

**MEMBER FOR DARLING RANGE — SERVICE MEDALS AND QUALIFICATIONS —
CONTEMPT OF PARLIAMENT**

Standing Orders Suspension — Motion

DR M.D. NAHAN (Riverton — Leader of the Opposition) [2.53 pm] — without notice: I move —

That so much of standing orders be suspended to enable the following motion to be moved forthwith —

That this house calls on the Procedure and Privileges Committee to investigate whether claims made by the member for Darling Range regarding his education and service record amount to a contempt of Parliament.

Standing Orders Suspension — Amendment to Motion

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Leader of the House) [2.53 pm]: I move —

To insert after “forthwith” the following —

, subject to the debate being limited to 20 minutes for government members and 20 minutes for non-government members to speak on the motion

Amendment put and passed.

Standing Orders Suspension — Motion, as Amended

The SPEAKER: Members, as this is a motion without notice to suspend standing orders, it will need the support of an absolute majority for it to proceed. If I hear a dissentient voice, I will be required to divide the Assembly.

Question put and passed with an absolute majority.

Motion

DR M.D. NAHAN (Riverton — Leader of the Opposition) [2.54 pm]: I move the motion. We have just heard that the member for Darling Range, a new member of this house, has resigned from the Labor Party and the committees of this Parliament, but will remain, at least for a while, as the member for Darling Range. The member for Darling Range was elected to this house on 11 March this year on behalf of the Labor Party. He was nominated, chosen, funded and promoted by the Labor Party. He is here because of his membership of the Labor Party.

Mr D.J. Kelly interjected.

The SPEAKER: Minister for Water!

Dr M.D. NAHAN: Over the last 20 days or more, we have heard one serious accusation after another about the claims made by the member for Darling Range about his curriculum vitae—his service record, police, military, medals, education and activity. This has been raised by the community and the media that have brought into question his bone fides, the claims upon which, first, the party selected him and, second, the people of Darling Range elected him to this place. Many of those claims have been reiterated in this house by the member for Darling Range in his maiden speech and otherwise. He has made claims about his university degrees and his service medals and records. Over the last 20 days or so, serious questions have arisen about these claims that bring into question his nomination by the Labor Party for the seat of Darling Range. He was elected to the seat of Darling Range based on these claims, which he has made as a member of this house. They bring into question his suitability as a member of this house. Over the last 20 days, we have pursued this matter with questions to the Premier. He is the leader of the Labor government in this house and the member for Darling Range was part of his caucus and team. We have asked question after question and had nothing but obfuscation by the government. All the Premier has said is that the member for Darling Range is investigating the matter and will answer these questions in due course, maybe next year. Today we heard that the Premier has not actually questioned the member for Darling Range for weeks. The Premier has not answered any questions about the veracity of the claims made by the member for Darling Range to get into this house—he has not questioned the claims and he has not answered the questions. The Premier has not answered the public and he is leaving it up to the member for Darling Range. The member for Darling Range needs to provide an answer to the issues in this house and the community. He is in this place at the behest of the Labor Party and the leader of the Labor Party needs to take leadership on this matter.

When I asked the Premier earlier today if he had asked the member for Darling Range to step down from the Labor Party, he said that he had not talked to him. The Premier has not provided any leadership. These issues bring into question the claims upon which the member for Darling Range came into this place. The proper procedure, particularly since the Premier has not provided leadership on this issue and the member is no longer, as I understand it, a member of the Premier’s team, the Labor Party, is to send the member to the Procedures and Privileges Committee. The questions about the member for Darling Range’s CV justifies sending him to that

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committee. He stood in this place and claimed in his maiden speech to have a degree from the University of Leeds. He made that claim and he does not have a degree from there. He made claims, outside the house at least, that he had a degree in police studies from the University of Portsmouth. The evidence is that he does not. He said to the public of Western Australia and the electorate of Darling Range that he had a police services medal from serving for the United Nations. We now know, not through the government or the member for Darling Range but through the media, that it was a fake medal. In other words, the evidence is that he has fabricated his educational qualifications upon which he got into the Labor Party and was elected to this place, and which have been reiterated in this place, raising serious questions about his service record and his medals. That brings into question his suitability to remain and, at least, places a requirement on this house to take action against it. The member has now left the Labor Party and the government has stalled on the issue and not even investigated it for 20 days now. The Minister for Police said that all the records are in Iron Mountain and hard to get.

