

POLICE OFFICER - DRIVING DEMONSTRATION

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

I refer to a media release from the North Midlands Agricultural Society, which runs the north midlands show and ute parade at Carnamah.

I quote -

... the Carnamah police were requested to perform a driving demonstration ... it would be a disgrace if the police department considers disciplinary action for the officer, considering he was performing a demonstration for his community.

- (1) What right does the Premier have to destroy this man's career on a whim and without the officer having his right to natural justice and a fair trial?
- (2) Does the Commissioner of Police recognise the Premier's position of judge, jury and executioner or is he taking a more considered and professional approach?
- (3) Will the Premier change his heavy-handed and ill-informed approach and allow due process to take its course?

Mr A.J. CARPENTER replied:

- (1)-(3) I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. What is the Leader of the Opposition basing his questions on? What strange questions are these? Has the Leader of the Opposition seen a transcript of my remarks?

Mr P.D. Omodei: I understand that you called for his dismissal.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: The Leader of the Opposition obviously has not seen the transcript of my remarks. I do not know on what basis he has asked the questions.

An opposition member: You called for him to be sacked.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: Do I think that Rome should be sacked? Not particularly. The Leader of the Opposition is sitting around and things are swirling around in this crazy maelstrom of WA politics and he has plucked something out of the Carnamah Field Day - "Real people; real people from the country". Let me clear things up for the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr P.D. Omodei: Look at the press statement.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: What press statement?

Mr P.D. Omodei interjected.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: Not particularly. Do I want to read the press statement of the Carnamah Agricultural Society that is supposed to be relevant to a question just asked?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: Yesterday, when I was doing a doorstep about an issue that I will get to immediately after this because members will find it interesting, I was asked whether or not I had seen on television the night before the footage of the police car apparently involved in inappropriate activity with someone behind the wheel. I said yes, I had. I was asked whether I thought that the police officer who was at the wheel - man or woman - should be sacked. I said something like this - I will paraphrase myself -

In the absence of some as yet ungiven or unseen explanation, yes.

Is that somewhat inconsistent with the position the Leader of the Opposition is putting?

Mr P.D. Omodei: You called for him to be sacked.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: No, I did not. The Leader of the Opposition has just said that there is a perfectly rational explanation. If there is a perfectly rational explanation for what he is doing, fine, which is what I said when I was asked the question.

The answers to the questions are no, I should not be; yes, he should be given due process; and yes, the police commissioner has to deal with it - as I said he should. I said that it was not a matter for me; it was a matter for the police commissioner to deal with.

Mr P.D. Omodei: That's not what you said yesterday.

Extract from Hansard

[ASSEMBLY - Wednesday, 28 November 2007]

p7910d-7913a

Mr Paul Omodei; Mr Alan Carpenter; Speaker; Mr Colin Barnett; Mr John Day

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: It is exactly what I said yesterday.

Mr P.D. Omodei: You said that he should be sacked. You did not check your facts.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: Unbelievable! I thought I saw last night - I might have been wrong - on ABC television news those very words in paraphrase that I just used: that in the absence of some explanation of what he was doing, yes, he should be sacked. If there is an explanation, fine. I then said that it was not my decision - I am not allowed to make those decisions anyway - and it was up to the police commissioner. However, as the Leader of the Opposition has raised this matter, I was outside yesterday because I was being asked about the disgraceful behaviour of two members of the upper house, Hon Shelley Archer and Hon Anthony Fels, and what I thought of the position the state Liberal Party was taking on that matter. I can tell members what I said.

Mr C.J. Barnett: Who cares?

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: Plenty of people care. The member's constituents care because they are telling me during my early morning activities - and they are Liberal voters. They are telling me that they care and that they cannot believe it. What is going on? I am trying to get rid of the corrupt influences in Western Australian politics and the state Liberal Party is trying to stop me. I am trying to clean up state politics in Western Australia and the state Liberal Party is trying to stop me from doing it by making all sorts of crazy arguments. They are using all sorts of sophistry about why those two members should not be dealt with appropriately -

Mr P.D. Omodei: You had the power to deal with the member for Murchison-Eyre. Why didn't you do the same with him? That is when you did have some power but you chose not to do that.

