

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION - COMMENTS ON PUBLIC SECTOR STANDARDS

890. Mr A.P. O'GORMAN to the Minister Assisting the Minister for Public Sector Standards:

Can the minister please advise the house whether the Leader of the Opposition's comments yesterday advance public sector standards in Western Australia?

Mr E.S. RIPPER replied:

I thank the member for Joondalup very much for his question. The Leader of the Opposition's comments yesterday will give the public no confidence whatsoever.

Mr T.R. Sprigg interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Murdoch!

Mr E.S. RIPPER: They will give the public no confidence whatsoever, member for Murdoch. When he was asked questions on ABC radio yesterday about the actions of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the Leader of the Opposition - the man who is responsible for standards on the other side of politics - said, "What Troy Buswell does is Troy Buswell's business." What a remarkable washing of the hands that was. I reckon a more accurate response would have been, "What my Deputy Leader of the Opposition does is Noel Crichton-Browne's business." That is certainly the case given what the member for Vasse did with the plot to manipulate the Busselton shire council elections. We all know that the Canal Rocks developer wanted its own people on the Busselton council. Why? To support the Smiths Beach development. The member for Vasse has already admitted that Noel Crichton-Browne asked him whether he knew any people who would be interested in running for the council. Remarkably, the member for Vasse has admitted that he gave Noel Crichton-Browne three names. Let us think about that for a moment. On behalf of a developer, a paid consultant and disgraced lobbyist asked the member for Vasse for names of people who could run for the Busselton shire council. What was the reason? To stack the council so that a developer's project could get up improperly. What did that man without a moral compass do when that moral conundrum was put before him? He acquiesced. He provided the disgraced lobbyist with three names for the pro-Canal Rocks ticket for the Busselton shire council. The member for Vasse has told us that Joe White was one of the names.

Mr P.D. Omodei interjected.

Mr E.S. RIPPER: The Leader of the Opposition thinks his deputy is in trouble, otherwise he would not be interjecting. What were the names of the other two people he gave to Noel Crichton-Browne?

Mr P.D. Omodei interjected.

Mr E.S. RIPPER: The Leader of the Opposition should be quiet. I am asking the member for Vasse for the other two names he gave Noel Crichton-Browne.

Mr T. Buswell: One is in the Smiths Beach Action Group.

Mr E.S. RIPPER: Who is that?

Mr T. Buswell: I'm not going to tell you that; they are in the Smiths Beach Action Group.

Mr E.S. RIPPER: He will not give me the names of the people he put up for the pro-Smiths Beach ticket for the Busselton shire council.

Mr T. Buswell: Why should I?

Mr E.S. RIPPER: That is a measure of accountability or lack of it. I have another question for the member for Vasse. Why did he do this? Why did he help a disgraced lobbyist to stack a shire council to adopt a particular position on a development?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! I have shown a considerable amount of tolerance to the member for Vasse, who appears to be the subject of the minister's answer. However, the member for Nedlands and various other members have taken it upon themselves to interject at great length. Given the member for Vasse is under attack in this answer, I understand why he is interjecting. I am sure that the member for Vasse does not need the assistance of the other members on my left.

Mr E.S. RIPPER: I wish he would give me the names of the other two people he gave to Noel Crichton-Browne, but my name is not Noel so I guess he will not give them to me. I understand the member for Vasse has publicly opposed the Smiths Beach development in his own electorate, so why did he assist a disgraced lobbyist to stack the council against his own publicly stated views and against the wishes of his own electors? I reckon that it might have something to do with the successful preselection coup that the member for Vasse launched

against the then sitting member, Mr Bernie Masters. Was that when he did his deal with the devil? Did he sell out his council for a preselection win against Bernie Masters? By any measure, the actions of the member for Vasse were grossly improper. He has been assisting Noel Crichton-Browne to corrupt the Shire of Busselton. He has no moral scruples whatsoever and no concern about misleading his electors. He was willing to assist a disgraced lobbyist to corrupt the elections of a shire council. He then colluded with that person of interest in a corruption inquiry out in the Parliament House car park to cook up evidence for the CCC. What was the Leader of the Opposition's response? "What Troy Buswell does is Troy Buswell's business." The Leader of the Opposition will have no credibility whatsoever on standards until he does something about his Deputy Leader of the Opposition.