

LABOR GOVERNMENT, NEW TAXES

353. Mr BAKER to the minister assisting the Treasurer:

Given that it is an accepted fact that the Labor Party has been, and will always be, a high-taxing party, is the minister aware of any new taxes introduced by a state Labor Government that could well be introduced into Western Australia under a Labor Government?

Mr KIERATH replied:

In 1985, Senator Peter Cook was reported by *The West Australian* as saying that the Labor Party was, and would always be, a high-taxing party. In Victoria, land taxes used to be levied on the family home. Guess which Premier repealed that tax on the great Australian dream? Was it John Cain? No, sir! Was it Joan Kirner? No, sir! Was it Jeff Kennett? Yes, it was! Kennett removed the land tax from the Australian family home.

Mrs Roberts: What happened to Jeff Kennett then?

Mr KIERATH: That is the great irony, because Kennett actually removed the tax, and now the Labor Party in Victoria is thinking about reintroducing it. On 13 November this year, in the Melbourne *Herald Sun* under the heading "House tax on agenda", the Victorian State Government was reported as considering reintroducing the land tax on the family home. I guarantee that, given the disastrous financial management record of the Western Australian Labor Party, it has a policy to that effect hidden away somewhere. If it ever occupies these benches, and I hope it never will, Labor will introduce land tax on the family home. Its cousins in Victoria are thinking about it, and we know the Western Australian Labor Party has no original ideas. It steals its policies and ideas from other people, perhaps the Government, or the Labor Party in other States. That is how the Labor Party develops its policies. We on this side of the House see that a clear choice exists between the Government's good financial management record and the disastrous record of the previous Labor Government. The coalition Government has no intention of introducing land tax on the family home.