

LANCO INFRATECH AND PERDAMAN CHEMICALS — CONCILIATION

797. Mr M.P. MURRAY to the Minister for Regional Development:

Mr Speaker —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Warnbro, I have given the call to the member for Collie–Preston; I have not given the call to you. I formally call you to order for the first time today.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: With all due respect, I will ask my question of the Minister for Regional Development.

I refer to the dispute between Lanco Infratech and Perdaman Chemicals and Fertilisers, which has the potential to derail two major developments in the south west.

- (1) Why has the minister left it to me, as the local member, and the secretary of the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union, Mr Steve McCartney, to attempt conciliation between these two parties?
- (2) Why has neither the minister nor the Premier brought these two parties together and facilitated or chaired a round-table meeting?
- (3) Why has the minister been so reluctant in his role as Minister for Regional Development to assist these parties in their negotiations and, instead, happily sat back and let the unions work to resolve this important south west issue by coordinating round-table meetings?

Mr B.J. GRYLLS replied:

- (1)–(3) Given that the member for Collie–Preston has been facilitating a partnership between these two companies to resolve the dispute, how has that gone?

Dr K.D. Hames: Have you succeeded?

Mr B.J. GRYLLS: No; clearly not. We will not be relying on the member to do it because quite clearly that has not worked. I would tend to put my support with the Premier, who is the minister responsible for this, to do exactly as the member has requested, which I am aware is exactly what the Premier has done, and I am also aware that there has been some progress.

Mr E.S. Ripper: What has the government done?

Mr B.J. GRYLLS: There has been some progress. In fact, I have been in contact with both Lanco and Perdaman in the last couple of days, and there has been a degree of progress. Therefore, member for Collie–Preston, in terms of who we will put in charge of trying to resolve that issue, I think I will be backing the Premier.