

TAB — PRIVATISATION

Motion

Resumed from 20 August on the following motion moved by Mr M.P. Murray —

That this house condemns the Barnett government for breaking its word in relation to the privatisation of the TAB.

MR M.P. MURRAY (Collie–Preston) [4.00 pm] — in reply: What a change we have seen since the last time I spoke on this motion. The member for Belmont became very organised and gave a nicely written speech, which I am sure she had a lot of help with, in which she stated —

The sale of the TAB would bring a short-term gain for long-term pain.

We will see the truth at the end of this; we will see which way the member for Belmont votes.

Do I have 35 minutes, because I can use it?

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr N.W. Morton): Yes, you have 35 minutes.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Wow! I will not rush half as much as I was going to. To be fair, I thought I had 10 minutes left in my speech. You had better check that with the Clerk.

The ACTING SPEAKER: No, member, you have 34 minutes. You are in reply and rounding out the debate on this motion.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: That changes things a little; maybe I can slow down a bit.

In the last couple of weeks I have seen one of the biggest shuffles of policy on the racing industry ever to happen, mainly on the part of the National Party. The National Party has been the greatest windsucker we have ever seen. It has said it all and no doubt when it went into its meeting, a gust of wind came out of that door that no stable would have ever withstood. Anyone who knows about windsuckers would know what I am talking about. The National Party is just full of it—full of wind. As the National Party went down to its conference, it said it would do wonders with the TAB. However, the National Party came back and it was out of wind; it had left it all in the party room. There was an explosion of sorts in that room and the wind was out—out of their sails and out of everything else that we know of. What do I mean by that? The National Party had a position that was very strongly reported in the press that it would oppose the TAB sale. I know what has happened; just like the proverbial tea bag, the Premier has come in and given them a jiggle. It was just a small jiggle and out of the tea bag came all the gunk, which went to the bottom of the cup; the National Party forgot what it went down there for, and that was to oppose the sale of the TAB.

On the way back up from the south west, the National Party got a different position. That position has an “if” on it—“if it suits us and local and country racetracks”. What a selfish position! The National Party is selling out the people in Ascot and Belmont. The National Party is selling them out because it has gone forward and put its selfish spin on this, when the whole thing is about the whole of the racing industry in Western Australia. It is not about one small part of it.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Members! There are a lot of interjections across the chamber, which makes it very difficult for Hansard. The member for Collie–Preston has the call and I would like to hear the member for Collie–Preston.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: How can we believe that the National Party will stick with that position when it changes by the day? As I have said before in here and in the previous part of my speech, it is about where it was headed. What did the National Party say to people in the industry? It told them not to worry about it and that it would not embarrass the Premier by voting against the bill in the Assembly, but it would block it in the upper house and move amendments so that country racing will be well assured and looked after. What a terrible thing to do to an industry! To put a split down the middle of a very, very strong industry that employs over 30 000 people directly and indirectly is a terrible thing to do. The member for North West Central will be at the Carnarvon Cup. I heard he has won a couple of cups up for his riding; he has done pretty well from what I hear. We will look at what happens to this industry; once it splits, it will be the old story of conquer and divide. Who will win if there is a development that means the moneys go mainly to country race areas? In talking about the country areas, I can tell members —

Mr T.K. Waldron: Can I say one thing?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: No, the Minister for Racing and Gaming cannot say anything; he had his say before. He has had plenty of opportunities to speak and it is all wind, as we know. The Minister for Racing and Gaming is the windsucker of the midwest. The secretary of the Country Racing Association of WA, John Biggs, said —

“We believe it would have an enormous effect on the racing industry, particularly the small community clubs throughout the State which don’t present a lot of turnover or a lot of investment as far as TAB is concerned,”

He went on to say —

“The small clubs that don’t present a turnover or a profit to the TAB are ... going to be the first ones to be affected,”

The final quote in this article from the *Kalgoorlie Miner* of 1 September 2014 is from the minister —

Racing and Gaming Minister Terry Waldron said he would only support the sale of the TAB “if it were in the best interests of the racing industry”.

Again, it was a change of position. We do not know where this minister sits. Then we pick up *The Sunday Times* of 7 September 2014; it stated —

The Nationals also voted yesterday to oppose Liberal plans to sell off the TAB—part of Mr Barnett’s \$6 billion asset sale considerations.

That is not entirely true, because it did not put the limitations put by the National Party. Then we move to the *North West Telegraph*. I am sure the member from up Carnarvon way would have looked at this; I am not too sure as it may be a bit too far into the Pilbara. The article states —

Port Hedland Turf Club president Arnold Carter, who runs six races a year including the Hedland Cup, said he was against the sale of the TAB and the State Government would have to show him some dramatic figures to change his mind. “Once you go into private hands, you don’t know how much they are going to take off before you get a distribution point,”

That is the problem. We come back to: what is being promised around the place? I believe that Tabcorp has been meeting with certain people within government and industry. I refused requests for meetings from the Tatts Group Limited because I believe our position is so clear that we do not need to meet with it. Our position is a total no to the privatisation of the TAB. It was well put on the steps of Parliament by our leader, Mr Mark McGowan, the other day. We know our position and we will stick by our position; we will not put two bob each way like the National Party, which is full of all the wind in the whole world and no substance. We will not be a tea bag that is jiggled around in a cup so that all the goodness runs out of it. We will not sell out the whole industry for the sake of retiring some debt that this government has incurred. The government must find its own way, leave the TAB alone, and get on and do the job properly. We will help the industry go forward, not backwards, as the government proposes.

Division

Question put and a division taken, the Acting Speaker (Mr N.W. Morton) casting his vote with the noes, with the following result —

Ayes (19)

Ms L.L. Baker
Dr A.D. Buti
Mr R.H. Cook
Ms J. Farrer
Ms J.M. Freeman

Mr W.J. Johnston
Mr D.J. Kelly
Mr F.M. Logan
Mr M. McGowan
Ms S.F. McGurk

Mr M.P. Murray
Mr P. Papalia
Mr J.R. Quigley
Mrs M.H. Roberts
Ms R. Saffioti

Mr C.J. Tallentire
Mr P.C. Tinley
Mr P.B. Watson
Mr D.A. Templeman (*Teller*)

Extract from *Hansard*
[ASSEMBLY — Wednesday, 10 September 2014]
p6013b-6015a
Mr Mick Murray

Noes (34)

Mr P. Abetz	Ms W.M. Duncan	Mr R.F. Johnson	Mr D.C. Nalder
Mr F.A. Alban	Ms E. Evangel	Mr S.K. L'Estrange	Mr J. Norberger
Mr C.J. Barnett	Mr J.M. Francis	Mr R.S. Love	Mr D.T. Redman
Mr I.C. Blayney	Mrs G.J. Godfrey	Mr W.R. Marmion	Mr A.J. Simpson
Mr I.M. Britza	Mr B.J. Grylls	Mr J.E. McGrath	Mr M.H. Taylor
Mr G.M. Castrilli	Dr K.D. Hames	Mr P.T. Miles	Mr T.K. Waldron
Mr V.A. Catania	Mr C.D. Hatton	Ms A.R. Mitchell	Mr A. Krsticevic (<i>Teller</i>)
Ms M.J. Davies	Mr A.P. Jacob	Mr N.W. Morton	
Mr J.H.D. Day	Dr G.G. Jacobs	Dr M.D. Nahan	

Pair

Ms M.M. Quirk

Mrs L.M. Harvey

Question thus negatived.