Several members interjected.

Dr M.D. NAHAN: Minister for Corrective Services, he is no longer in Corrective Services—stalled, stalled, but he is no longer a member of the Labor Party.

Several members interjected.

Dr M.D. NAHAN: He is no longer a member of the Labor Party; therefore, we should send him to the Procedure and Privileges Committee and we seek your support for that.

The SPEAKER: Members, please! I want to hear what the member is saying. Have you finished, Leader of the Opposition?

Dr M.D. Nahan: Yes.

MR W.J. JOHNSTON (Cannington — Minister for Mines and Petroleum) [3.00 pm]: Mr Speaker, I was expecting the Liberal Party —

Mr D.J. Kelly: Is that it?

The SPEAKER: Minister for Mines and Petroleum, you stood up; you have to take the call.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: It is normal that when a party wants to lead an attack, its members outline the details of their case. For some reason, the Liberal Party has decided not to provide any evidence to support a suspension of standing orders. I want to remind people in this chamber, because many people were not here at the time, that the Liberal Party accused me of making false claims in this chamber. They used question time inappropriately, in breach of the standing orders, to raise matters that I had talked about. I talked about the fact that the member for Carine had, in some way, had his name removed from the records of the Corruption and Crime Commission. Even after all that debate, no-one has ever actually explained how the member for Carine's name was expunged from the records of the CCC without the commissioner's agreement. We do not know how that happened. The member for Carine put two edited letters on the table of the Parliament and refused permission to have those letters copied by other members of the Parliament. What the member for Carine removed from those two pieces of correspondence was the name of the officials at the CCC whom he had been interacting with. Why did the member for Carine want to cover up whom he had been interacting with at the CCC?

The other person I raised a question about was the former member for Wanneroo, Paul Miles, who had forgotten to declare a very large donation—over \$10 000; I do not remember the exact figure—to his local government election campaign. That was never properly explained. The Liberal Party never referred either of those matters to the Procedure and Privileges Committee.

The member for Riverton was a minister who personally awarded a contract to Telstra without a tender while he was a shareholder in Telstra. That matter was never referred to the privileges committee. He was also a shareholder in QBE Insurance Group when the government awarded a contract for QBE to manage the home indemnity insurance scheme in Western Australia. It was never explained how he allowed himself to be in cabinet when that decision was made without revealing the fact that he was a shareholder in the company.

The member for Bateman had shares in a company that dealt with matters relating to his portfolio. He, himself, knew he was wrong in that because he referred the powers he had as Minister for Finance to the now Leader of the Opposition, but never told the Premier that he had done that. He never told the Premier that he had referred powers from his office to another office. That was never referred to the privileges committee. He took guests with private business interests to the Chinese Consul General, but no explanation was ever provided and no investigation was ever done. He took other guests with his cousin, I think it was, to the Weld Club for a conversation about government contracts, and there was no investigation. These are not matters I am inventing; they are all facts we know from the time the former government was in power. We can talk about standards. When I was referred to the privileges committee, I voted in favour of my referral because I knew I had nothing to hide.

Dr Mike Nahan; Mr David Templeman; Mr Bill Johnston; Mr Sean L'Estrange; Mr Zak Kirkup; Mrs Liza Harvey; Ms Margaret Quirk; Mr Mark McGowan

The member for Darling Range needs to explain what is going on here. When he does, the community can make a decision about what needs to happen. That is called natural justice. Natural justice allows an accused person to have their say on the allegations made against them. We cannot draw a conclusion until the member makes those comments. That is exactly the standard the former Premier and every one of those members on that side of the chamber demanded in respect of Troy Buswell when he got drunk and crashed into five cars in Subiaco —

Ms R. Saffioti: In his government car.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: — in his government car. Remember, the only reason that matters became public —

Ms R. Saffioti interjected.

Mrs L.M. Harvey interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Scarborough!

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: — in respect of Troy Buswell was because of an individual ringing Channel Seven. If that individual had never rung Channel Seven, the former government would never have explained any of those matters. When things started to go wrong, there was the health excuse. These were matters that all should have been properly dealt with but never were, particularly the Troy Buswell cover-up. Remember, too, that Troy Buswell assaulted an employee here in this building—sexual assault of an employee in this building—in fact, he became Leader of the Liberal Party after he sexually assaulted that woman. I am not talking about the chair sniffing; I am talking about his conduct when he undid a woman's bra.

