

HON JIM CHOWN — ROLES

23. Hon KEN TRAVERS to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Transport:

Thank you, Mr President. I am not that brave and I do not expect you to be!

I congratulate the parliamentary secretary on his appointment.

- (1) Can he tell us what he does as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Transport?
- (2) What is the difference between comments he makes as the parliamentary secretary and comments he makes as the member for Agricultural Region?
- (3) If he believes there is a difference, how does he intend to deal with any conflicts between the two roles?

The PRESIDENT: I do not think sections of that question are in order.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I want to make sure I get this right. Standing order 103 reads in part —

Questions may be asked of —

- (a) a Minister or Parliamentary Secretary relating to public affairs with which the Minister or Parliamentary Secretary is connected, to proceedings in the Council, or to any matter of administration for which the Minister or Parliamentary Secretary is responsible; ...

The parts of the question relating to the member's role as a member for Agricultural Region are out of order, but the parts of the question relating to the parliamentary secretary's role in relation to public affairs and his representative role are in order.

Point of Order

Hon SUE ELLERY: Mr President, will you give consideration to perhaps making a ruling on what you have just advised the house. It seems to me that that part of the question that asked—I am paraphrasing—what is the difference between Hon Jim Chown's role as the member for Agricultural Region and his role as the parliamentary secretary indeed go to his role as parliamentary secretary. I wonder if in fact that can be ruled out of order.

Hon Ken Travers: I am asking whether it is a conflict.

The PRESIDENT: I will take that point of order and make a statement at some later stage.

Hon SUE ELLERY: Thank you.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Hon JIM CHOWN replied:

Thank you, Mr President, and I thank the honourable member for the question without notice.

- (1)–(3) I consider my role as parliamentary secretary to be at the behest of my minister and I will do anything he wishes me to do with regard to fulfilling the requirements of a parliamentary secretary, including answering questions in this house and putting forward any appropriate pieces of legislation on his behalf.

Several members interjected.