

UNION MEMBERSHIP

Statement

HON MARTIN PRITCHARD (North Metropolitan) [6.27 pm]: I think that most members know that I have had a close association with the Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees Association of WA for many years. Indeed, I was a member when working at Aherns for a number of years, and I worked for the union for another 27 years just before coming to Parliament. At that time, I was the assistant secretary and so when I filled in my first annual return, I indicated that I had a position in the SDA. The new secretary of the union had a view about membership and working in the industry, so my membership lapsed for many years while I have been in Parliament, which is of much regret to me. After much badgering earlier this year, in May, the secretary consented and I rejoined the SDA.

Hon Martin Aldridge raised an issue this morning about some returns, and it made me look at my last return. It was my view, because of the wording and my misreading of it, that a position would mean either an elected or a paid position, but relooking at the wording reminded me that it obviously means a member of a union as well. I rejoined the SDA in May. When filling in that last return, I obviously filled it in incorrectly. I have now resolved that matter and updated the return. I wish to indicate to the chamber, very proudly, that I am an SDA member. I am very proud of that fact, but I wish to apologise to the chamber and to members if I have misled them in any way because of my last return.