

AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE ACADEMY, TOODYAY

Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Minister for Education and Training:

I refer to the minister's recent decision to reject the application for a proposed Australian science academy at Toodyay.

- (1) On what grounds did the minister reject this application?
- (2) If Toodyay is not suitable, where in Western Australia would the minister prefer this type of facility to be developed?

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:

(1)-(2) I do not recall that I personally rejected a proposal for a science academy in Toodyay.

Hon Barry House: Do you want me to show you a letter you signed?

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: I sign hundreds of letters.

Hon Norman Moore: Are you saying that you don't read them?

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: I do read them. The Leader of the Opposition was Minister for Education, albeit for only a short time. I am quite happy -

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order, members! The occasional interjection is all right, but when three or four members interject at once it makes it hard to hear not only the answer but also the interjections.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: This question should have been placed on notice. Having said that, I am quite confident that the decision to reject the proposal was made on all the appropriate grounds.

Several members interjected.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: One thing that I do not do is run around pedalling furrphies as Hon Barry House does. I refer to a media release that he issued that contains the sort of nonsense that the member opposite pedals. In that media release he said that I was running for cover over the issue of protecting teachers appearing before a parliamentary inquiry into Labor's planned changes for education.

Hon Barry House: I have asked you that question several times; you have refused to answer it.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: Mr President, you might remember this. I cannot believe that the honourable member wasted his time writing a press release on that matter. The former President cut me off and did not give me the opportunity to answer the question. Given that I did not have the opportunity to answer the question, it certainly did not warrant the issuing of a press release.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order, members!

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: Talk about desperate and dateless! How pathetic!

The PRESIDENT: A number of members have sought the call, and I hope to give them the call before question time concludes. Hon Simon O'Brien quite correctly got to his feet first.