

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, DISCLOSURE STANDARDS

125. Mr R.F. JOHNSON to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. Given the Premier's inadequate detailed response, will he support the Opposition in referring this issue to a joint committee of both Houses of Parliament, which is the most appropriate place?

Dr G.I. GALLOP replied:

Is this not interesting, Mr Speaker? The legislation was opposed in the Legislative Council when it was first proposed by the then Labor Government way back in the 1980s; of course, the Opposition had the numbers in the Legislative Council at the time. I believe three or four Bills went to the upper House before the legislation was finally passed. That is the attitude of members on that side of the House to accountability.

Mr L. Graham: Premier, we had a joint select committee that looked into it and the member for Hillarys was a member of that committee.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: That is right. There was a joint select committee and the members for Pilbara and Hillarys and I were members of it. The committee considered all of the recommendations from the Commission on Government. The time has come to progress this matter. The commonwealth legislation works well and we believe the state legislation will work well. When the matter comes into the Parliament, I am sure we will consider any reasonable points that opposition members might make, as we do with all legislation. We will consider at that time whether the legislation needs to be referred to a committee. However, there is no need for it at this stage. This legislation has been so well rehearsed and so well argued that -

Mr R.F. Johnson: Are you happy for it to go on the Internet?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: What does the member for Hillarys want to hold up?

Mr R.F. Johnson: You are putting our children in danger.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: No, we are not. The member for Hillarys has got that wrong.

Mr C.J. Barnett interjected.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: The Leader of the Opposition has got that wrong.

Mr C.J. Barnett: No, we have not.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: We have made it absolutely clear that the information that will go on the Internet will relate to members' interests. I made it clear in my answer that the information about families will be deposited in the Clerk's office, as it is in the Commonwealth, and will not be available to the public.