Mr S.K. L'Estrange: What do you know about threesomes?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: What was that?

Mr S.K. L'Estrange: It's another matter.

The SPEAKER: I will just call you to order.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: What a stupid, stupid man! No wonder you were such a terrible minister. If you think that I have been involved in sexual misconduct, you tell me what the allegation is. Go ahead!

Mr S.K. L'Estrange: It was not directed at you.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members, please!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! This is a very serious moment in Parliament today. We want to hear it properly.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: I am not going to speak for much longer.

Ms J.M. Freeman interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Mirrabooka, I call you to order for the first time.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: I am not going to speak for much longer, but the hypocrisy that drips off the Liberal Party is extraordinary. Let us make something clear. The Premier has no responsibility to answer the questions asked by the Liberal Party in question time because they do not relate to his affairs as the Premier. The fact that he does answer those questions is to the Premier's credit because under the standing orders, he does not have to. But he is an open and transparent leader, unlike the former Premier who refused to provide information about ministers crashing their cars in Subiaco or ministers attending private meetings on their government time or the minister who signed a contract with Telstra, while he was a shareholder, without a tender. Those are all things that happened while that man was the Premier. This man is now the Premier. We now have standards in this chamber and one of those standards is natural justice. I cannot answer for the member for Darling Range, only he can.

Dr M.D. Nahan interjected.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: He has not yet made his statement in this house so none of us knows what is happening.

MR S.K. L'ESTRANGE (Churchlands) [3.08 pm]: Getting to the bottom of this matter is a serious issue. The opposition's role in this place is to hold the government of the day to account for how it acts on behalf of the people of Western Australia. None of us likes to see a member of Parliament come under this type of scrutiny for their own actions.

Several members interjected.

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The SPEAKER: Members! I want to hear this in silence.

Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE: We all owe a duty of responsibility to the people of Western Australia and the people of Darling Range, particularly when this story was led by journalists from *The West Australian*, to at least ask questions about the validity of the member's statements about his education and background and whether he was allowed or permitted to wear a military honour that was bestowed. Those questions are in the public's interest right now. In the media—on talkback radio and in the paper—those questions are being asked and the community is giving feedback to them on talkback radio asking for results. That is all we are asking for. We are holding the Premier to account on this issue for one fundamental reason. He found out about this 21 days ago; he said in this place that he found out on or around 7 or 8 November. Since that time, he has had the opportunity to clarify to this place whether the member for Darling Range's credentials, as he publicly displayed and had talked about, were true. That cuts to the heart of what this motion is about.

We are most concerned about the member for Darling Range resigning from the Labor Party today without being given the opportunity to come into this place and explain himself and without the Premier of the day giving a detailed account of answers to the questions that are being asked in the public domain and by the media, and that have been reiterated in this place during question time over the last two weeks of Parliament. That is what this motion is about. In fact, the decision for the member for Darling Range to resign from the Labor Party and stay on as a member of Parliament leaves more questions unanswered than it answers. I will tell members why. It is because we still do not know whether the member has resigned because the Premier told him that that is what he thought he should do: "I think you should resign from the Labor Party and stay on the back bench." We do not know whether the Premier gave that advice to the member for Darling Range because he has not told us. We have asked time and again for the Premier to be accountable for the veracity of the background of one of his Labor members of Parliament. That is all we have been asking. We still have many unanswered questions. We have unanswered questions about exactly when the Premier became aware of these issues and how he went about trying to get the facts. We still do not have a detailed understanding of what action the Premier took regarding the member for Darling Range and his background. We have still not been provided with a detailed understanding of the actions, investigations and findings of the Premier and his office into what was a Labor member of Parliament—nothing. All we had today was the Premier standing and saying that the member for Darling Range had resigned; that was it. For all we know, the Premier, as the Leader of the Labor Party, has said: "Look, member; I'm sorry, but I can't have you on my team because I'll come under scrutiny. You've got to go to the back bench and become an Independent. I don't want you in the team and I'm not going to allow myself, the Premier of Western Australia, to be answerable to the people. I don't want that; you brought this upon me. I don't want that. I'm your leader. You go and sit on the back bench and be an Independent. You can stay over there; I'll look after myself." For all we know, that is what the Premier has said. Frankly, it is unsatisfactory. When the Minister for Mines and Petroleum talked about natural justice, I absolutely agree. We will get natural justice from the Procedure and Privileges Committee giving us the facts. We have asked the Premier for the facts but he has not given them to us. All we are saying is that the Premier should present the facts to Parliament and then see what happens next—allow natural justice to happen so the member for Darling Range can be presented the facts. He can look at the facts that are being investigated.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE: He can then answer or make an explanation about whether he disagrees with these facts. He can stand up and say, "Here's what Parliament has decided; I disagree with it for the following reasons." That is all this motion is about. This motion is being brought on only because the Premier has refused to stand up and deliver a detailed explanation of all the questions that have been asked in the media and in this place regarding the member for Darling Range's background. This is not a matter for the member for Darling Range; this is a matter for the Premier! It has always been a matter for the Premier because it cuts to the chase of his leadership. We still do not know what advice he has provided to the member for Darling Range. We do not know what he expects the member for Darling Range to do from now on. We do not know whether he is going to be accountable, as the Premier of Western Australia, to the standards he has set for his backbench because he has just removed that backbencher from his party.

