

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

Special

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Leader of the House) [4.42 pm] — without notice: I move —

That the house at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, 12 March 2019 at 2.00 pm.

MR S.K. L'ESTRANGE (Churchlands) [4.42 pm]: I would like to make a few comments about this motion before we rise for the day. It has been an interesting day because today on the Daily Program, I notice that at item 14, we were to debate “2019 Temporary Orders”. I want to get this on the record because at the start of the day, the government Whip approached the opposition—I am speaking on behalf of the opposition—to do a deal, which was that if we were to get the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Amendment (Container Deposit) Bill done by 4.00 pm, which we had fully intended on doing, paragraph (3)(a) of the motion on the temporary orders changes that was to be debated today, which deals with the extra grievance motion, would state —

- (i) deleting “Four” and substituting “Five”; and
- (ii) inserting the following sentence at the end of the Standing Order: “The fifth grievance will be allocated to the opposition each week.” ...

That is what we were seeking and the deal was that so far as we got the container deposit bill done to the satisfaction of the government, that change would be made. We do not know what happened during the day to cause this item of daily business not to be brought on for debate and that is not for us to know. We want it on the record that that deal was made in good faith. We accepted that deal. Although we even ran two suspensions of standing orders today, we made sure our speakers cut short their speeches to ensure that we would be ready at 4.00 pm should item 14 be brought on and the container deposit bill have been dealt with.

Mrs L.M. Harvey: And we were ready with our speeches.

Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE: We were ready. We note that the Whip, on behalf of the government, made a very generous offer to us.

Mr D.A. Templeman: Too generous!

Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE: We also note that it actually adds to one of the goals of the McGowan Labor government—that is, for increased transparency and accountability in the Parliament of Western Australia. Giving the opposition that fifth grievance each week would have given us an opportunity to ask some questions of the relevant ministers to try to get at least some more openness on issues of concern to the people of Western Australia.

I say again on the record thank you to the government Whip for presenting us with that deal. We think it was done in good faith and with great ambition. We acknowledge the work the government was trying to do and that is why we accepted that offer. I have spoken to the Leader of the House regarding why item 14 on the Daily Program, “Business of the Assembly — Notices of Motion”, was not debated. He did not share with me the exact reasons but I understand the government wants to review the “2019 Temporary Orders” notice of motion in full. When it eventually comes up in this place, we look forward to having discussions about what changes to the standing orders need to occur.

Mr D.A. Templeman: I enjoy having the conversation.

Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE: We very much anticipate that the goodwill offered by the government Whip on behalf of the Leader of the House to give the opposition that fifth grievance will form part of the reviewed notice of motion changes to temporary orders when it comes on for discussion by the two major parties and the National Party before it is brought to the house to be debated.

I thank the Whip, the Leader of the House and the government for the generous offer.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 4.47 pm
