

PROSTITUTION AMENDMENT BILL 2007

483. Mr P.D. OMODEI to the Premier:

Yesterday, I outlined the Liberal Party's opposition to the government's plans to encourage the proliferation of brothels in the suburbs and to legitimise the exploitation of, and violence against, women.

- (1) Why has the Premier been silent on this issue?
- (2) Whose plan was it to introduce this legislation: the Premier's or the Attorney General's?
- (3) Given the massive increase in the number of legal and illegal brothels following similar legislation in the eastern states, will the Premier guarantee that this legislation will not result in the proliferation of brothels in our suburbs?

Mr A.J. CARPENTER replied:

I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question.

- (1)-(3) Far from being silent, I think this issue has been debated for years, and my position has never been anything other than I support the government's current position.

Mr R.F. Johnson: We haven't heard much from you.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: Yesterday I sat in this chamber during the debate. I was tempted to become involved, but I resisted because I did not think that the frame of mind that I had been placed in by the comment of the member for Hillarys was the sort of frame of mind from which one should be commenting. I found what the member for Hillarys said grossly offensive. To introduce, as he now has the habit of doing, my children and my relationship with my children into a debate about prostitution I found grossly offensive. What is more, it demonstrates to me how blinded the member is by his bigotry. It is unfortunate that the member's bigotry is so strong that it has infected the entire Liberal Party in the Parliament, contrary, I am sure, to the views of the member for Darling Range and the member for Dawesville, who are more reasonable on this issue. It is completely and utterly offensive to me to have the member for Hillarys suggest that this legislation, which is supported by all right-minded people involved in law-and-order management, is somehow or other going to encourage my children, my daughters, to become involved in prostitution. It is disgusting that a person of that sort of blinded bigotry is allowed to sit in a place like this and ventilate his horrific views of the world at will. Perhaps the next time I bring my wife and children to Parliament for dinner, the member can come over and explain to their faces his views of what their likely career paths might be.

It is interesting. We have a view of the world put forward by this man and by those who support it that only men can protect women from prostitution, and that if we do not do this, they will fall into this evil trade. Has the member ever been to a brothel?

Mr R.F. Johnson: No. Have you?

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: Yes.

Mr R.F. Johnson: Have you?

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: Yes.

Mr R.F. Johnson: You dirty thing!

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: Yes, I have.

Mr R.F. Johnson: Good gracious me!

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: Yes, I have. I spent about 20 years as a journalist, and I have met lots of prostitutes. I can tell the house that many of them - not all, because the world is not like that - are far better people than the member for Hillarys, and they express a better world view than does the member for Hillarys. They express more understanding of the human condition than the member will ever have.

Is the member on the record as saying that there is nothing wrong with exploiting women? Is the member for Hillarys, a member of the Parliament of Western Australia, on the record as telling the world that there is nothing wrong with exploiting women? Has he said that?

Mr R.F. Johnson: You tell me when I'm supposed to have said that, because I can't trust you, Premier.

Ms S.E. Walker interjected.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: I thank the member for Nedlands. A member on the member for Hillarys' own side has told him where and when. In relation to the Miss Universe contest, this member of Parliament, this

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hypocritical, moralising member of Parliament, who offends my family, stood in public and said that there is nothing wrong with exploiting women.

Ms S.E. Walker: For a beauty pageant, not for sex.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: He said it. While I am in the mood for a few timely reminders, let me remind the Parliament of what this member said about the bill to determine who should or should not be able to work with children. Do members remember this one? I will tell the house what this member of the Western Australian Parliament, elected by the people of Western Australia, said in 2004 about who should or should not be able to work with children, criticising the government's position, and I am going to remind him of this every time he opens his mouth in this Parliament from now on. I am sure that the people in the public gallery will find it of interest that a member of Parliament should have this view of the world. Animal lovers take special note: this is what this member of Parliament said. This is the quality of thinking and debate that we get from this member of Parliament. He said this in the Parliament.

Point of Order

Mr C.J. BARNETT: We are now seven minutes into the answer, and I do not think the Premier has made any attempt to address the relevance of the question. If he wants to have a debate, let us suspend standing orders and have a debate.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no point of order. The Premier should draw his answer to a close.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: I will quote from *Hansard*. This is what the member for Hillarys said -

Dr K.D. Hames: I don't think you should say that.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: Did the member for Dawesville say that I should not be able to repeat in the Parliament in front of children what a Liberal member of Parliament has said in the chamber? The member for Hillarys said -

I cannot believe that this Gallop Labor Government wants to include in the schedule of offences . . .

Mr P.D. Omodei interjected.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: The Leader of the Opposition is a bit sensitive to this, is he? Does the Leader of the Opposition want me to run a little character test over him?

Mr P.D. Omodei: No, we just want you to answer the question.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, the Leader of the Opposition and the Premier! That is enough of the yelling across the chamber. I ask the Premier to draw his answer to a close.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: The member for Hillarys said -

I cannot believe that this Gallop Labor Government wants to include in the schedule of offences - schedule 2 - a preclusion of anyone who wants to work in a child protection area, or to have any involvement with children, who has had sex with an animal. If some drop kick . . .

Point of Order

Mr J.A. McGINTY: I cannot hear the Premier.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I call the member for Vasse to order for the first time, and the member for Albany. I do not think the Premier needed either of their contributions.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: That is what the member for Hillarys said in this Parliament about who should or should not be able to work with children. He could not believe that we would preclude people who had had sex with animals.

Mr R.F. Johnson: I didn't say that.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: Yes, the member did. It is in *Hansard*. I continue -

If some drop kick in this country or world wants to have sex with an animal, one must question what sort of brain is in his head. I do not condone it for one minute. However, if someone is stupid and brainless enough to have sex with an animal, he is not affecting a child. It is not an offence against a child, nor is it a violent offence.

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When does the animal get the chance to give its consent? This is a member of Parliament who believes it is okay to have sex with an animal and then work with children. This member of Parliament, the shadow Minister for Police and Emergency Services, said -

It is not an offence against a child, nor is it a violent offence.

Is sex with an animal a violent offence? I would have thought so.

To bring the answer back to where I began: I have four daughters. They have a pet. They find it grossly offensive that any member of Parliament should say that there is nothing wrong with a person having forced sex with an animal. That is the quality of the debate that we are having on this issue.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Frankly, I believe that the behaviour in this house at the moment is a joke. It is totally unacceptable. If members wish there to be only one question in question time, they should continue in this vein, because that is exactly what will happen. Premier, I think your answer -

Mr A.J. Carpenter: The answer is finished, Madam Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: - is absolutely finished.