

JOE MCDONALD'S BEHAVIOUR - PREMIER'S REACTION

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

Given that Kevin Rudd has called for the expulsion from the Labor Party of Joe McDonald due to trespass and standover tactics, I ask -

- (1) Why has the Premier done nothing and previously turned a blind eye to this disgraceful behaviour in Western Australia, given the damning evidence at the Cole royal commission?
- (2) Will the Premier concede that Kevin Rudd has been put in this position because the Premier and his government have been too gutless to stand up to Joe McDonald and militant unions in WA?
- (3) Will the Premier demand the immediate return of all Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union donations made to the state ALP; and, if not, why not?

Mr A.J. CARPENTER replied:

I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the questions.

(1)-(3) Let us just clear up one thing. Did the Leader of the Opposition say that Mr McDonald faces charges?

Mr P.D. Omodei: No, I didn't.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: Did the Leader of the Opposition not say trespass? I thought he did. I think he does; I think Mr McDonald faces charges now. Under state legislation, he has had his entry permit for building sites withdrawn, and as a result of that he is facing charges - as a result of state legislation. There we go - our legislation, not the previous government's. I think the CFMEU and Mr McDonald were operating when the Liberal Party was in government. What did it do? It did nothing. Do members know why? It is because the Liberal Party is always all talk.

Mr P.D. Omodei: No, you're all talk. You're trying to make Kevin Rudd into a big hero. It's just a nice little ploy.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: The Leader of the Opposition has asked me questions. If the Leader of the Opposition does not want me to talk, he should not ask questions. He asked me the questions. Secondly - I have said this several times in the past 12 hours or so - Joe McDonald has only himself to blame for the situation he now faces. It is his own completely inappropriate behaviour that has got him into this position. I support Kevin Rudd in doing what he is doing. The ramifications were apparent. I warned that inappropriate behaviour should be a thing of the past for this sort of industrial activity. As a result of not heeding that advice, Joe McDonald is now in the situation that he is in. I do not have any sympathy for Mr McDonald. I listened to the adjectives he used about people being gutless and so on. I could stand here and recount my record against the Leader of the Opposition's record, and leave it to some objective judge as to who has the guts and who has not. I think the constitution of the opposition's front bench demonstrates the answer quite clearly.

In relation to the return of donations - is that what the Leader of the Opposition said?

Mr P.D. Omodei: Yes.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: Joe McDonald is one person inside the CFMEU. I believe he has done considerable damage to the reputation of that union and, therefore, damage to his members. However, he does not represent the entire union, and the relationship between the union and the Labor Party is not dependent upon Joe McDonald. Joe McDonald, as I understand it, is soon to leave the Labor Party, so the relationship between the Labor Party and the CFMEU does not depend on Mr McDonald. Let me ask the Leader of the Opposition this question in return: does the Liberal Party still accept donations from tobacco companies?

Mr P.D. Omodei: Which one?

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: It still accepts donations from tobacco companies, whose products are killing people slowly all over the world. What does the member for Dawesville think about that? Should the Liberal Party continue to accept donations from tobacco companies, member for Dawesville?

Dr K.D. Hames: I have said publicly that it should not.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: And should it return the donations that it has received?

Dr K.D. Hames: I have not given thought to the matter.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: Do members know why? It is because to give thought to it might require some action. The opposition should get its own house in order. The products of tobacco companies are killing people all over the world, as opposed to Joe McDonald, unions and building sites. I think I have given the best possible answer

that I can to the Leader of the Opposition's question. The Leader of the Opposition should really look at his own performance, the performance of his own party and his own standards, and examine them.