

ALINTA SHAREHOLDING, MEMBER FOR YOKINE

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

I refer to section 6 of the Premier's ministerial code of conduct, "Declaration of Pecuniary and Other Interests", which requires each minister to provide the Premier with a copy of his or her return lodged under the Members of Parliament (Financial Interests) Act 1992.

- (1) On what date did the Premier receive a copy of the member for Yokine's 2003-04 return?
- (2) Did that return refer to the member for Yokine's shareholding in Alinta?
- (3) Did that return refer to his wife's shareholding in Alinta?
- (4) Will the Premier table the pages given to him by the member for Yokine that showed conclusively that the member and his wife both owned shares in Alinta?

Dr G.I. GALLOP replied:

- (1)-(4) The return was sent directly to the cabinet secretary and the details are a matter of public record.

I will add to those comments. The government in Western Australia -

Mr P.D. Omodei: Sounds like a cover-up.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: The parliamentary register is available on the public record. I quoted from it this afternoon.

Members on this side of the house set very high standards. However, the rule for members on the other side of the house is that everything goes. When the Liberal Party was in government, its cabinet ministers sat around the table and consciously decided to vote on matters in which they had a direct interest, and were proud of the fact that they were doing that. Ministers were interfering with the processes under which the law was being applied in Western Australia when the application of that law did not suit the interests of their friends. None of that happens anymore in Western Australia. We have set the standards at the top of the mountain, whereas they set the standards at the bottom of the ocean. I ask the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, and through him the Leader of the Opposition, whether he can guarantee that no member on the other side of the house had an interest that would have been pertinent to the legislation we passed to disaggregate Western Power. The reason I ask that question is that the Leader of the Opposition says -

Mr M.J. Birney: They're not members of cabinet.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: Has the Leader of the Opposition not read the standing orders of the Parliament of Western Australia?

Mr M.J. Birney: They are not members of cabinet. They didn't sign off on an \$88 million cheque.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: No; he has not read the standing orders. The Leader of the Opposition should check the standing order that deals with the pecuniary interests of members of Parliament when they vote in this Parliament. The Leader of the Opposition says that the legislation to disaggregate Western Power carried interests and that there should have been a declaration of those interests. Can the Leader of the Opposition guarantee that none of his members was in such a position? Has he checked that? Has the Leader of the Opposition made claims about government members when he has not checked the situation of his members?

We have been open and transparent. That is why we are debating these issues. That is the essential difference between members on this side of the house and those on the other side of the house.