

PREMIER - BRIAN BURKE CANDIDATE

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

I remind the Premier of his comments in this house on 21 November last year when asked whether any of his colleagues had negotiated a deal with Brian Burke to secure his position as Premier.

He stated -

What an outrageous suggestion of the great Australian Labor Party - the good men and women of the state Labor Party. What a shocking suggestion.

...

I do not have to ask my members those sorts of ridiculous conspiratorial questions.

- (1) Did the Premier read the transcripts from the Corruption and Crime Commission yesterday when the member for Murchison-Eyre, the Premier's numbers man, revealed that he had contacted Brian Burke to secure Mr Burke's support for his candidate for Premier?
- (2) Can the Premier confirm that he is that candidate?
- (3) Can the Premier confirm that, as part of his grubby little deal, the member for Murchison-Eyre was put in charge of the sensitive resources development portfolio, and the former member for Peel was put into the cabinet?

Mr A.J. CARPENTER replied:

I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question.

- (1)-(3) I could not keep up. There were a lot of sub-parts to the question. On a basic run through them, the answer is "no" to all those propositions being put.

Mr P.D. Omodei: So you didn't read the transcripts of the -

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: Yes, I did read the transcripts, but the Leader of the Opposition's questions were about who did what to whom and why. It is a flight of fancy. I am aware that some dates were mentioned in the transcript. My understanding - this is from my memory - is that the phone call, the e-mail or the message that was left was on 31 January. I was sworn in as the Premier on 25 January. It is a long time to say "thank you", six days later. I think that there was the cabinet election for the -

Mr T. Buswell: Who would Mr Burke's candidate for cabinet have been?

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: That is not the point of the question, though, is it?

Mr T. Buswell: Who would it have been, though?

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: That is not the point of the question. I had absolutely no contact with Brian Burke. I had one phone call from Brian Burke last year, and I think I have said that. Very surprisingly, about midyear, I received a call on my mobile phone and found that it was Brian Burke. I asked, "How did you get my number?" He said, "Don't worry about that", and then he complained about a story about his daughter in *The West Australian* newspaper, and seemed to be asserting that I had something to do with it. I immediately got a new phone with a different number.