The SPEAKER: Order, Leader of the Opposition!

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: - and making all sorts of strange rationalisations.

Mr P.D. Omodei: This is an absolute stunt and you know it!

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: Here I am, the Premier of the state of Western Australia, trying to clean up politics in this state and the state Liberal Party in the Parliament is trying to stop me. What has happened in the world? Not only that, here is the next layer of intrigue and topsy-turviness: in the very moment that I am trying to clean up Western Australian state politics and the state Liberal Party is trying to stop me, they are contemplating replacing their current leader with a person who is directly involved with some of the shady characters I am trying to get rid of! The member for Vasse is a puppet of Noel Crichton-Browne. What other member of this Parliament has had secret, clandestine meetings with Noel Crichton-Browne in the car park of the state Parliament? It is almost inconceivable, but it is happening. Ladies and gentlemen, this is what is happening in state politics in Western Australia today. The Premier of the state is trying to clean up the politics of Western Australia but the state Liberal Party is trying to stop me and it is also trying to replace its current leader with a person who is caught up in it all. He admitted having a secret meeting in the car park of state Parliament with Noel Crichton-Browne to discuss the evidence he would give at a Corruption and Crime Commission inquiry the following day. He is still walking around the streets of Perth as bold as brass. Not only that, he has got his hand up for the state Parliamentary Liberal Party leadership.

I want to ask a question. I will go through members individually. Who on the other side of the Parliament trusts the member for Vasse? Does the member for Hillarys trust the member for Vasse?

Point of Order

Mr C.J. BARNETT: You are more tolerant than I am, Mr Speaker. The question was about a policeman doing "donuts" at Carnamah. It is a bit of a stretch to Noel Crichton-Browne and whatever else the Premier is on about.

The SPEAKER: The Premier, in the first question of the day, is usually given some latitude. I am sure that the Premier will come back to the question in the very near future.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: I am hoping that if there is a rational explanation for the policeman doing "donuts" out in the bush somewhere, then that will be okay. Maybe that policeman will come back and find himself in the position where he can help me clean up the corruption that has been revealed in state politics in Western Australia, which goes straight to the heart of the WA Liberal Party.

Mr P.D. Omodei: You can't answer this.

The SPEAKER: Order, Leader of the Opposition!

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: Does anybody in the state Parliamentary Liberal Party trust the member for Vasse? Does the member for Hillarys trust the member for Vasse?

Mr R.F. Johnson: I don't trust you, my friend.

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Mr A.J. CARPENTER: Does the member for Nedlands trust the member for Vasse?

Ms S.E. Walker: Do you trust the Attorney General after the Lewandowski affidavit?

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: Yes, I do.

Ms S.E. Walker: Then good luck to you!

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: They should put their hands up. Member for Kalgoorlie? Why do I come to the member for Kalgoorlie? Why do I reluctantly arrive at the member for Kalgoorlie? Does he trust the member for Vasse?

Mr M.J. Birney: I'm going to take a point of order in a minute. You are ignoring the standing orders.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: I think a demonstrable point is being made here. I am the Premier of Western Australia. I take the position very seriously. I am trying to clean up politics in Western Australia, and the state Parliamentary Liberal Party is trying to stop me. At that very moment, it is trying to install as its leader a person who is caught up in it all - up to his eyebrows in that sort of activity. No wonder the member for Cottesloe has pulled the pin and is going out. Of course that is the reason. It is unbelievable.

Anyway, what is the relationship between the person who really runs the Parliamentary Liberal Party from inside here, Noel Crichton-Browne, and the person who represents him most closely in the Parliament, Norman Moore? Why do they have so much power, member for Nedlands? What a sad state of affairs. What exposé do we get of this amazing scenario from our daily newspaper? What exposé do we get of this incredible situation? We get none, and I will tell members why we get none.

Point of Order

Mr J.H.D. DAY: I am sure that all of us on this side are happy to have a debate about Liberal Party politics or Labor Party politics or whatever. However, I know that you, Mr Speaker, have been concerned about long, rambling and irrelevant answers in the past. I suggest, given this answer has been going for 10 minutes, that now would be an appropriate time to express that concern.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: I think it is good advice. I will end the answer there.