

GAMBLING — ADVERTISING

**610. Mr M.P. MURRAY to the Premier:**

I have a supplementary question. Is it not hypocritical of the government to preach one thing at election time and do another after the election?

**Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:**

I do not think that is a question; it is an observation. Again, if the member was genuinely interested in this issue, and it is one of those controversial issues —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Collie–Preston and the Minister for Racing and Gaming!

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** This government takes issues of problem gambling very seriously. We make a great commitment in that area. I concede that gambling in our community is one of those grey areas in government. I am not a gambler; I do not gamble. However, for many people it is an interest and if it is conducted responsibly, so be it; it is a free society. The TAB is out there in the community and provides that service, and I think it is well managed both by the minister and by the regulatory agency.

**Mr M.P. Murray:** You've got to make up your mind—for or against!

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Collie–Preston!

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** My comments previously, which I stand by, concern the style of advertising during hours when children watch television and during peak sporting events when almost every second ad has slick young men and girls in cocktail dresses implying that this is a fashionable, desirable thing. I think that style of advertising is getting excessive, and we maintain a very close watch over any advertising, particularly TAB advertising. The member may have an opinion —

**Mr M. McGowan:** How much is it?

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** Ask the minister, and I am sure he can answer it. In the Parliament if the opposition cannot actually realise —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Collie–Preston, I call you to order for the first time; and the Minister for Racing and Gaming, I call you to order for the first time. Premier, have you finished?

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** Just about, Mr Speaker. It is not beyond the wit of mankind —

**Mr M. McGowan** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, I call you to order for the first time; you can ask a further question on this if you wish.

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** I invite the member for Collie–Preston to ask a question about the cost of the program—because I do not know—of the Minister for Racing and Gaming, who is seated about two metres away from him. If the member for Collie–Preston cannot work out who the responsible minister is, we cannot answer his question.