Mr P. Papalia interjected.

Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE: We do not know whether the member did it on his own volition.

Mr P. Papalia interjected.

The SPEAKER: Minister for Tourism, I call you to order for the first and second time.

Dr Mike Nahan; Mr David Templeman; Mr Bill Johnston; Mr Sean L'Estrange; Mr Zak Kirkup; Mrs Liza Harvey; Ms Margaret Quirk; Mr Mark McGowan

Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE: We ask that the Premier makes a detailed response to all the questions that have been asked because he is the Premier and was the member for Darling Range's leader when these questions were put in the public domain.

MR Z.R.F. KIRKUP (Dawesville) [3.15 pm]: Mr Speaker, I rise to support the opposition's —
Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! I will hear this in silence.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: I rise to support the opposition's motion. It is amazing that 264 days ago, the Labor Party started with 41 members of Parliament and it has already lost one. What a fantastic team! While members opposite might not like the pressure that is being applied to them now —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Have you had your fun?

Mr B.S. Wyatt: I'm the longest serving Treasurer in a decade!

The SPEAKER: Then you're the longest serving Treasurer to get two calls to order, too. Members, this is a very serious issue. I want to hear this in silence. If anyone interjects, I will call them to order.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: We know that members opposite might not enjoy the pressure that is being applied, but this matter absolutely goes to the heart of the Premier's integrity, his judgement and his willingness to be accountable to this place. We all know, as per statements that the Premier has provided previously, that he has conducted an investigation through the Labor Party into what is happening with the member for Darling Range's qualifications. When it comes to matters of privilege, we know that in his maiden speech on 17 May, the member for Darling Range alluded to the fact that he led war crime investigations in the Balkans. He also alluded to the fact that the police force twice put him through university. These claims have now likely been disproven by *The West Australian*. In a speech he made here on 22 June, the member for Darling Range claimed he had been a detective both here for the WA Police Force and in the United Kingdom, and that he worked in surveillance and for a regional crime squad. The member for Darling Range also made a number of claims about his education—his degrees at both Portsmouth and Leeds universities—both in this place and out of it that have been clearly refuted and dispelled by those in the media. It is important in this place that if we are to ensure that each member is accountable and of the utmost integrity, they are investigated by the Procedure and Privileges Committee. That is why the opposition moved this motion. That is why we expect the government to support this bipartisan approach moved by the opposition today.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: We expect a bipartisan approach, member for Armadale, because this is a true test for members opposite if they believe in accountability of all members in this place and the claims they have made in this place.

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Girrawheen, I call you to order for the first time.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: We have to ensure that each member of Parliament in this place is upright and trustworthy. Very clearly, the claims made in the member for Darling Range's maiden speech and in subsequent speeches are absolutely incorrect —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members on my right! I will hear this in silence.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: These claims were made by the member for Darling Range in this place. The Procedure and Privileges Committee is the right avenue to pursue them to ensure that we get to the bottom of the claims that have been made. I find it absolutely amazing that members opposite clearly agree with —

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Girrawheen, I call you to order for the second time.

Dr A.D. Buti: Slow down!

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: I have only a minute left, member for Armadale.

