

PROFESSOR PETER NEWMAN, MINISTRY OF HOUSING

**301. Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON to the Minister for Housing:**

In answer to question without notice 143 that I asked on 31 May, the minister replied in part -

... I would love to have available to me the services of someone of the stature and with the skills and talent of Professor Peter Newman.

- (1) Is the minister a victim of unrequited love?
- (2) Is it correct that Professor Peter Newman will not be chief of staff of the Minister for Housing, Hon Tom Stephens - as reported in *The West Australian* on 31 May - but rather will join the policy office of the Premier?
- (3) Will the minister confirm that the chief executive officer of the Ministry of Housing, Greg Joyce, has been nominated as administrator of the Indian Ocean Territories, Cocos and Christmas Islands?

**Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:**

I thank the member for his question.

- (1) Yes.

Hon George Cash: Yes, you have been spurned?

Hon TOM STEPHENS: No, not spurned.

The PRESIDENT: Order! No supplementary questions to the minister.

Hon Derrick Tomlinson: The word is cuckolded.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: Cuckolded is not the word. However, there is a pecking order in government, and I was pecked. I did some talent scouting and others now have the talent.

- (2) I hope soon to be in a position to appoint an alternative chief of staff.

Hon Derrick Tomlinson: Someone you will love.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: Love and cherish, and who will do a good job on behalf of all of us, and join the staff of someone who is after all the servant of the people of Western Australia. That will be the task of whoever takes up that office.

Hon Kim Chance: You forgot humble.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: Yes, a humble servant.

- (3) There is absolutely no truth in the speculation - if I heard the member correctly - that Greg Joyce is going to the Cocos and Christmas Islands. I can assure the member that Mr Greg Joyce was a valued CEO under the previous Government and remains a valued CEO under this Government. He is a skilled and talented officer. Just as his skills were valued by members opposite, I can say with confidence that his skills and talents are valued by all of us on this side of the House.