

ROADWORKS, CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE

**475. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Minister for Transport:**

Is it the case that the Minister for Transport has a prepared answer that, even though it is correct, is embarrassing to the Government? Has he not consulted the Minister for Tourism about this answer and been encouraged not to deliver it to the House because it fundamentally embarrasses the Government?

The PRESIDENT: Order.

*Point of Order*

Hon N.F. MOORE: This time is for questions without notice, not for speeches. The Leader of the Opposition should either ask a question or be ruled out of order.

The PRESIDENT: Order, members! I am the person concerned with who asks and who answers questions. The fact is that I listen to the questions asked and that is why I occasionally call members to order, so that I can hear members asking their questions, because we have rules about the content of questions. The Leader of the Opposition has asked a question. It happens to fit within the portfolio of the Minister for Transport and is a valid question. I am not in a position to rule on the qualitative value of answers, but the Minister for Transport can decide how he should answer the question.

*Questions Without Notice Resumed*

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE: I will provide an answer; however, the Minister for Tourism has reminded me that all the costs associated with the convention centre are paid by Multiplex.

The PRESIDENT: I am not forcing the minister to give an answer; whether he does so is up to him. I do not know about an answer that came into the House, only what the minister said earlier. If the minister is not satisfied with the answer and does not want to read it, with qualifications, that is entirely up to him.

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE: I make the point again: I have not thoroughly checked the answer but will proceed to give it on the basis that it is understood that the response may well pose some doubts. I have been in the same situation before with the Hon Tom Stephens, and having given him an answer I was not happy when he then moved a privilege motion against me.

- (1) None of the works is necessitated by the proposed convention centre. Some of the minor changes to the connection of the bus transit way to the Perth bus port will be required as a result of the convention centre project.
- (2) The Wellington Street ramps connecting to the Mitchell Freeway are the main road works that are likely to impact on traffic within the Perth central area. The Narrows Bridge and the Causeway bus priority project will also impact, but to a lesser degree. Funding details of all these projects were provided in my response yesterday.