Dr Mike Nahan; Mr David Templeman; Mr Bill Johnston; Mr Sean L'Estrange; Mr Zak Kirkup; Mrs Liza Harvey; Ms Margaret Quirk; Mr Mark McGowan

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: It is amazing that members opposite clearly believe that the member for Darling Range is not fit to be a member of the Labor Party, yet they support —

Point of Order

Dr M.D. NAHAN: The members opposite are screaming. Hansard cannot hear and nor can the opposition.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! I accept your point of order and I agree with you, Leader of the Opposition. Members, please; we have six minutes to go with this motion. As I keep telling you, this is a very, very important motion that has come up. I do not think some of the new members realise how bad this could turn out if it goes to the committee. Just listen in silence.

Debate Resumed

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: A number of inconsistent and incorrect statements have been made by the member for Darling Range in this place. It is important, regardless of his resignation from the Labor Party, that Parliament investigates the veracity and truthful nature of the claims made by the member for Darling Range. If those opposite do not believe that the member for Darling Range is fit enough to be a member of the Labor Party, I am surprised they find him fit enough to be a member of this place.

MRS L.M. HARVEY (Scarborough — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [3.20 pm]: Fitting with what we have seen of this Premier since he took the leadership of the state, he sits back and refuses to take leadership on an issue. He had an opportunity to get up and articulate his point in this place and allow the opposition an opportunity to respond to that, but chose not to. That is the standard of Premier we have.

This is a very important issue, and the opposition believes this should be referred to the Procedure and Privileges Committee because the Procedure and Privileges —

Ms R. Saffioti interjected.

The SPEAKER: Minister for Transport! Okay, I will call you to order for the first and second time. Do you want to keep going and go home early?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: The Procedure and Privileges Committee has the opportunity to investigate not only claims of matters that might call Parliament into disrepute or be a contempt of Parliament, but also it gives an opportunity for members who feel as though they may have been adversely reflected on in this chamber to have their say. So the Procedures and Privileges Committee —

Ms M.M. Quirk: Like you lied to this house! A proven liar!

Withdrawal of Remark

The SPEAKER: Member for Girrawheen, I call you to order for the third time. What was that last comment, member, about “lie”? Was that about any particular person or was that just a throwaway line?

Ms M.M. QUIRK: No, it was about a particular person, and I withdraw it.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

Debate Resumed

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Procedure and Privileges Committee is the appropriate committee to interrogate this matter. My colleagues have outlined very clearly—as has the media over the excruciating 20 days this has been in the newspapers—that there are serious concerns about the veracity of the claims made by the member for Darling Range that had him elected to this place. Just to sum up, those claims are that he was investigating war crimes in the Balkans, which apparently have proved to be untrue; there were claims about his degree being obtained from the University of Leeds; and there were claims about a postgraduate degree in police studies from the University of Portsmouth. We do not know if that was used inappropriately for him to enter the Western Australia Police Force; we do not know if the other degree was used inappropriately for him to gain employment in this state with the Department of Corrective Services. He has made references to his experiences and studies—his experiences in areas that we now know he did not serve—in this Parliament, which means he misled this Parliament. The response of the Premier has been that he is imploring him to come back to Parliament and explain himself, and what we have seen today is that the best efforts of the Premier have managed only to have the member for Darling Range resign from the Labor Party and the parliamentary committees that he was representing the Labor Party on as part of his

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parliamentary business. In effect, the Premier has protected the Labor brand. He has protected the Labor brand and distanced the Labor brand from the claims of the member for Darling Range. He has protected the Labor brand. What he has not done —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Cottesloe, your own member is on her feet.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: We are now asking for the Procedure and Privileges Committee to uphold the standards of this Parliament. The Labor brand has been protected, but every single day that the information about this member and the way he got elected on a series of mistruths—every day that that is out there—it impugns every member in this place! Every member of Parliament is now taken to have the same standards as the member for Darling Range, and that appals me! We get elected by our constituency based on the things we tell them about ourselves. They elect us on the experiences we say we have, that then give us the credentials to represent them. The constituency of the member for Darling Range has elected somebody under false pretences, and the Procedure and Privileges Committee of this place should interrogate whether the member for Darling Range is an appropriate person to be in this place. Until that occurs or the member for Darling Range leaves this place, every single one of us is discredited by his actions! So it is not good enough, Premier, to protect the Labor brand! Protect the brand of this Parliament! Protect the brand of every member of Parliament and force him to resign or refer it to the privileges committee!

Several members interjected.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Force him to resign. You forced him out of the Labor Party, now force him to resign! Bring it to the privileges committee so that we can at least know that the members of Parliament remaining in this place are respected.

