

LABOR PARTY PREFERENCES, ONE NATION

261. Mr D'ORAZIO to the Premier:

I refer to the Northern Territory election at the weekend, which ended the Country Liberal Party's hold on government for the first time. Is the Labor Party considering changing its policy of putting One Nation last on its how-to-vote cards?

Dr GALLOP replied:

I can assure the House and the public of Western Australia that the Australian Labor Party's position on this matter has not and will not change. One Nation will be placed last on all our how-to-vote cards. It is very interesting to look at the 1998 -

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! The Leader of the Opposition is intent on conversing with the member for Collie while the Premier is trying to answer the question.

Dr GALLOP: In Queensland in 1998 we saw the folly of the conservative side of politics, when it entered into an arrangement with One Nation. However, thanks to the Australian Labor Party's very well-directed preferences, many National Party members were returned to the Queensland Parliament. The same old story was continued in the Northern Territory. It is interesting to note that Denis Burke apologised to his fellow Territorians for the folly of his policy.

We saw it in Queensland and in the Northern Territory. However, in Western Australia only one political leader on the conservative side of politics is considering a deal with One Nation. In which Chamber does he sit? He is sitting opposite. What is he doing as a result of feeling the pressure? He is blaming the media. On a radio program this morning, good old grumpy chops in charge of the ship of misery over there blamed the media for giving One Nation a profile it does not deserve. He said that every time an election is held the media builds up this issue and, therefore, the media must consider whether it is behaving in the best interests of Australia.

The media are the messengers; the Leader of the Opposition is a political leader who is not facing up to his responsibilities. Therefore, let us ask this question: is the position of the Leader of the Opposition in this State being taken on the basis of a commitment and interest in multiculturalism and minority ethnic communities in Western Australia? No. Is it being taken in the interests of Western Australia and the businesses that want to develop their trade and relationships in Asia? No, it is not. Is it being taken in the interests of better foreign investment in this country and in opening up our country so that we can create jobs and opportunities for our people? No, it is not. In whose interests is the policy position of the Leader of the Opposition? Mr Speaker, it is in his own interests, and that is all. We can now talk about the three stooges of Australian politics: Borbidge, Burke and Barnett.