

GERALDTON PORT AUTHORITY, MT GIBSON PTY LTD PROJECT

**65. Mr C.J. BARNETT to the Premier:**

I have a supplementary question. Unless the Premier missed the point, the question was: will the Premier support an opposition motion to refer this expenditure of public moneys to the Public Accounts Committee -

Ms A.J. MacTiernan: We will table a complete list of all expenditure.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: The question is not directed to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure. She should go and open another bridge somewhere - a bridge too far.

Does the Premier stand by his statement in this place in 1998 that, and I quote -

Dr G.I. Gallop: Is this a supplementary question?

*Point of Order*

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: The Leader of the Opposition is going on at great length with what is supposed to be a supplementary question. Clearly it is not; he is making a statement. Mr Speaker, I suggest that you apply the rule that has been applied in the past, that supplementary questions should be short and direct and follow on from the previous question.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: Further to that point of order, the Leader of the House is totally wrong. The supplementary question started with "does the Premier". That is a question, not a statement. It is an appropriate supplementary question to the previous question; it is not a different question.

The SPEAKER: The rule relating to supplementary questions is that they must be relevant to the primary question, short and concise. This supplementary question has been drawn out by interjections, which do not help in either asking or answering questions. The Leader of the Opposition.

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I will repeat my supplementary question. Does the Premier stand by his statement in this place in 1998 that -

We need vigilance, not complacency; we need checks and balances, not ideology; we need openness, not secrecy; we need the public interest, not private interests. These are the tests that we will apply to the Government in its dealings with business.

If that is his view, why is he hiding the deal with Mt Gibson from the scrutiny of the Public Accounts Committee?

The SPEAKER: Order! That is not a supplementary question. The length of the quotation rendered it as such.