

OPERATION AVALON, NUMBER OF POLICE OFFICERS

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON to the minister representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

I apologise for the fact that when I asked this question last week, I thought the Office of Police and Emergency Services had received it. In fact, it had not been sent from my office.

Hon N.D. Griffiths: I will not make bad gestures!

Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON: Okay.

- (1) How many police officers were assigned to Operation Avalon to monitor the Gypsy Jokers' motorcycle run to Albany and return?
- (2) How many police man-hours were consumed by Operation Avalon?
- (3) What was the estimated total cost of Operation Avalon?
- (4) What was the cost of overtime payments and accommodation for police officers engaged in Operation Avalon?
- (5) What charges, and how many, were laid against the Gypsy Jokers club as a result of Operation Avalon?

Hon N.D. GRIFFITHS replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question. When I first heard the member read those words the other day I was interested in the answer. It is very interesting and informative! I hope the member agrees.

Hon Derrick Tomlinson: Your answers are always informative. However, I cannot say the same for the rest of your colleagues.

Hon N.D. GRIFFITHS: I will provide the answer.

- (1)-(2),(4) The Western Australia Police Service advises that to provide an answer to this request, it will need to undertake significant research involving several portfolios. As such, an answer to these questions cannot be provided in the time permitted. I therefore ask the member to put the question on notice.

Hon Derrick Tomlinson: The Police Service doesn't want to tell the truth. It doesn't want the public to know that it wasted money.

Hon N.D. GRIFFITHS: I think Hon Derrick Tomlinson is very unkind.

The PRESIDENT: Order! That was a most unfortunate interjection. The member should not answer his own question.

Hon N.D. GRIFFITHS: To continue -

- (3) To date, the current additional cost is \$296 500.
- (5) The Western Australia Police Service further advises that two arrests were made and a number of infringements issued. The deterrent value of Operation Avalon -

Hon Derrick Tomlinson: The insurance value - go on.

The PRESIDENT: Order! The minister ought not be intimidated by interjections.

Hon N.D. GRIFFITHS: Thank you very much for that intervention, Mr President.

Hon Derrick Tomlinson: He's not intimidated. We both know the way the minds work.

Hon N.D. GRIFFITHS: I want to put the member's mind at rest. The deterrent value of Operation Avalon is unquantifiable.