

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE — TIME MANAGEMENT

Statement

HON COLIN TINCKNELL (South West) [4.48 pm]: My statement today is about what I have witnessed in Parliament this week. I joined this house around three months ago as a new member along with 16 other members. The skills and experience contained in this house impress me. What does not impress me is the time wasting and the amount of filibustering that goes on. I look at what the public and the media are thinking about Parliament. I do not believe we do ourselves many favours by sitting for shorter days and not putting through legislation, when, as a house of review, we often seem to waste a lot of time filibustering.

Why are we not debating the major issues? Why are we not debating what the public really need out there? Where are jobs going to come from? How are we supporting industry to create those jobs for the future? I know that the other new members in this house agree with me in general terms on this. They walked in here looking forward to being enthused and led in the right direction by the skills and the experience contained in this house. But I have had a very disappointing week watching, trying to get enthused and trying to get involved. Last night we finished early. There is so much business to be done in Western Australia. The state is in an awful condition. Recently, I was briefed by the Treasury and the story was a nightmare.

Hon Jim Chown: You do understand that the business of the house is run by the government.

Hon COLIN TINCKNELL: I understand that and I am leading to that. We have to reduce crime. We need to protect children. We need to talk about issues that are on the books, such as the possible sale of the WA TAB, child and elder abuse, GM crops, improving tourism, and housing and the lack of it, yet we seem to waste a lot of time on wasting time. Where are these programs? Where are the initiatives coming from the government? The government leads the business in this house. The crossbench of One Nation requests that we move on to more constructive debate. I have discussions with my fellow members on the cross bench and we are very disappointed. There are even times when we start the day without many ministers and members of the government in the house. It is a wonder we even get past the quorum and that is disappointing.

Hon Sue Ellery: Name a time there's not a minister in the house. Name a time that we start without a minister in the house—not ever.

Hon COLIN TINCKNELL: Not all ministers; we had one. I would like to see that business come through that house so that we can debate those issues. We need to get on with business. The public expects that of us.