

PROPOSED FORREST PLACE SPEAKERS' STEPS

**652. Hon JIM SCOTT to the minister representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:**

- (1) Will the minister confirm that when the "speakers' corner" operated on the Perth Esplanade in 1976, WA police officers recorded information on speakers for the former special branch, which was then passed on to the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation?
- (2) Will the minister confirm that the WA Police Service will not record or pass on such information about speakers who speak at the proposed speakers' steps at Forrest Place?
- (3) Will the minister contact his federal counterparts to confirm that federal agencies will not build dossiers on speakers at Forrest Place?
- (4) Will the minister provide guidelines to assist speakers to remain within state and federal laws?

**Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:**

The Minister for Police and Emergency services has provided the following reply -

- (1) The Western Australia Police Service advises that it has no record on the 1976 operational procedures referred to in this question.
- (2) The WAPS advises that police presence at the speakers' steps would depend upon the conduct of those present or the likelihood of a breach of the peace being committed due to the circumstances at the time. Furthermore the WAPS advises that the release of personal details to federal agencies would occur only in the event such information was required to assist those agencies in the pursuit of a lawful investigation and not for the purpose of compiling dossiers.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) Individuals are required to obey the same federal and state laws as they are at any other forum.