

COMMONWEALTH SPORT AND RECREATION FUNDING

294. Mr J.R. QUIGLEY to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

Is the minister aware of the commonwealth government's sport and recreation funding in the recent federal budget; and, if so, what benefit will it bring to Western Australia?

Mr R.C. KUCERA replied:

I suppose the simple answer is none. I will go into that a little deeper. It was interesting to hear the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure today talk about whaling and the nautical industry. This nation has a nautical history. I remind the house, especially the member for Vasse, who seems not to want to listen to sensible argument in this house, of some of those nautical terms.

Life on ships in the 1800s involved many months at sea, and much of the staple diet came from barrels of meat usually known as pork barrels. For those who are interested, the term "slush fund" is derived from the process of rendering down the meat and the grease that was left over in the pork barrels. That is something the member for Leschenault will know very well.

It appears that the Howard government is very keen for these nautical traditions to survive. Members might have read the excellent article by Dave Hughes in this morning's *The West Australian* about the amount of money that is now finding its way out of the little barrels - remember that nautical term - in Canberra into places other than those in Western Australia. There is an interesting little line in this year's commonwealth budget paper.

Mr G. Snook interjected.

Mr R.C. KUCERA: Members opposite should listen to this because it affects them and every one of their constituents. Unlike the member opposite, every one of my constituents is a Western Australian. In the paper "Making Australia Stronger - Delivering Our Commitments 2005-06" under the heading "Sporting and recreational organisations and facilities - contribution" it indicates that the commonwealth government will provide \$2 million in 2004-05 to contribute to sporting and recreational organisations and facilities to give effect to election commitments. Is that not interesting? The list of grant recipients makes fascinating reading.

Ms K. Hodson-Thomas: Why not just table them?

Mr R.C. KUCERA: I am happy to table them; I have them here.

Of those 27 grants - this is where it becomes scandalous - 16 went to the marginal Liberal seat of McEwen in Victoria.

Several members interjected.

Mr R.C. KUCERA: Members opposite should listen. I might get the member for Vasse to remind Mr Prosser of this. A further six went to the marginal Liberal seat of Makin in South Australia.

Ms K. Hodson-Thomas interjected.

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Carine to order for the first time.

Mr R.C. KUCERA: Of the remaining four grants - this was an Australian government set of grants - two went to New South Wales and two went to Queensland. How many of these grants came to Western Australia? The member for Mindarie is absolutely right; none came to Western Australia - it was a big fat zero. If this is not blatant political bias, I do not know what is. This drives home the neglect of Captain Howard for Western Australia, which is the engine room of this nation in terms of its impact on the economy. Unfortunately, I am not surprised by the attitude of the federal government. In the time that the Howard government has been in power, \$1 billion has been given to New South Wales -

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Wagin to order for the first time.

Mr R.C. KUCERA: I am surprised at the member for Wagin! He knows the importance of sport. An amount of \$1 billion was provided to New South Wales for the Olympic sporting facilities; \$300 million was given to Victoria for sporting facilities, including \$8 million for the Whitten Oval; \$12 million went to the NorthPower Stadium; \$10 million to the Penrith Stadium; \$8 million to Kogarah Oval in New South Wales; and \$10 million to York Park and Bellerive Oval in Tasmania. Not one grant was made to Western Australia. I must tell me hearties that it is alive and well in Canberra with those scurvy dogs from the coalition!

Several members interjected.

Mr R.C. KUCERA: Have a listen to it! It is Captain Hook and his merry men. When will members opposite stick up for their state? When will they do something for this state instead of listening to their scurvy mates in Canberra?