

PREMIER, VISIT TO UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**1190. Mr M. McGOWAN to the Premier:**

Can the Premier please advise the House of details of his impending visit to the United States of America and any related matters?

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

I will be leading a delegation to the United States of America with the Chamber of Minerals and Energy to promote Western Australia, and the Western Australian oil and gas industry in particular. A window of opportunity for gas supplies from Western Australia currently exists on the west coast of America, and I want to ensure that Western Australia seizes that opportunity.

It was interesting to read the press coverage in Western Australia earlier this week. The Leader of the Opposition indicated that he would reopen the entire Gorgon debate if he were to win the next state election. Also, an announcement appeared in one of the other newspapers that I was leading a delegation to America. That contrasts the two sides of politics: the Labor Party is positive, optimistic and out there promoting Western Australia; the Liberal Party is creating uncertainty and confusion. This Leader of the Opposition is happy to create uncertainty and confusion. Do members know what is interesting about this matter? This approach to Barrow Island was not always the position of the Leader of the Opposition. There is a fair touch of hypocrisy -

Mr C.J. Barnett: I will answer it.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: Yes.

Mr C.J. Barnett: I guess that in about 1996 or 1997 I suggested that they use Barrow Island to reinject the CO<sub>2</sub>.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: Is that right?

Mr C.J. Barnett: Yes.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: Is that all you said about it?

Mr C.J. Barnett: Absolutely.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: I have here a memo, Leader of the Opposition, dated 10 April 2000. It is the record of a meeting between the then Minister for Resources Development and the Saturn Methanol Company and the Lurgi AG Group. Listen to this, members. This is the person who just told us all that he proposed: in 1996, the reinjection of gas in Barrow. This is what he said in 2000 -

The Minister expressed a view that around a thousand acres or 400 hectares would be an appropriate industrial reservation to be set to one side. He recognised that there were environmental issues, but the oil industry occupation of the Island had thus far prevented feral animals or plants affecting the island.

Interestingly, that was his view in 2000. The Leader of the Opposition is very interested in the question of the media. I will now read to Parliament a special for the press gallery.

*Point of Order*

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: The Premier is quoting from an official document, we assume. I ask that he be directed to table it.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: I am happy to table it at the completion of my speech.

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

Dr G.I. GALLOP: This is a special for the media in the press gallery. The current Leader of the Opposition wrote the following on the front of this document, and it is signed "CB, 12/4/2000" -

Makes sense to me. The PR side is critical, and should be discussed with me before any comments are made.

The Leader of the Opposition not only supported industrial development on Barrow Island, but he was already talking about the public relations side of that commitment, yet he tells the people of Western Australia that he is serious about his current comments on the matter. The Leader of the Opposition is grandstanding at the expense of jobs; the Leader of the Opposition is creating uncertainty; and the Leader of the Opposition is creating potential delays in a major development. The Opposition has been exposed for its hypocrisy on the question of Barrow Island.

The SPEAKER: I call the Leader of the Opposition to order for the first time. The Premier indicated that he would table the document.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: I table it.

[See paper No 1626.]

*Point of Order*

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: The Premier has not tabled the entire document that he had in his hand from which he was reading. I saw him separate the pages, and he tabled one part only. I ask that he table the whole document, Mr Speaker.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: I tabled the whole document. I have here some notes for my response to the question. This is ridiculous!

The SPEAKER: Clearly, an official document is an official document. Things cannot be taken off official documents. If the other pages are not part of that document, they are not required to be tabled. I presume the Premier removed his personal notes.