

TELETHON HOMES - STAMP DUTY

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

I commend the government on its \$100 000 donation to Telethon on the weekend. It was a good weekend. The money is sure to be well utilised in improving health services for children in need. Again this year a major contributor to the Telethon grand total was the sale of the two Telethon homes.

- (1) Will the Premier confirm that from the sale price of these homes the government will reap a stamp duty windfall of approximately \$51 000?
- (2) How could the Premier and his Treasurer smile while handing over the \$100 000 cheque knowing full well that because of their aggressive, over-the-top stamp duty regime, they have reaped another \$51 000 in tax through the sale of the Telethon homes?

Mr A.J. CARPENTER replied:

- (1)-(2) I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question and I congratulate him for his contribution to Telethon. We were both at Telethon on Sunday evening and the Leader of the Opposition is well received wherever he goes. I thought that his contribution to the Telethon program was well recognised and received; therefore, congratulations to him.

This same issue about stamp duty occurred to me, but what also occurred to me is how much this state - not the Labor Party - is contributing to the same causes to which Telethon is contributing tens of millions of dollars. That is where the stamp duty is going. I ask the Minister for Health: how much is the government giving to the Telethon Institute building? I think it is something like -

Mr J.A. McGinty: It is \$30 million.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: It is \$30 million. That is what is happening in this state. Yes, the economy of Western Australia is booming. The big difference between the way this government is approaching its task and, forgive me for saying it, collectively, not individually, the way the opposition approached its task in government is that we are not wasting the money. We are not gathering it up into little piles and setting fire to it.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: I call the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to order for the first time.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: I have just been on my feet talking about the task of consolidating the long-term benefit of the boom for Western Australia. That is what we are doing. The money is not being wasted. The money that is coming into Western Australia is going into providing the physical and human infrastructure for which this state has been crying out for decades. For once in this state there is a government that has popped its head up from outside the short-term political cycle and is saying, "We want to establish Western Australia for the long-term benefit of its citizens." An amount of \$18 billion is being spent on physical infrastructure.

Several members interjected.

Mr C.J. Barnett: Capital works is not infrastructure.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: Did the member say that capital works is not infrastructure?

Mr C.J. Barnett: It is not.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: Let me get that right. The member for Cottesloe says that capital works is not infrastructure. At one stage he aspired to be Premier.

Mr C.J. Barnett: You should have heard my talk the other day.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: Give me a copy; I am sure it will be enlightening. I have made my point. I agree that there is a point there; that is, many times that amount of money is being poured by the state, on behalf of not us as individuals but the people of Western Australia, into the various causes that Telethon seeks to help.