

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TASK FORCE

227. Mr BLOFFWITCH to the Premier:

Is the Premier aware that the Labor Party wants to get rid of the building industry watchdog, the building and construction industry task force?

Mr COURT replied:

Yes, I am aware of that. The Parliamentary Labor Party will do whatever it is told by those union masters. We are well aware that six or seven people in the back room will determine what is the Labor Party's policy on this and other issues. I recall the member for Pilbara saying that the party is made up of about six or seven faceless men who sit in the back room.

Mr McGinty: How many members does Noel Crichton-Browne have in your back room?

The SPEAKER: Order! It would appear that things are heating up as the election moves closer. Members still need to reflect on where they are. I will allow some reasonable interjections, as I always do. We cannot have a number of people yelling out interjections at once.

Mr COURT: It was the former federal Labor minister Gary Johns who said that Western Australia's Labor Party had the most crooked preselection of any ALP branch. There is a little nervousness on this side, because -

Dr Gallop: You are the nervous person, because you cannot front up to your own record.

Mr COURT: Sixty per cent of the numbers in the Labor Party are made up of people from the trade unions and the other 40 per cent is the Leader of the Opposition's hand-selected members.

Ms MacTiernan: Your government report said to get rid of the task force.

Mr COURT: The Leader of the Opposition has been silent on all the incredibly serious allegations that have made about the construction industry. His silence denotes consent in these matters.

Dr Gallop: Who wrote that line for you? You could not think it up; you are not bright enough!

Mr COURT: One of the faceless men involved in these allegations is Mr Kevin Reynolds. I know he is involved in an election campaign. I was not impressed to see a sign on the side of the belltower saying, "Vote Kevin Reynolds 1".

Ms MacTiernan: You are in a democracy!

Mr COURT: It is common knowledge that the reason he wants the Labor Party to win the next election is so he can be the Premier.

Mr Brown: Look, there goes another one!

Mr McGINTY: Keep going, Premier. That was funny.

The SPEAKER: I do not consider it was funny. I understand that when people are under attack, they need a reasonable opportunity to respond. However, they are not responding in a responsible way.

Mr COURT: That person said that he told the Leader of the Opposition to his face that he was the best leader to lead the Labor Party. He has anointed the Leader of the Opposition as the leader. He is the chosen one of the 60 per cent who control the votes inside the Labor Party.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! I formally call the member for Armadale to order for the first time. I hope the Premier will wind up his answer reasonably quickly. I intend to call more people to order if they continue in this manner.

Mr COURT: The allegations of intimidation, corruption and standover tactics are incredibly serious, and the building industry in this State should not be subject to such behaviour.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! I formally call the member for Midland to order for the first time.

Mr COURT: It is critical that there be a body to look into such allegations. Interestingly, the Labor Party's policy is unquestionably to get rid of that task force, the job of which is to look into those types of allegations. If the Leader of the Opposition wants to talk about open and accountable government, he should be the first to say that these matters should be properly investigated.