

NICKEL INDUSTRY

39. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. When will the Premier's government do the real hard work needed to save the manufacturing industry in this state, rather than focusing on wasteful publicity stunts?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please, members.

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

We are continuing to work with industry to make sure that we understand its challenges and to make sure that we can craft with it the sorts of supports that it needs. I am not quite sure what the member is referring to when he talks about publicity stunts. There are no publicity stunts.

Dr D.J. Honey: Great fanfare on the round table, but no outcomes.

The SPEAKER: Order, please.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Swan Hills and others! The Premier has the floor; I would like to hear from him.

Mr R.H. COOK: Once again, we hear from those on the other side the untruths that are writ large across their whole political narrative. I might reflect on what would have happened if this had taken place under the Liberal–National government. What would have happened then? We would have had a situation in which the arrogant government would not have spoken to the industry. Let us assume for a moment that somehow the industry leaders had managed to cut through the arrogance of the Barnett Liberal government and actually got their concerns heard. They would have said, “Can you please help us?” What would the Barnett Liberal government have said? “Sorry; we can't help you. We've cooked the books. We've destroyed the finances. We're not in a position to back you. I'm sorry about the workforce. We've destroyed the training system that would have provided the workers you need. I'm sorry about the complete lack of planning and the red tape that has tied up your industry. I'm sorry we're not in a position to help you, because we've run out of money because we're incompetent.”