Extract from Hansard

[ASSEMBLY - Thursday, 21 August 2003] p10418c-10419a Mrs Cheryl Edwardes; Dr Geoff Gallop; Speaker

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY CONTROLLED HEALTH ORGANISATION, SELECT COMMITTEE

974. Mrs C.L. EDWARDES to the Premier:

As a supplementary question, what is the Premier hiding from? Will he not support the inquiry because he and the former Minister for Health would have to appear before the select committee?

Dr G.I. GALLOP replied:

I appear before this Parliament every day and I am asked questions. Members opposite can ask all the questions they like and I will answer them. This is the Parliament of Western Australia. If members ask me questions, I will answer them.

The real issue, yet again, is an inheritance from one Government to another. We could raise the Bellevue chemical issue and ask questions about contaminated sites in Western Australia, the finance brokers scandal and the failure to add one centimetre of rail line to our metropolitan public transport system. I could go on and on. The health system was in a mess and part of that mess was the relationship between the Department of Health and the Western Australian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation, and we have fixed it up. One of the tasks with which every new Labor Government in Western Australian history has been faced is following its complacent, self-satisfied Liberal predecessors. Life is very easy for people on that side of the House. On this side, we take the daily struggles and difficulties of people very seriously. That is why we are committed to changing our society.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: I call the members for Murdoch and Warren-Blackwood to order.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: Once again, a Labor Government is performing its historic duty and taking Western Australia into the future and cleaning up the mess that is always left by our conservative opponents.