

ONE NATION, MULTICULTURALISM POLICY

360. Dr GALLOP to the Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests:

I remind the minister that he indicated last week during question time that he was unaware of One Nation's policies. I refer the minister to One Nation's policies on multiculturalism, which advocates -

the abolition of the current concept of multiculturalism. One Nation would abolish funding multicultural programs.

Now that the minister is aware of at least one of One Nation's policies that directly contradicts the policies of his Government, will he do the right thing by his portfolio and join the Labor Party and the National Party and urge the Liberal Party to put One Nation last on all how-to-vote cards?

Mr JOHNSON replied:

I would never want to join the Labor Party. I do not know to which policies the Leader of the Opposition has referred; I have not seen the material he has quoted.

Dr Gallop: The multicultural policy - I just told you!

Mr JOHNSON: I wonder whether that is the first version or a later version of the policy. I have said in this House many times that I am more interested in the coalition's policies than in the policies of any other party. The coalition's policies are clear. We are antiracist and antidiscrimination.

I launched the State's citizenship strategy a few weeks ago. The launch attracted 400 people, and was held at the Mullaloo Surf Life Saving Club, which was chosen by the agency, not because it is close to my electorate, but because it is a good representative body of people who practise active citizenship; that is, they are people who save lives.

Dr Gallop: Have you had representations from ethnic communities on this issue?

Mr JOHNSON: The Leader of the Opposition has already asked a question.

The people who attended the launch were from many cultural backgrounds. Since I have held this portfolio I have got on well with everybody in every multicultural group. Some members opposite know this, as they attend many of the functions that I attend.

Dr Gallop: Come on, stand up for multiculturalism. Why don't you stand up for it?

Mr JOHNSON: The Leader of the Opposition can shout as much as he likes, but he cannot get away from the fact that a Labor Party candidate in Brisbane directed preferences to the One Nation candidate in the mayoral election.

Dr Gallop: It is not true.

Mr JOHNSON: Yes, it is. The Leader of the Opposition does not like the truth.

In addition, at the last federal election the Labor Party benefited in three marginal seats from One Nation preferences. Are One Nation supporters more aligned with the Labor Party? Maybe they are. The Labor Party did not discourage those One Nation preferences coming its way, and it won three marginal seats as a result.

Mr Speaker, I will ask the Leader of the Opposition a question: When will the Leader of the Opposition be honest with the voters of Western Australia and tell them who will run this Government if the Labor Party is elected? It will not be the members opposite; they are puppets on strings for the union movement. The latest Labor Party novice in the upper House comes straight from Kevin Reynolds' office. I know what portfolio he would have if he became a member of this House. The unions will not listen to the Leader of the Opposition; they will listen to Kevin Reynolds, Brian Burke and other union organisers.