEREFORE the Public Service Arbitrator, pursuant to the powers in the Industrial Relations Act 1979, hereby:

- I. RECOMMENDS THAT as a goodwill gesture no party or person connected with the dispute make public comment regarding the dispute for a period of 24 hours to assist in providing a cooling off period.
- II. ORDERS THAT:
 - (1) The Commissioner of Police shall notify the Union as soon as possible of the negotiating team which has authority to negotiate on his behalf, subject to the approval process necessary in respect of government employment arrangements.
 - (2) The parties shall enter into negotiations in good faith. For that purpose the parties shall meet on Wednesday, the 10th, Friday, the 12th day, Monday, the 15th, Wednesday the 17th, Friday the 19th, Monday the 22nd, Wednesday the 24th and Friday the 26th days of September 2003. The parties shall report back to the Arbitrator as to progress on Fridays, the 12th and the 26th days of September 2003 at times to be fixed.
 - (3) That the industrial action authorised and directed by the Union's executive on Monday, the 8th day of September 2003 shall cease forthwith.
 - (4) These Orders shall apply pending the resolution of the dispute between the parties.
 - (5) Either party may apply to the Arbitrator for the Orders to be varied or rescinded.

Given this, I have ensured that the Commissioner of Police and the Department of Consumer and Employment Protection have put in place a negotiating team. The names of the people involved in that team will be made known to the union today so that the first of those meetings can occur tomorrow.

- (2) It is my understanding that the information in the advertisement is correct.