

LEWANDOWSKI AFFIDAVIT

84. Mr C.J. BARNETT to the Premier:

I refer the Premier to section 83 of the Criminal Code in relation to the actions of the Attorney General in handing the Lewandowski affidavit and other documents to the Minister for Health.

- (1) Does the Premier continue to support the actions of his Attorney General in providing the Minister for Health with a private, advance briefing and copy of the Lewandowski affidavit and other documents?
- (2) Given the ongoing uncertainty about the propriety of the Attorney General's actions, and given the weight of public opinion highlighted by the latest Westpoll, which found that 69 per cent of Western Australians believed the Attorney General was wrong to discuss the contents of the affidavit with the Minister for Health, will the Premier now stand aside the Attorney General pending an independent investigation into his actions?

Dr G.I. GALLOP replied:

Mr Speaker, of what precisely is the Minister for Health accused?

Mr C.J. Barnett: I asked a question.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: No. Of what is the Leader of the Opposition accusing the Minister for Health?

Mr C.J. Barnett: I am accusing the Attorney General, who improperly -

Dr G.I. GALLOP: No, no, no.

Mr C.J. Barnett: That is what the question was about.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: No. There is absolutely no basis to this whole argument. The assumption in the argument put forward to this Parliament and the public by the Leader of the Opposition is that somehow there is an allegation against the Minister for Health. I have not heard one. I have not heard one from the Opposition during this whole debate. There being no allegation against the Minister for Health, the whole argument totally and utterly evaporates; it absolutely vanishes.

Mr Speaker, I repeat my question to the Leader of the Opposition: what is his allegation against the Minister for Health?

Mr C.J. Barnett: My allegation is against the Attorney General for giving information specifically to the Minister for Health. Why did he do it if there wasn't a reason?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: Mr Speaker, what is the allegation against the Minister for Health? There is no allegation. What are we arguing about? Was the member for Nedlands aware of the affidavit before the Monday on which it was revealed by the Attorney General?

Mr P.D. Omodei interjected.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: The member for Nedlands has just told us that she was not aware of the existence -

The SPEAKER: Order! I call the member for Warren-Blackwood to order for the first time.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: Is the member for Nedlands saying that she was not aware of the existence of that affidavit and its contents before the Monday on which it was released to the public? How come the member for Nedlands was talking to the local media about it?

Ms S.E. Walker: Monday.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: It was on Monday that she heard about it.

Ms S.E. Walker interjected.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: The member heard about it on Monday. Did she hear about it before the Attorney General announced it publicly? Did she know about the affidavit?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, members!

Dr G.I. GALLOP: I tell the Leader of the Opposition that people who live in glasshouses should not throw stones.

Mr C.J. Barnett: Where are the Premier's standards?

Point of Order

Mr P.D. OMODEI: Where is the relevance of the Premier's answer? The Premier has not answered the question of the Leader of the Opposition.

The SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Dr G.I. GALLOP: I will respond to that. In order to pursue an argument, a person must make an assumption. The assumption behind the argument pursued by the Leader of the Opposition is that, somehow, the Minister for Health is guilty or is said to be guilty of something. No-one has said anything; what are we arguing about?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, members!

Dr G.I. GALLOP: We are dealing with a desperate Opposition that has no agenda, no leadership, no philosophy and no vision. It is trying to create trouble about an issue that the Minister for Health happened to be involved with in his previous occupation as a policeman. This is the same Opposition that is ringing up the Minister for Health's yacht club. I ask the member for Kalgoorlie to confirm this. Is it true that the member for Kalgoorlie rang the minister's yacht club to try to find dirt on the Minister for Health?

Mr M.J. Birney: I was following up an allegation made by a member of the public.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: I see. Opposition members are now acting like police officers.

Mr C.J. Barnett: Answer my question.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: The Leader of the Opposition is getting a straightforward answer.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, members! The level of interjections is such that it appears the Opposition does not wish to pursue further questions. However, I doubt that. If the number of interjections continues at this level, there will be no further questions.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: There is no foundation for the question because the assumption is wrong. I support the Attorney General, just as those from the University of Western Australia who were asked to comment on this matter supported him in what he did. If this matter is so serious to the Opposition, where was the motion before the House to discuss it at the time? The Opposition is just playing politics. There is no substance to the Opposition's argument. The Attorney General has acted properly in this matter; he has been open and accountable. I repeat to the member for Nedlands that people who live in glasshouses should not throw stones! She is trying to stir up trouble in the State's prisons; that is her record. The member for Kalgoorlie thinks he is a policeman; he rang the Minister for Health's yacht club to try to stir up trouble for the Labor Party in this State.