

**MEMBER FOR WEST SWAN**

*Letter to Minister for Police — Personal Explanation*

**MS R. SAFFIOTI (West Swan)** [2.48 pm]: I rise to make a personal explanation; I seek leave.

**The SPEAKER:** Leave granted.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Today, the Minister for Police referred to a letter that I sent to him regarding a small business in my electorate. When he quoted from that letter, he failed to state that I had written about the importance of road safety, and that the control of drink driving is a priority—he selectively quoted from my letter.

**The SPEAKER:** Member, if you rise to make a personal explanation, it is not an opportunity to debate what has previously happened in this place. If you want to make a personal explanation with respect to that letter, I am giving you that opportunity, but it is certainly not a way to introduce new material or to further discuss the issue that occurred during question time.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** Mr Speaker, he did quote from a letter I sent to him, and I am just making the sure that the full facts are before the Parliament.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** This is not an opportunity for anybody else in this place to discuss this matter, other than the member for West Swan. She has the call at the moment.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** I rise to make this personal explanation as I believe the Minister for Police selectively quoted a letter I sent to him. As I said in that letter, road safety and drink driving are of course a priority of the community. As I said, the issue related to a small business in my area that was directly affected by the location of a booze bus. That small business was an ice-cream van, the owner of which lost his entire day's earnings. Given that he operates only on weekends and public holidays, he was severely affected.

*Point of Order*

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** Personal explanations are for the obvious reason of explaining a matter whereby a member feels that he or she has somehow been misrepresented directly.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** I have indicated in this place previously that the only person I want to hear from is the member for West Swan. I do take points of order. It is a normal procedure in this place. I am hearing a point of order from the Premier. I am not hearing a point of order from anybody else at the moment. There is no opportunity at all for interjection during the point of order.

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** Nothing that the member for West Swan is saying fits within the category of a personal explanation. She is debating a local issue, a policy matter, and a piece of correspondence. I respectfully suggest that if the member for West Swan wants to pursue the issue, she should raise a grievance tomorrow morning.

**Mr E.S. RIPPER:** Standing order 148 provides —

When there is no business before the Chair and with the consent of the Speaker, a member may explain a matter of a personal nature. A personal explanation will not be debated.

There is a footnote to that standing order that states —

Member is entitled to make a personal explanation to correct any misimpression, ...

A misimpression has been created that the member somehow or other does not care about drink driving or road safety. I think it is perfectly appropriate for the member to point out the rationale for her letter without engaging in debate with the Minister for Police or engaging in comment on what he said. I think she is entitled to say why she wrote the letter.

**The SPEAKER:** I have heard an explanation from the member for West Swan, and I will presume that that is the content that she wishes the house to have information about.

*Personal Explanation Resumed*

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** Can I keep going, Mr Speaker?

**The SPEAKER:** If there is further information that is relevant, I will accept it; otherwise I will sit you down, member for West Swan.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** There is, because the minister quoted parts of my letter and said that the issue about the small business was not raised in the letter, but it was.

**Mr R.F. Johnson:** I didn't say that at all.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** He did.

Several members interjected.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** Can members just give me two minutes? In his response, the Minister for Police said that there were no businesses located next to the booze bus on that day when in fact that is entirely incorrect. I do have an issue with how the member for Swan Hills got the contents of a letter that I sent to the Minister for Police.

**The SPEAKER:** Take a seat, member for West Swan.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** Those are the standards of this government!

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Warnbro, I call you formally for the second time. Member for West Swan, as far as I am concerned, that is the end of that personal explanation. It is not a matter for debate.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** I formally call you for the third time today, member for Mandurah.

I will just go back a couple of steps. Personal explanations are not an opportunity for further debate in this place. I do take the point of order that the Leader of the Opposition made about providing further information that may be relevant, but it is not an opportunity for further debate in this place. If members are going to make a personal explanation in this place in future, they should bear that in mind.