

JULIAN GRILL - MEMBERSHIP OF AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY

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

Firstly, I congratulate the member for Merredin for the arrival of Thomas Cormac. Congratulations: 10 pounds - not bad; good effort.

In Parliament on 1 March this year the Premier said -

In November last year, I made it perfectly clear - abundantly clear - that if Brian Burke was not thrown out of the Labor Party, I would walk. Former Premier Brian Burke is out of the Labor Party. Yesterday - I think it was yesterday, although events are tending to stream together - I made it abundantly clear that I wanted Julian Grill out of the Labor Party. The influence of those two men is - as the Leader of the Opposition said yesterday or the day before - pernicious and malignant and cannot be tolerated. Given these comments, I ask -

- (1) Has the Premier lodged a complaint about Mr Grill's actions with the Australian Labor Party's disputes committee?
- (2) When will Mr Grill be expelled from the Australian Labor Party?
- (3) Will the Premier walk away if the Labor Party does not expel Mr Grill, as he threatened to do in the case of Mr Grill's partner, Brian Burke?

The SPEAKER: Order! This is clearly an internal Labor Party question. The Premier will be answering not as the Premier, but as the state leader of the Labor Party.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER replied:

I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. I add my congratulations to the Leader of the National Party and his wife, Susan, on the birth of Thomas Cormac, on 31 May, at 10 pounds, two ounces. Brilliant! Congratulations! That is a big baby! No doubt he is taking after his father, if I might make an allusion to a James Bond movie! I leave it at that!

- (1)-(3) As the Leader of the Opposition has indicated, quite rightly, in reference to Brian Burke, a disputes committee of the Labor Party has now been established in relation to Mr Grill. One had not been established previously. The matter will be dealt with according to party rules. I cannot give time lines on that. It will be done expeditiously, I would hope, but I am unable to give a definitive answer as to upon what dates the matter will be dealt with. I believe there is sufficient evidence already in the public domain to give strength to the argument that Mr Grill has delivered significant damage to the Labor Party and to members of the Labor Party, and that the Labor Party should remove him.