Mr R.F. JOHNSON to the Premier:

I ask a supplementary question. Why is the Premier’s government attempting to subvert the role of this Parliament and gag debate on legislation with such significant ramifications for our local communities?

Mr A.J. CARPENTER replied:

I hesitate to say this, but I think I must. The assertion that the member makes is completely false.

Mr R.F. Johnson: What - that you are not gagging the debate?

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: That we are subverting the Parliament.

Mr R.F. Johnson: You are!

Mr M. McGowan: You were the ones who were gagging the debate!

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: The member is making a completely false assertion. I thank the member for Rockingham for reminding me that when he and I started our parliamentary careers 11 years ago, we spent the first four years in opposition, when he and I started our parliamentary careers 11 years ago, we spent the first four years in opposition, when it was a regular occurrence - a routine occurrence, because it became so regular - for debate to be gagged or guillotined. It was routine. Ultimately -

Mr P.D. Omodei interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, Leader of the Opposition!

Mr P.D. Omodei interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! I call the Leader of the Opposition to order for the third time.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! Take a seat, Premier. I call the member to Perth to order for the first time.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: Ultimately, the people of the state, the voters of the state, will be able to make a judgement on whether we have done the right thing, both in the nature of the legislation and in the process. I would not mind betting that they will think we have done the right thing.