

PERTH MINT — SENATE COMMITTEE INQUIRY

830. Mr R.S. LOVE to the Treasurer:

I have a supplementary question. Would the Treasurer consider providing the commercial advisers' review to that Senate inquiry if it requests it?

Mr W.J. Johnston: We volunteered evidence at the inquiry, which we didn't have to do; I didn't have to go.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

As I understand it, the Minister for Mines and Petroleum practically begged to appear in front of that committee. I think he wrote to the committee as soon as it was established to ask to go and present, which he did.

Leader of the Opposition, do you know what?

Mr R.S. Love: Is that a yes?

Mr W.J. Johnston: It is beyond the terms of reference of the inquiry.

Mr R.S. Love interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, you have had the chance to ask a supplementary. I am now reconsidering why I did that. You have asked the question. The minister responds how she sees fit. Other people will be the judge of how adequate the answer is. We do not need your incessant interjections repeating the same thing over and over again.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: That advice is to the state government. As the Minister for Mines and Petroleum said, it is outside the ambit of the inquiry. Honestly, it is sad and pathetic that that is where the Leader of the Opposition is at, working with Senator Smith and Senator Reynolds. He is arm in arm with Senator Reynolds to try to destroy a WA institution. That is what he is doing. Leader of the Opposition, you should go down and confront the workers there and say that you believe they should all lose their jobs. Will you do that? Will you do that?

The SPEAKER: Minister!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: What?

The SPEAKER: It is not for you to ask questions, minister. We do need to move on.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: By silence, I assume —

Mr R.S. Love interjected.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: You were talking—now say yes or no. Will you go down and address 700 workers and say —

Ms M.J. Davies: It is question time, minister; listen to the Speaker.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Oh, there you go. It is nice to see the member for Central Wheatbelt here. Honestly! Will the Leader of the Opposition go down in front of those 700 workers and tell them, "I'm working with federal senators to try to destroy your job." That is what he should do. He should go to the gold industry and say that he wants to destroy Perth Mint.

Point of Order

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Madam Speaker, my understanding of question time is that the minister is meant to answer the question, not ask questions.

The SPEAKER: There has been a fair bit of repetition on both sides. At this point I think the question has been asked and answered and I give the call to the member for Dawesville.