MR M. McGOWAN (Rockingham — Premier) [3.25 pm]: I rise just to address the issues raised by the opposition. Firstly, the opposition claims that this matter has been out there and hanging around for 21 days. As I indicated to the house, on 8 November I heard about this issue via a media adviser. I went and consulted with the member for Darling Range in respect of this matter; he told me there was nothing in it. When I was in China with journalist Gary Adshead, at dinner one night in Shanghai he raised the issue of the police medal with me and I told him that I had spoken to the MP and that there was nothing in it. Upon my return to Western Australia Sunday week ago at midnight the issue had been in the paper the day before, and then on the Monday I called the member for Darling Range and had two conversations with him in relation to these issues; I have advised the house as to what he told me in those two conversations. So in effect this issue has been a matter of public attention since Saturday a week ago. What is that? Twelve days or thereabouts, or 11 days or thereabouts. There is point 1. So all members carrying on about 21 days of it being out there and in public and so forth is wrong. Secondly, my view —

Several members interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Honestly, why do you not just listen?

The SPEAKER: Member for Dawesville, you have had your say.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Secondly, it is my view that before any of these matters in respect of the privileges committee could possibly be considered by this house, the house should afford the member for Darling Range the opportunity to put his side of the story.

Government members: Hear, hear!

Mr M. McGOWAN: It is just a fundamental matter of fairness. He is not here today and, as I have indicated to people, he has had a very distressing time, I have been advised, and a very difficult time with his family. He is not here today. The advice I have is that he will return tomorrow and make a statement to this house. To raise this matter today and suggest that somehow we should refer him to the privileges committee prior to him even having the opportunity to speak in here in relation to the allegations is wrong. It is just, frankly, wrong. The opposition should afford him the opportunity to do that. So I will not support the motion on that basis. We are not going to support it on that basis. He deserves the opportunity to express his point of view and we should give him the opportunity to explain.

Thirdly, today before question time the member for Darling Range resigned from the Labor Party and two parliamentary committees. His resignation from two parliamentary committees and the Labor Party is a very significant event, and no doubt it has caused him some further considerable distress and further considerable pain. Then to roll in here with this motion moments later just smacks to me of kicking a man when he is down. That is all the opposition is doing—kicking a man when he is down. He is now an Independent member of Parliament, and he will be able to come back here tomorrow and explain himself. But to come in here and kick a man when he is down, before he has had the opportunity to explain, I think says it all about the current opposition and the woeful state it is in. I will also say that the opposition might note that the National Party is not here. That is because its

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members do not agree with what the opposition is doing. They are not prepared to come in here and vote for this very unfair and precipitous motion that the opposition is putting forward. I also note that in the last term of the previous government, numerous issues were out there that were just ignored. I referred to them a little bit in question time, but I want to say this to the opposition: a Procedure and Privileges Committee goes two ways. A range of issues were not examined by the Procedure and Privileges Committee when the last government was in office. We may well find cause to submit a range of issues to the privileges committee concerning the Leader of the Opposition's shareholdings. Let me go through that. He held three shareholdings and he made decisions in respect of those shareholdings as a minister. The former Premier said that he broke the code of conduct. I think that is a matter that the Procedure and Privileges Committee would have great interest in. Let us go through them. The Leader of the Opposition held shares in Telstra while making announcements and decisions about Telstra winning contracts from the Western Australian government. He held shares in QBE as Treasurer while making decisions on the Insurance Commission of WA and having meetings with lobbyists representing QBE. He held shares in goldminers while making decisions on Western Australia's gold royalty rates. That is the Leader of the Opposition when he was a minister. Honestly—the standards!

Then we go to the pretender over here, the member for Bateman.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr M. McGOWAN: The issues about his shareholding arrangement were on the front page of the newspaper for—what?—two weeks. He was promoting his own shareholding interests for private benefit as a minister. He was sacked as Minister for Finance. Under the then government, the Procedure and Privileges Committee never examined those issues, but maybe the Procedure and Privileges Committee would be interested in those issues.

Mr D.C. Nalder: Go for it!

Mr M. McGOWAN: Maybe it would be interested in those issues.

Let us go to the defence of Troy Buswell after the actions he took and the fact that he never resigned from the Liberal Party. In fact, after some of the things he did, he was actually made Leader of the Liberal Party. That is what the Liberal Party did with Troy Buswell.

Ms S. Winton interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Wanneroo!

