

POLICE RALLY - GOVERNMENT ATTENDANCE

**452. Mr P.D. OMODEI to the Premier:**

I refer to the rally outside Parliament House today by several thousand men and women from our police service, and I ask -

- (1) Why did the Premier fail to walk down the staircase to listen to their concerns and their case for a fair pay increase?

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Would the member for Murray please remove the sign that he is holding. The member can make a contribution from his seat, if he wishes.

**Mr P.D. OMODEI:** I ask also -

- (2) Why did the Minister for Police also fail to walk down the staircase to listen to their plea for a fair pay increase?
- (3) Does not this show a lack of respect for the serving police officers by the Premier and the Minister for Police, and the entire Labor government?

**Mr A.J. CARPENTER replied:**

- (1)-(3) I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. First, may I say that I support the police. Everybody in this chamber acknowledges that they do a magnificent job.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, members!

**Mr A.J. CARPENTER:** We have a brilliant police force in this state. It is well led. The men and women who make up the police force in this state are as good as, or better than, any in the world, without qualification.

**Mr P.D. Omodei:** At the very least you could have gone down there and told them that.

**Mr A.J. CARPENTER:** I have been around long enough to know that the appearance of the Premier or the minister at a rally like that serves little or no purpose.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, members!

**Mr D.F. Barron-Sullivan:** It shows your disrespect.

**Mr A.J. CARPENTER:** It does not show any sign of disrespect. Quite the contrary. I have the highest regard for the police force, and I think they know it.

**Mr M.J. Cowper:** Demonstrate it!

**Mr A.J. CARPENTER:** We do not demonstrate it, my friend, by a single act on a single day. We demonstrate it by the action and the attitude that we have over a long period of time. I do not think anyone - I will get to the Leader of the Opposition in a moment - in the police force who has ever had anything to do with me would question my respect for the police force. However, if I were ever charged by anyone in the police force, I would never come out and say that the police were targeting me unfairly. I would never say that.

Several members interjected.

**Mr A.J. CARPENTER:** I would never say that. I would never say what the Leader of the Opposition has said.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I call the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to order for the first time.

**Mr A.J. CARPENTER:** If I had been the subject of a police investigation, I would never stand in a public place and say that I was being targeted unfairly by the police because they were acting in a political way. However, guess who has said that?

**Mr T. Buswell** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I call the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to order for the second time.

**Mr A.J. CARPENTER:** If any Labor senator got up in the federal Parliament and made allegations that the Western Australia Police was acting politically by targeting members of Parliament for political purposes, I would get up and say that is not the case and he should be ashamed of himself. However, what has happened?

The person who has just asked me a question about whether I respect the police force has said those things about the police force!

**Mr P.D. Omodei:** What did I say?

**Mr A.J. CARPENTER:** The Leader of the Opposition said that they targeted him unfairly.

**Mr P.D. Omodei:** I did not say that.

**Mr A.J. CARPENTER:** He did.

*Point of Order*

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** The case to which the Premier is referring is before the courts on appeal, and I suggest that it is sub judice.

**The SPEAKER:** I do not know whether that is part of a case that is before the courts -

**Mr P.D. Omodei:** Isn't it?

**The SPEAKER:** I am of the view that that particular comment is not referring to part of a case that is before the courts. It might be, but I am not of that view.

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

**Mr A.J. CARPENTER:** Mr Speaker, I think I have made my point.

**Ms S.E. Walker:** It is sub judice.

**Mr A.J. CARPENTER:** I have made my point.

Several members interjected.

**Mr A.J. CARPENTER:** The Parliament of Western Australia is a great testing ground for hypocrites. It is very interesting. Members are exposed very quickly in this place. People can see what happens.

**Mr P.D. Omodei** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, members!

**Mr A.J. CARPENTER:** We have an outstanding police force in this state. Its members deserve a good pay rise. In fact, a meeting was supposed to be held today to try to negotiate an outcome, but because the rally was to be held, that meeting was put back a day, which I think was a very fair decision. I think the police have a right to make the points that they made outside Parliament House, and I do not dispute that right. Members on this side of the Parliament have the highest respect possible for the Western Australia Police.

**Mr C.J. Barnett** interjected.

**Mr A.J. CARPENTER:** I hope that this matter can be resolved as soon as possible. It is very interesting what people learn on the journey through these processes. I hope that the people in the public gallery take note and think about the questions that members of the opposition have just asked and about the sort of commentary they have made about the police force in the past.