

LAW AND ORDER - BUNGLING

665. Mr P.D. OMODEI to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

I refer the minister to his government's bungling of the Dante Arthurs case - twice; to his government's bungling by giving three prisoners a vehicle with which to drive out of prison; to his government's bungling of the third offence hoon driver who did not lose his vehicle; to his government's bungling regarding the drug bus, which is four years late; and to his government's bungling of Ben Cousins' arrest.

- (1) How is the minister going to stem the flood of bungles in law and order?
- (2) Will the minister immediately apologise to the people of Western Australia for his government's bungling of law and order issues in this state?

Mr J.C. KOBELKE replied:

- (1)-(2) It is a pity that the Leader of the Opposition is such a lightweight contributor to this important debate that he should lead with quite false statements. Clearly, a range of those issues are serious issues, but to assert that the government has bungled clearly has no basis in fact. The fact is that this government has put an incredible amount of extra resources into our police. We have provided them with a range of additional legislation, and the result of that is that we have seen crime rates falling in most major areas. They are the objective facts. However, the issues to which the Leader of the Opposition is alluding in which the performance has been less than adequate are very real, and we take them very seriously. Obviously, the Leader of the Opposition does not by the very nature of the absurd way in which he has framed his question.