Mr M. McGOWAN: What did the member for Scarborough know about all those issues with Troy Buswell? The matter was before the police. What did she know about those issues? What did she know about what he was up to when he devastated half of Subiaco on a drunken rampage one night? What did the member for Scarborough know about those issues? What did the member for Scarborough know about the conspiracy to keep all of these issues secret within government? There were senior ministerial officers who knew all about it. The Leader of the Opposition comes in here and talks about a junior backbencher who has done the right thing by himself and his family, but he should look at his record.

Dr M.D. Nahan: Look at yours.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Look at your shareholdings. Do you want me to go over them again?

Dr M.D. Nahan interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, I call you to order for the second time. Members, you had your chances to say your bit before and it was heard in relative silence. I want to hear this.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Members opposite come in here and talk about a very junior backbench member of Parliament who has done the right thing, when there are three ministers in the former government with shocking records of probity, two of whom are still in this Parliament.

Dr M.D. Nahan interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition!

Mr M. McGOWAN: I think it would be very interesting for the Procedure and Privileges Committee to examine those issues. They are the sorts of things that the Parliament can do, because under the last government, those issues were not dealt with properly. All the former government did was cover up those issues. We saw what happened to the last government; it lost in the biggest landslide in history. The people expressed their verdict about the former government and its standards.

Dr Mike Nahan; Mr David Templeman; Mr Bill Johnston; Mr Sean L'Estrange; Mr Zak Kirkup; Mrs Liza Harvey; Ms Margaret Quirk; Mr Mark McGowan

As I said, the member for Darling Range did the right thing, I think, by himself and his family. I think he deserves some credit for having done that, and perhaps, at this point in time, a little bit of understanding about what he is going through. Rolling in here about someone who is now an Independent member of Parliament, who is no doubt going through great pain, and continuing to put the boot into him in the way you are —

Dr M.D. Nahan interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition!

Mr M. McGOWAN: — on a day in which he is no doubt going through great personal pain and when he is not a member of the Labor Party does you no credit at all. You all trying to dance on his predicament in the way you are does you no credit whatsoever. During the course of the last week, you were demanding his resignation from the Labor Party.

Dr M.D. Nahan interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition!

Mr M. McGOWAN: You were demanding all these actions, he takes action, and then you say it is not good enough. I mean, honestly—does the opposition think that people do not see through it and how it manufactures issues? The opposition is recreating a crisis when the member for Darling Range has done the right thing by himself and his family. I urge the opposition to show a bit of consideration for him at this very difficult time for him and his family. In light of the fact that he has not even spoken to the Parliament, that he is an Independent member of Parliament and that the opposition has not afforded him the slightest bit of natural justice, this motion is obviously not something that anyone who is fair-minded could possibly support in their right mind. The National Party does not support it and we do not support it either.

Division

Question put and a division taken with the following result —

Ayes (12)

Mr C.J. Barnett	Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup	Mr W.R. Marmion	Mr D.C. Nalder
Mr I.C. Blayney	Mr A. Krsticevic	Mr J.E. McGrath	Mr K. O'Donnell
Mrs L.M. Harvey	Mr S.K. L'Estrange	Dr M.D. Nahan	Ms L. Mettam (<i>Teller</i>)

Noes (38)

Ms L.L. Baker	Mr M. Hughes	Mrs L.M. O'Malley	Ms J.J. Shaw
Dr A.D. Buti	Mr W.J. Johnston	Mr P. Papalia	Mr C.J. Tallentire
Mr J.N. Carey	Mr D.J. Kelly	Mr S.J. Price	Mr D.A. Templeman
Mrs R.M.J. Clarke	Mr F.M. Logan	Mr D.T. Punch	Mr P.C. Tinley
Mr R.H. Cook	Mr M. McGowan	Mr J.R. Quigley	Mr R.R. Whitby
Ms J. Farrer	Ms S.F. McGurk	Ms M.M. Quirk	Ms S.E. Winton
Mr M.J. Folkard	Mr K.J.J. Michel	Mrs M.H. Roberts	Mr B.S. Wyatt
Ms J.M. Freeman	Mr S.A. Millman	Ms C.M. Rowe	Mr D.R. Michael (<i>Teller</i>)
Ms E. Hamilton	Mr Y. Mubarakai	Ms R. Saffioti	
Mr T.J. Healy	Mr M.P. Murray	Ms A. Sanderson	

Pair

Mr P. Katsambanis

Mrs J.M.C. Stojkovski

Question thus negatived.