

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

MR KOBELKE (Nollamara - Leader of the House) [5.30 pm]: I move -

That the House at its rising adjourn until Friday, 28 June 2002 at 2.00 pm.

The reason for the motion is clear to members in the Chamber, but I put it on the record because some members may not be sure of what is happening. It is not normal to sit on a Friday. However, it is the last sitting week of the session and we are waiting for Bills that have been amended in the other place to be returned by message so that we can consider them before the rising of the House for the winter break. Those Bills may not be returned tonight and it was decided that it is, therefore, appropriate to sit tomorrow. Although it was difficult to make a decision about the most appropriate time to sit, because of the various commitments of members tomorrow, 2.00 pm appeared to be an appropriate time to deal with that business. Also in debate today both sides of the Parliament clearly indicated a desire to deal with the Volunteers (Protection from Liability) Bill so that it can complete its passage through this Chamber.

The Opposition also indicated a willingness to debate the Home Building Contracts Amendment Bill that was second read to the House only yesterday. I am pleased to have that degree of cooperation, and I hope that we shall be able to deal with both matters tomorrow. There will also be a short question time, although that decision is in the keep of the Speaker. Given that the House will sit tomorrow, I expect there will be at least a short question time. I hope that, with the cooperation of members we shall not sit until late tomorrow evening, but that will be in the hands of all members as we progress those matters.

MR JOHNSON (Hillarys) [5.31 pm]: I was going to sit quietly, nod and not respond to the motion moved by the Leader of the House, because it has the support of the Opposition. However I must mention a couple of issues. The Leader of the House has flagged a short question time tomorrow. I hope that will not be the reality.

Mr Kobelke: I hope for short answers from ministers.

Mr JOHNSON: I would be happy to get short answers from ministers, particularly to Dorothy Dixers because they tend to go on ad nauseam and are very tedious for the House. However, I do not want to restrict the Opposition to short questions, because we have every right and every duty to ensure that the Government and ministers are accountable in all areas.

Mr Kobelke: My desire for a short question time is to save the Opposition more embarrassment.

Mr JOHNSON: I cannot let that one go without a response because that would be totally inappropriate. The Opposition is more than happy to have an extended question time. If the Leader of the House thinks that would embarrass the Opposition, he should allow us an hour's question time tomorrow in the House and we will go for it. The Leader of the House should go for it if he can talk the Speaker into agreeing to at least an hour's question time and if he thinks that will do the Government good. We encourage him to do that, and he would certainly get my vote because we would love to have a longer question time.

Mr Kucera: Can we finish in time to watch *Stateline*?

Mr Masters: Are you on it tonight?

Mr JOHNSON: Is the minister on it tomorrow? If the Minister for Health is on *Stateline* tomorrow, I would truly love to finish in time to see it. I would love to see the Minister for Health on *Stateline*. He might answer some questions by some people because he does not seem to answer many questions, either in this House or to the media. Answering questions asked by the media is probably more important in this day and age.

I found it interesting to hear the Leader of the House say that the main reason for sitting tomorrow is not for the volunteers liability legislation or the home building indemnity legislation, but to receive a message from the upper House with amendments to the industrial relations legislation. Let us not kid ourselves; that is the main reason.

Mr Kobelke: Of course it is.

Mr JOHNSON: That is fine. That is the Government's priority. It has every right to ensure that its legislation goes through the Parliament; I am sure it will get that legislation through tomorrow. However, I do not want the public of Western Australia, through the *Hansard* record of debates in this House, to believe that the reason we are sitting tomorrow is specifically to help volunteers in Western Australia with the volunteers liability legislation or builders with the home indemnity insurance legislation. The Opposition would have been happy to come back to the Parliament in four weeks to deal with that legislation. I do not believe four weeks would have made a great deal of difference and it would have given the Government an opportunity to bring to the Parliament the amended volunteers liability legislation that needs to be in place to make the legislation even better. It would have had more time to consolidate its views and policies so that it could implement some security for those volunteers who do not operate under an incorporated association.

Opposition members are very happy to come back tomorrow. We would be very happy to come back next week if we needed to progress the volunteers liability legislation and certainly the home indemnity insurance legislation, because they are both vital pieces of legislation. They are not the Government's priority. The industrial relations legislation is the Government's priority. Members on this side of the House and I believe that the Government has its priorities wrong because there are 474 000-odd volunteers in Western Australia. If the Government could boast that many union members, it would be very proud and very pleased. Unfortunately, it cannot do that. The legislation that goes through this House affects the bulk of the volunteers of Western Australia who do good in society - who number not far short of half a million. We are happy to come back to debate that legislation. We are not happy to come back to debate the industrial relations legislation because that legislation will simply appease the union movement and the thugs who want to get onto building sites and do even more damage than they do already.

Madam Deputy Speaker, we are very happy to return tomorrow. We would have happily come back tomorrow morning and spent all day in this Chamber to ensure that proper scrutiny of this legislation would take place. Unfortunately, that will not be the case. However, as the Leader of the House has set the time at two o'clock, we will see him here at that time tomorrow. We are looking forward to it.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 5.37 pm
