

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES — ABC REPORTING

**671. Mr D.T. REDMAN to the Minister for Emergency Services:**

I have a supplementary question. I take it from the minister's response that, indeed, his office has made a formal complaint. Can the minister confirm that this is simply another strong-arm tactic to extend his gag order to the national broadcaster?

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members.

**Mr F.M. LOGAN replied:**

I can confirm that we bring the truth to the attention of the ABC and the tricks that the Nationals WA normally try to play on volunteers and, unfortunately, on the media.

**The SPEAKER:** That is the end of question time.

*Point of Order*

**Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP:** Can I seek a clarification?

**The SPEAKER:** Yes, you can seek a clarification. It is 3.10 pm. It is way past the time we normally have. If you are going to ask why fewer questions were asked today, it was because there was continual interjecting, even from yourself.

**Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP:** I appreciate that, Mr Speaker. I am not entirely certain of the time constraint. I am just clarifying what that might be.

**The SPEAKER:** I warned everyone before that I would cut it back, and I have.

**Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP:** By virtue of that, Mr Speaker, if government members continue to interject on us, we do not get to ask questions.

**The SPEAKER:** The members for Darling Range, Bateman and Dawesville are the ones with all the calls to order, so I would say it has something to do with your side of the house!

**Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP:** It is usually the answers, Mr Speaker.

**The SPEAKER:** I have been told by the Clerk that question time is up to the Speaker's discretion.

**Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP:** Of course, Mr Speaker.

**The SPEAKER:** If you want to query that, I am sure we can sort it out later.

**Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP:** I look forward to it, Mr Speaker.

**The SPEAKER:** Members on both sides of the house, it took nearly an hour to go through the questions we had today. I will keep cutting the questions down. Ministers, please try to cut down the answers to a large debate.