

UNION OFFICIALS - WORK SITE BEHAVIOUR

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

I have a supplementary question. Given the damning evidence presented to the Cole royal commission, why has the Premier not taken any action against these thugs?

Mr A.J. CARPENTER replied:

“Thug” is a fairly pejorative term. The Cole royal commission brought down its finding some time ago. I do not know whether any charges were recommended against either of the two individuals the Leader of the Opposition has mentioned by name. In relation to the other matters, let me just say this generally: the law is the law and people who are found to be in breach of the law suffer the consequences. I think Mr McDonald faces several charges of trespass and perhaps other charges related to activities on building sites, and he will face the consequences of the law. The underlying subtext of the question is whether we are in any sense intimidated by, or afraid to take action against, any one particular individual or individuals in the Western Australian community. The answer is no. However, is the Leader of the Opposition? He has not had the strength of character to deal with his own deputy yet.