

NORM MARLBOROUGH - PROMOTION TO CABINET

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

I refer to the Premier's previous comment that no deals were made to secure his position as Premier.

Mr A.J. Carpenter: What was your original question?

Mr P.D. OMODEI: Does the Premier want me to start again? I asked whether a deal had been made, and the Premier said no.

Mr A.J. Carpenter: From my perspective, no.

Several members interjected.

Mr P.D. OMODEI: From the Premier's perspective, no. Okay.

I refer to the Premier's comment that no deals were made to secure his position as Premier in exchange for Mr Marlborough's promotion to cabinet. Can the Premier guarantee that no members of the Parliamentary Labor Party, including members of his cabinet, spoke to Brian Burke or Julian Grill about a deal to put Norm Marlborough into cabinet and to make the member for Willagee Premier?

Mr A.J. CARPENTER replied:

What an outrageous question!

Mr T. Buswell interjected.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: If the Deputy Leader of the Opposition wants to ask a question, he should get on his feet.

This is interesting, because the Leader of the Opposition has said that under no circumstances would he ban his members from speaking to Mr Burke or Mr Grill. Is that correct?

Mr P.D. Omodei: I don't think they were going to make me Premier.

Mr E.S. Ripper: No-one's going to make you Premier.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: I suggest that the Leader of the Opposition should get on the phone and ask the gentlemen themselves. I do not intend to ask them; they have never spoken to me about any such arrangement. However, the Leader of the Opposition can get a little phone and call them himself. We have a template model for him; he can get his own phone. Let me ask this question- this is a good one, so I had better get it right: what deals were done in the car park of Parliament House that resulted in the previous leader of the Parliamentary Liberal Party being overturned and replaced by the present Leader of the Opposition?

Several members interjected.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: If the Leader of the Opposition is looking for a definitive answer to that question, he should lean over to his left and ask the gentleman sitting next to him. What deals were done between Noel Crichton-Browne and the member for Vasse that resulted in the member for Kalgoorlie being axed as leader of the state Parliamentary Liberal Party and replaced by the present Leader of the Opposition? This deal was done in the car park of Parliament House on 24 March. I ask the Leader of the Opposition to answer the question: what deal was done to get him into the position of leader of the state Parliamentary Liberal Party?

Several members interjected.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: I know the Leader of the Opposition very well, and he knows me. Does he honestly believe that I would be part of some deal along the lines that he has mentioned?

Mr P.D. Omodei: Yes. You're there because Burke put you there.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: The Leader of the Opposition thinks that I would be party to that? He thinks that I am Premier because Brian Burke did a deal to put me here. If that is the case, what a sad outcome it has been for Mr Burke.

Several members interjected.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: Last week - or perhaps the week before; time flies when one is having fun - I insisted that if Mr Burke did not either resign or be expelled from the Labor Party, I would resign as Premier. Here is an opportunity for the Leader of the Opposition to sit down and have a quiet chat with his deputy, and find out what deal the Deputy Leader of the Opposition struck to cast the deciding vote for the present Leader of the Opposition and against the previous leader, whom he had promised to support. Was it anything to do with what was going on with the Canal Rocks project? I wonder if it was. Was it anything to do with the way the councils

in the area might vote, and the way in which they had been manipulated? I wonder if it was. Has the Leader of the Opposition asked the question?

Mr P.D. Omodei: No.