

CABINET REPRESENTATION — WOMEN

743. Ms S.F. McGURK to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. The Premier and his colleagues often say that the Liberal–National government appoints on merit. Is the Premier saying that women have no merit?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

I can tell you right now, Mr Speaker, that there will be hundreds, if not thousands, of young women—young, qualified, professional women—who will be insulted by that question! They will be absolutely insulted that by approach! That is a dreadful approach, and it is patronising to women in this state!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: That is finished! The member for Eyre has the call. That is finished; if you do not like it, make a statement outside.

Mr P.B. Watson interjected.

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

Mr P.B. Watson: I can't even work out who your ministers are!

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

Mr B.J. Grylls interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Pilbara, I call you for the first time.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Albany, I call you to order for the third time; member for Midland, I call you to order for the second time. We are having a good run!