

ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE, FUNDRAISING DRIVE

1293. Mrs C.A. MARTIN to the Premier:

The Royal Flying Doctor Service has embarked on a \$17 million fundraising drive to buy a fleet of urgently needed new aircraft. What is the Government doing to assist this organisation to continue providing this vital service to the vastness of Western Australia?

Dr G.I. GALLOP replied:

Many members of the House would know that the Royal Flying Doctor Service has been operating in our State for 75 years. I was very pleased to attend an important function last night, at which the Royal Flying Doctor Service reiterated that it was very keen to raise money for the replacement aircraft it is bringing on board.

Ms S.E. Walker: You gave it a pittance. I was there.

The SPEAKER: The member for Nedlands.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: The member for Nedlands sets a low standard in this Parliament. She is appalling.

Ms S.E. Walker: I hold you accountable. You gave it a miserable pittance. It needed a lot more money than that.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: The member is so low.

The SPEAKER: Members, therein lies the problem with interjections. The Premier has not started his answer. I call the member for Nedlands to order for the first time.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: The Royal Flying Doctor Service offers a very important service for the people of Western Australia. I am very pleased to announce that last night I committed another \$1 million towards its fundraising project. That is on top of the \$2.1 million from Lotterywest and the \$1.5 million that the Department of Health has contracted with it so that it can get new equipment. That is a \$4.6 million commitment of state government money towards its fundraising campaign. An opposition member making that sort of pathetic interjection in this Parliament when we are dealing with a major organisation in Western Australia is indicative of where the Opposition is in Western Australia.

Several members interjected.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: I find this extraordinary. Opposition members are unbelievable. They are unelectable because of the attitude they have.

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Nedlands to order for the second time and I call the member for Warren-Blackwood to order for the first time.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: The Opposition is pathetic. The Government of Western Australia, on behalf of taxpayers -

Mr C.J. Barnett: You would not know what is going on in this State.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: I find it interesting that the Leader of the Opposition should interject in this debate from where he is sitting at the moment. I remind everyone in Western Australia that the legislation we introduced in the Parliament to split Western Power was not designed to split the Liberal Party! However, it appears that that is exactly what has happened. The party that the Leader of the Opposition runs in Western Australia, the Parliamentary Liberal Party, is simply a collection of egos without any leadership. What is more, opposition members have absolutely no ability to recognise that some issues are beyond politics. They completely lack the ability to recognise the nature of our society and the way it operates. Has the member for Nedlands apologised to the Swan Village of Care yet?

Ms S.E. Walker: I am very proud to support the Royal Flying Doctor Service and ask for more money on its behalf. Spend less on the railway and more on the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: Has the member apologised to the Swan Village of Care?

Ms S.E. Walker: Would you give the Royal Flying Doctor Service some more money?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: I find opposition members extraordinary. They are unelectable. They lack leadership. They have no vision for the State of Western Australia. Look at them. They are sitting there with nothing to offer.

Several members interjected.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: Football clubs have songs. I think that the Liberal Party in Western Australia needs its own poem, so that when its members get together for their meetings they can read the poem together. I have a suggestion for the Liberals.

Point of Order

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: My point of order is about the relevance of the answer to the question that was asked of the Premier by one of his own members.

Dr G.I. Gallop: They interjected.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: That does not matter. That is out of order. Mr Speaker, I draw your attention to the fact that there is no relevance whatsoever in the answer the Premier is giving at the moment.

The SPEAKER: I hear what the member for Hillarys is saying. It is quite true that answers to questions need to be relevant. Therein lies the real problem with interjections that also are not relevant to a question. If a member interjects and the Premier or any minister wishes to respond to those interjections, which are disorderly, the interjector is the person who has led the answer astray. I encourage the Premier to get to the answer in the very near future.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Dr G.I. GALLOP: It is relevant, because opposition members took the opportunity to interject. I am making a comment on the Opposition. The club poem for the Parliamentary Liberal Party should be *The Hollow Men* by T.S. Eliot.

Several members interjected.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: Members should listen.

Points of Order

Dr J.M. WOOLLARD: Mr Speaker, once before when I took an interjection, you said that the debate should continue and I continued and I was asked to sit down. I wonder whether this instance is the same. It seems very similar to me.

The SPEAKER: I do not understand the point of order.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: My point of order is very similar to the previous one, Mr Speaker, in which you directed the Premier to ensure that his answer came within the bounds of the question that was asked. I suggest that the Premier has taken no notice of your direction in that respect, and I ask that he return to the relevance of the question he was asked.

The SPEAKER: I am sure the Premier is returning to the point.

I take the opportunity to recognise in my gallery Hon Gough Whitlam, former Prime Minister of Australia.

[Applause.]

Questions without Notice Resumed

Dr G.I. GALLOP: Members of the Opposition interjected while I was giving my position on the Royal Flying Doctor Service, and I have every right on behalf of the people of Western Australia to respond to them. This is my response. This should be the Liberal Party's club poem -

Several members interjected.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: T.S. Eliot's *The Hollow Men* of 1925 -

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Very shortly question time will conclude without any further questions. I suggest to members that they allow the Premier to complete his answer.

Several members interjected.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: Mr Speaker -

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Question time is now complete.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, members!

Extract from *Hansard*

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Mrs Carol Martin; Dr Geoff Gallop; Speaker; Mr Rob Johnson; Dr Janet Woollard
