

MEMBERS OF THE LABOR PARTY - DEALINGS WITH BRIAN BURKE AND JULIAN GRILL

709. Mr P.D. OMODEI to the Premier:

I refer to the fact that the Premier is personally responsible for allowing Brian Burke and Julian Grill into the Western Australian Parliament and the state government by promoting Norm Marlborough and the member for Riverton into the cabinet.

- (1) Will the Premier be moving to have the member for Murchison-Eyre expelled from the Parliament for leaking a document to Julian Grill?
- (2) Will the Premier be expelling the member for Riverton for his dodgy dealings with Brian Burke and Julian Grill?

Withdrawal of Remark

Mr R.C. KUCERA: The wording in that question, particularly about the member for Riverton, is inappropriate and should be withdrawn.

The SPEAKER: The wording of questions does not provide a capacity for unparliamentary language to be used about a member, unless the wording is in a substantive motion alleging some sort of misbehaviour on behalf of the member. The wording of the question is, in my view, against the rules. Perhaps the Leader of the Opposition will reword the particular line and remove that wording.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr P.D. OMODEI: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

- (2) Will the Premier be expelling the member for Riverton for his questionable dealings with Brian Burke and Julian Grill?
- (3) Will the Premier also be expelling the police minister, who, according to his own words, owes a special debt of thanks to Brian Burke?
- (4) Will the Premier be expelling the education minister, who, according to his own maiden speech, has had substantial dealings with Julian Grill and Kevin Reynolds?
- (5) Will the Premier be resigning for being the architect of the process that allowed Brian Burke and Julian Grill back into Western Australian public life?

Mr A.J. CARPENTER replied:

- (1)-(5) It is almost as though a member from the government side had written the question and given it to opposition members to allow us to pound them for their lack of a moral compass, which they have demonstrated in this chamber today. We have on our hands in the Parliament of Western Australia a most remarkable situation. The state Parliamentary Liberal Party and those who support it in the Parliament are seeking to protect the interests of Brian Burke and Noel Crichton-Browne, as manifested in the Parliament of Western Australia by Hon Shelley Archer and Hon Anthony Fels, when it is quite clear, thanks to the work of the Select Committee of Privilege on a Matter Arising in the Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations and the Corruption and Crime Commission, that both those members mentioned have demonstrated that they should not be in the Parliament and should be expelled from the Parliament.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, members! I ask the Premier to take his seat. I call the member for Murdoch to order for the first time.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: Who would have thought last Tuesday, when that report was tabled in the upper house of the state Parliament, that one week later -

Mr P.D. Omodei interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: - we would have -

Mr P.D. Omodei interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, Leader of the Opposition!

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: Who would have thought last Tuesday, when that report was tabled in the upper house of the state Parliament, that one week later there would be the astounding and I might say undignified and

unfortunate sight of the state Parliamentary Liberal Party defending the position of Shelley Archer and Anthony Fels in the Parliament, and knowing -

Mr C.J. Barnett interjected.

The SPEAKER: I ask the Premier to take his seat. I call the member for Cottesloe to order for the first time.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: Outside of the belly of political opportunism, every person in Western Australia who has taken an interest in this matter understands what has happened here. They understand that there has been exposed a massive conspiracy to further the private and personal financial interests of people outside the Parliament, using as an instrument or instruments members of the upper house of the state Parliament. It is troubling at many levels that the capacity of the state Liberal Party to respond to these circumstances is so limited and so perverse -

Mr C.J. Barnett: Don't you realise that it is all about Labor, just like in the 1980s; all about Labor; your side, not this side.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: Members of the state Parliamentary Liberal Party have been pounding away for months with the line that I and government members of this place are controlled by Brian Burke and Kevin Reynolds. We have had months of it. Then, when our actions effectively see Brian Burke, Kevin Reynolds and Julian Grill exit the Labor Party, the analysis of the Liberal Party is that it is an act of self-preservation by the Premier and he is being forced to get rid of these people who for the past whatever months or years, according to the Liberal Party, have been controlling us. It is a grave, dire situation, and the incapacity of members of the state Parliamentary Liberal Party to grasp the gravity of what is happening and to know how to act accordingly is very troubling. I suppose that it puts in a completely new light the activities of the member for Vasse in clandestinely meeting Noel Crichton-Browne in the car park of the Parliament.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: It boils down to this: there is a test laid before us as men and women of the Parliament of Western Australia and before us as leaders, and that test is whether we have the integrity, the ethical strength and the moral compass to know how to act appropriately. On this side of the Parliament we have; on that side of the Parliament they clearly have not. No wonder their own supporters are at their wits' end with frustration about the shocking ineptitude of the members of the Parliamentary Liberal Party, because they have got themselves into this convoluted situation in which they are attacking their own motion.

Mr P.D. Omodei: We managed to get you to sack five ministers, which is unprecedented in the history of the Parliaments of Australia.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: If I were the Leader of the Opposition, I would revisit John Howard's record before making that statement. History and clarity are clearly not strong points of the Leader of the Opposition. I am beginning to wonder what is his strong point. Right down in the kernel of the soul of a human being there must be a knowledge of how to behave properly. How sophisticated a level of knowledge of the world is can sometimes be a matter of circumstance, but right down inside the core of every individual being there must be the knowledge of the difference between right and wrong. The Leader of the Opposition does not have it.