

DR STEPHEN VAN DER MYE - SETTLEMENT WITH GOVERNMENT

186. Mr P.D. OMODEI to the Premier:

I refer to the payout recently provided to the former head of Western Power, Dr Stephen van der Mye, whose claim would have come before the Supreme Court this week. I remind the Premier of some of the comments that were made regarding Dr van der Mye's payout claim. First, on 9 March 2004, the Deputy Premier stated that the government and the board would not support a payout. Second, in February 2004 former Premier Geoff Gallop said that Dr van der Mye had resigned and that that was the beginning and the end of it. He said that he did not think that he deserved any more money at all. Further, he stated that as far as he was concerned he should get his normal leave entitlements and those sorts of matters, but he should not receive extra payment in lieu of the salary he would have had.

- (1) Who in the Premier's government approved this payout to Dr van der Mye?
- (2) How much was Dr van der Mye paid out?
- (3) Given that the government's opposition to a payout was so clear, who recommended the payout to be given to Dr van der Mye?

The SPEAKER: Before I give the Premier the call, as it appears that this case is to be heard in the Supreme Court in the next day or so, I urge the Premier to answer the question with that knowledge in mind.

Point of Order

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Further to your comment, Mr Speaker, I understand that it is not before the Supreme Court; the matter has been settled.

The SPEAKER: I thought that was what the Leader of the Opposition said.

Mr T. Buswell: He said "would have".

The SPEAKER: What was the start of the Leader of the Opposition's question?

Mr P.D. Omodei: I said that it would have come before the Supreme Court this week.

The SPEAKER: I am sorry; I misheard the question.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr A.J. CARPENTER replied:

(1)-(3) I do not have the detail about the payout with me, but I can provide it if it is able to be provided.

Mr P.D. Omodei: This didn't come before cabinet - is that what you're saying?

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: No, it did not come to cabinet. It was a decision made by the board. I was asked for my view on it and whether a payout was appropriate, and I said that if it was deemed to be the right course of action, that should be the course of action pursued.

Mr C.J. Barnett: Who lied?

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: No, I did not lie. That is a strange assertion.

Mr C.J. Barnett: Who did?

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: About what? The decision was made by the board. The minister asked my view on it and I expressed the view that if it was deemed that the best thing to do was to pay out Dr van der Mye, that was the best thing to do.