

MR BURKE AND MR GRILL, CABINET DIRECTIVE

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

I refer the Premier to his Treasurer's admission in today's *The Australian Financial Review* that a directive had been issued at a cabinet level banning ministers and their staff from meeting with Brian Burke and Julian Grill.

- (1) Was the Cabinet Secretary of Cabinet Services present at the cabinet meeting when that directive was issued, and was it recorded in the cabinet minutes?
- (2) Does the Premier intend to continue relying on the goodwill of his ministers to implement this ban; and, if so, what disciplinary action will be taken against ministers who ignore the Premier's authority in this regard?

Mr E.S. Ripper: Are your members still able to meet with Julian Grill?

The SPEAKER: The Treasurer!

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I will continue -

- (3) Does this ban apply to government backbenchers as well; and, if not, will the Premier admit that this is a ban in name only and will be completely ineffective?

Dr G.I. GALLOP replied:

- (1)-(3) I have been having some difficulty lately. Recently I had to approach my colleague the good doctor from Maylands because I have had a few nightmares. I woke up in a cold sweat the other night because in my nightmare I looked under the bed and there were some skeletal remains. I dusted them off and the names Karl Marx and Vladimir Lenin were on them. Those reds have been under the bed since 1917. I looked further under the bed and then I saw - it was a terrible sight - Brian Burke and Kevin Reynolds! That was when I woke up in a cold sweat, and I am pleased that I woke up. As my good friend the member for Maylands said, it was another case of that very famous condition we have had in Australia since 1917 called Liberal-induced nightmare. It is a terrible condition.

Mr C.J. Barnett: Have a go at being honest and answering the question.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: I do not think the Leader of the Opposition has a sense of humour. I will give him a history lesson. This condition - Liberal-induced nightmare - emerged in Australia -

Point of Order

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: Mr Speaker -

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: Obviously, under standing orders, the answer to a question must be relevant. It has been very humorous listening to the Premier, but not one part of his answer has been relevant to the question that was asked.

The SPEAKER: Often members who ask questions think that ministers do not get to the point quickly enough in answering those questions. I am sure the Premier is about to answer the question.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Dr G.I. GALLOP: This terrible condition first emerged in the national Parliament in 1912. The then Fisher Labor Government was introducing the baby bonus - an excellent piece of legislation - whereby all women in Australia who had children would be given £5. The then Opposition - the same people who sit opposite us and whose views we have heard on the Cannabis Control Bill - said that it would lead to the downfall of the family in Australia. One opposition member said, "Do you know what this is? This is the first stage of the Labor plan to nationalise all children." That is where the Opposition is on these issues.

I will go through the issues. First, the Cabinet of Western Australia has mutually agreed that Mr Burke and Mr Grill will not be welcomed to formal consultations with the Government. Secondly, as I said on ABC radio, I will not answer hypothetical questions about "discipline" matters. Thirdly, I have great confidence in all my backbenchers that whatever they do as backbenchers will serve the cause of the Labor Government and the people of Western Australia.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: I call to order the member for Dawesville, the Treasurer and the member for Hillarys.