

POLICE OFFICER - PREMIER'S POWER TO DISMISS

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

I have a supplementary question. Is it not true that the Premier does not have the power to sack the police officer in Carnamah, just as he does not have the power to sack Shelley Archer from the Legislative Council?

Several members interjected.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER replied:

Hang on. Let me just get this right. In answer to the Leader of the Opposition's first question, he did not want me to link the two things together, so he thought he would come back with a supplementary question and link the two together for me.

Mr P.D. Omodei: Can you sack that police officer? Can you sack Shelley Archer from the Parliament? You can't, and you know it.

The SPEAKER: Order, Leader of the Opposition!

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: Let me answer the Leader of the Opposition's question. As I pointed out yesterday when asked about this police matter, no, I do not have the power to sack the police officer. In relation to Hon Shelley Archer, it was the opposition who demanded in this Parliament six months ago that we have her expelled.

Mr R.F. Johnson: No, we didn't.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: Yes, they did. Guess what. At the time the circumstances did not fit that sort of outcome. Now they do, and the Liberal lay party is cheering me on because I am trying to get rid of the corrupt influences in Western Australian politics. It is saying, "Why is the state Parliamentary Liberal Party, led by Hon Norman Moore, trying to stop him?" Why is it trying to stop me? When the Leader of the Opposition went out and faced the public, he was forced to say, "I think she should be expelled." Did he not say that?

Mr P.D. Omodei: I do think that.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: It is a bit like this morning when he said, "If anybody comes into my office and tries to challenge me, I'll flatten them." That is the level that we have got to in state politics in Western Australia. The state Parliamentary Liberal Party is trying to stop me cleaning up the place. It is trying to install a person who is up to his neck in this sort of activity.

Mr T. Buswell: Rubbish!

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: He is. Would anybody buy a used car from him? Of course they would not. Would the member for Kalgoorlie? No. He is up to his neck in it. Can members imagine putting up this fellow as a leader? Can they imagine it? One basic question: do members opposite trust this man? All the mob on the other side would say, "No, we don't; of course we don't."

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: They are trying to install as the leader a person who is up to his neck in all the shenanigans that we are trying to stamp out, and in response the current leader says, "If anybody comes into my office and taps me on the shoulder, I'll give them a right hook." That is where we have got to in politics in Western Australia.

Ms A.J.G. MacTiernan: It's probably his best argument.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: Probably. I mean, fair go.

Mr P.D. Omodei: Is that the best you can do?

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: It will do for a start.