

APPOINTMENTS TO GOVERNMENT BOARDS, TRIBUNALS AND COMMITTEES

**1094. Mr R.F. JOHNSON to the Premier:**

I refer the Premier to an article in today's *Western Australian Business News* about the appointment of friends of the Gallop Government to government boards, tribunals and committees.

- (1) Can the Premier table, by the end of today's sitting, the name, position and rate of pay of the recipients of the 20 quango appointments referred to in the article, as broken down, to include two former Labor federal members of Parliament, five former state Labor ministers, two former state Labor MPs, one former federal Labor candidate, a former Greens MP, five unionists, one spouse of a former state Labor minister, the spouses of two current Labor MPs, and one former interstate Labor minister?
- (2) What is the Premier doing to implement the recommendations of the Guise report and assure the public that the positions on government boards, tribunals and committees are filled according to merit, not political sympathies?

**Dr G.I. GALLOP replied:**

- (1) I will see whether I can get that information for the member.

Mr R.F. Johnson: Just give the commitment.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: As I said, I will seek to get the information for the member.

Mr R.F. Johnson: Just say that you will do it.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: I will make every effort to get the information for the member. I find this question quite amusing because the assumption behind the question is that if people have had anything to do with the Labor Party or the trade union movement, they do not qualify for any of these positions. The Labor Party has a different attitude to this. The Labor side of politics also says that people who are associated with the Liberal Party or the Liberal Government are not disqualified from these positions either.

We are delighted with the excellent work that is being done on behalf of the people of Western Australia by former Liberal leader Barry MacKinnon. We were pleased to reappoint him to that position. We are delighted at the work being done by Mr Ian Laurance, a former Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party in this House and Chairman of the Midland Redevelopment Authority, and we have reappointed him. We have absolutely no bias in this situation. Members opposite assume that if people have had anything to do with trade unions or the trade union movement, they do not qualify. That is their bias.

Mr R.F. Johnson: They are your bosses.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: So they do not qualify? We have yet another example of where the Liberal Party is at in contemporary Western Australia. Members opposite are behind the times on the major issues. All they do is abuse anyone who is associated with the Labor Party or the trade union movement. It is clear to me that, from the point of view of the people of Western Australia, members opposite have a very biased and backward-looking approach.

- (2) I am very pleased that the member for Wanneroo, who is not in the Chamber, has released that report. It is a constant battle within government to ensure that there is proper diversity on our boards and committees. Members of the Cabinet know that I am a very strong advocate of appointing more multicultural representatives to government boards. I am pleased that the Minister for Women's Interests is a very strong advocate of appointing more women to our boards. I am pleased to say that the Minister for Regional Development is a very strong advocate of appointing more representatives from the regions to the boards.

I am still not satisfied that the representation we have is reflective of our community. I am still not satisfied that minorities in our community, such as the indigenous population and some of the ethnic minorities, are properly represented. It is a constant battle, but I assure members that it is a battle that this Government has taken up. On a weekly basis, the Cabinet deals with it as best it can according to the job, its requirements and who is available.