

HON SHELLEY ARCHER - PASSING OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

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

I refer the Premier to the evidence presented at the Corruption and Crime Commission this morning in relation to Hon Shelley Archer, MLC.

- (1) What action does the Premier intend to take about the revelation that Hon Shelley Archer, MLC provided disgraced former Premier Brian Burke with a confidential letter in relation to the Broome airport?
- (2) What action does the Premier intend to take about the revelation that Hon Shelley Archer obtained a draft bill from the chief of staff of Hon Jon Ford, MLC and forwarded it immediately to disgraced former Premier Brian Burke?

Mr A.J. CARPENTER replied:

- (1)-(2) I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question and I hope that he takes my answer in good faith and at face value. Before I answer the question, I would like to make a short comment. Earlier the member for Cottesloe approached the member for Wanneroo while she was in the chair and attempted to intimidate her. He more than attempted to intimidate her; he announced that he would do something about her. He got out of his seat and walked to where you, Mr Speaker, are now sitting and where the member for Wanneroo was sitting as the Deputy Speaker and attempted to intimidate her. It is totally unacceptable for any member of Parliament, let alone a former leader of the Liberal Party, to behave in this chamber in a completely reprehensible manner.

Mr P.D. Omodei: All he said was that she should not be in the chair.

The SPEAKER: Members, the matter was briefly mentioned to me when I returned to Parliament after being in Perth for a relatively short time. I am very concerned about the actions and I am getting a copy of the transcript. It is inappropriate in the extreme to personalise the Chair, and to attack the person sitting in the chair for anything other than a decision that person makes. There is a way to challenge decisions, and attacking people on a personal basis while they sit in this chair is totally unacceptable to this house.

Mr C.J. Barnett: It did not happen.

The SPEAKER: We will find out when I see the transcript of the events. As soon as I have examined the written material, I will come back to deal with the matter.

Mr P.D. Omodei: The sooner the better.

The SPEAKER: The Premier.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: While on my feet, may I add, Mr Speaker -

Mr P.D. Omodei: Why don't you answer the question?

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: I will.

Mr P.D. Omodei: Well, answer it now and stop being a smart alec.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: May I add, Mr Speaker, that it is not the first time the member for Cottesloe has done that.

Several members interjected.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: I will invite other Acting Speakers to give their account of the same sort of intimidatory behaviour that we saw earlier. It is totally unacceptable.

Several members interjected.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: Might I ask the rhetorical question: would the member for Cottesloe behave in the same way if a man was in the chair?

Several members interjected.

Mr P.D. Omodei: This is pretty ordinary. Why not answer questions about corruption in your government instead of playing silly games, Premier, because that is what you are doing?

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: I will.

Mr P.D. Omodei: Why didn't you ensure that the Speaker was in the chair? It was a censure motion against you.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: Mr Speaker, your remarks speak for themselves.

In relation to the matter before the commission today, as the Leader of the Opposition may have noticed I have been in the chamber because there was a censure motion against me. I have not left the chamber.

Mr P.D. Omodei: What about all the notes that came in from everybody else in relation to the censure motion? They could not tell you what was going on at the CCC?

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: No.

Mr P.D. Omodei: Well, how did I know?

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: The Leader of the Opposition left the chamber.

Mr P.D. Omodei: I did not.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: I do not know how the Leader of the Opposition got the information.

Mr P.D. Omodei: By pigeon!

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: This morning we had a failed censure motion because the Leader of the Opposition did not do his homework.

Mr P.D. Omodei: Answer the question. It is about Hon Shelley Archer releasing confidential information.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: I know what the question is about and this is the response: this morning the Leader of the Opposition sought to make up for his lost opportunity yesterday.

Mr P.D. Omodei: Yesterday you had to sack the Minister for Local Government.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: And I did that.

Mr P.D. Omodei: You did it two hours after -

Several members interjected.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: When the matter was -

Mr P.D. Omodei: That is the fifth minister who has gone from the Labor government!

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, you have a loud voice and you keep using it. I ask you to desist from interjecting so that the Premier can answer the question that you are intent on hearing. I call the members for Roe and Murray to order.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: Other than the question that has been asked of me - a similar sort of question was asked of me by a journalist as I came into the house this morning - I have no other information on the proceedings.

Several members interjected.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: I do not.

Mr P.D. Omodei: You managed to get the State Solicitor and all your staff into the chamber today, but you couldn't get that very important information. Stop trying to con the people of Western Australia. You are a con artist.

The SPEAKER: I call the Leader of the Opposition to order for the first time.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: I asked the State Solicitor to come to Parliament House, because I knew that the opposition wanted to move a censure motion against me alleging that I had engaged in some sort of inappropriate behaviour, which I have not. I thought that it would be wise, given that the events that the opposition is questioning me about took place when I was in India, to have the State Solicitor at Parliament to provide direct information about the advice that he gave to government, the basis upon which he gave that advice and the basis upon which the Corruption and Crime Commission made its decision. I do not think it is necessary to repeat everything I said yesterday about matters that are before the CCC. When I am provided with direct information from the proceedings, I will analyse it and determine what action, if necessary, should be taken.