

STATE GOVERNMENT INSURANCE OFFICE, PRIVATISATION

1217. Mr R.F. JOHNSON to the Premier:

I ask the Premier -

Dr G.I. Gallop: Good. I want another crack at this.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I will ask the Premier another question. He will love this one. I refer the Premier to his answers not only today but also yesterday concerning the privatisation of the State Government Insurance Office. On 8 October 1996 on radio station 6WF the Premier said that he brought about the privatisation of the SGIO, that he carried out his duties extremely well, and that he did not think it was an issue at all.

Mr C.J. Barnett: It is an issue today.

Dr G.I. Gallop: I am very happy to respond.

The SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: Will the Premier now get up, correct the record and admit that he misled Parliament and the people of Western Australia, and that he took great glory in the privatisation of SGIO?

Dr G.I. GALLOP replied:

I do not know how many times I must repeat to members opposite that the Lawrence Government supported the privatisation of the State Government Insurance Office.

Several members interjected.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: Hang on! Let me finish! The Lawrence Government supported it. I was the minister who took the legislation through the Parliament. That legislation facilitated the process, and it was completed by the Court Government. That is the truth and that is what happened.

The last thing that the Liberal Party in Western Australia wants to talk about today is the next election. I inform the Leader of the Opposition that the Labor Party is looking forward to it, because it has seen how the Liberal Party has tried to avoid this debate in the past week. It has tried to avoid a debate about what it will stand for at the next election. Labor is happy to have that debate, and we will continue to have it, and the Leader of the Opposition will be exposed for his agenda.