

marketplace. As the member is most probably aware, a year or two ago BP Refinery (Kwinana) Pty Ltd, which is one of the most, if not the most, efficient refineries in Australia, was exporting considerable volumes to the United States. We are in an international marketplace. We are not in a position to determine whether the price goes up or down. Western Australia holds the record, through FuelWatch, for giving motorists the best deal anywhere in Australia. Month after month the price of petrol in Perth has been lower than that in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne, if we do not take into account the subsidies in place in both Brisbane and Melbourne.

TELSTRA SALE, SECURITY OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

493. Mr P.B. WATSON to the Minister for Local Government and Regional Development:

Can the minister tell the house whether the sale of Telstra will offer any security of services for Western Australia?

Mr J.J.M. BOWLER replied:

I thank the member for Albany for the question and point out that he looks a bit bleary-eyed. He must have stayed up late last night watching that fantastic contest in which the king of spin bowled his balls down the wicket, with little leg breaks and sliders, and the occasional top spinner, only to be thwarted by one batsman. Members may think I am talking about Shane Warne and Kevin Pietersen, but no, I am talking about the great king of spin in Australia, John Howard, and the one person who will stand up to him, Barnaby Joyce. Barnaby just hits John Howard back over his head. While the rest of the Liberal Party seems to be bamboozled by the king of spin's little leggies, Barnaby plays them as they are back over his head - another six, Barnaby! While the Liberal Party in Western Australia is playing like Colin Cowdrey and Geoff Boycott, just poking out the pad, occupying the benches and doing nothing, there is Barnaby, just showing them what they can do. I had given up hope for the other side, but all of a sudden over the weekend the former wonder king, Hon Norman Moore, that great batsman from the past - he is past his peak now and probably will not get back into the first XI - suddenly found a bit of form. Suddenly Hon Norman Moore started hitting John Howard; he started saying that he could read his spin and he was going to start hitting the ball for Western Australia. I just hope that the Liberal senators - Judith Adams; Ian Campbell -

A government member interjected.

Mr J.J.M. BOWLER: Exactly - who are they? - Alan Eggleston; Chris Ellison; David Johnston, a former mate of mine from Kalgoorlie; and Ross Lightfoot - will take a leaf out of the batting efforts of Barnaby Joyce and not the Colin Cowdreys on the opposition benches here. They are just occupying the benches. They have not scored a run for a long time. I hope those senators will start doing what they are supposed to do and go in to bat for Western Australia.

ELECTORATE OFFICES

494. Mr M.J. BIRNEY to the Premier:

Mr Speaker -

Several members interjected.

Mr M.J. BIRNEY: My question is very important, Mr Speaker. I will wait for the interjections to stop. Does the Premier support the use of taxpayer-funded electorate offices for party political campaign purposes?

Dr G.I. GALLOP replied:

I think everyone in this house is aware of the regulations that pertain to state electorate offices. Those regulations should be clear to all members. The use of electorate offices for party political purposes is not appropriate.

ELECTORATE OFFICES

495. Mr M.J. BIRNEY to the Premier:

I ask a supplementary question. How then does the Premier explain the fact that yesterday he personally wrote to rank and file members of the Australian Labor Party inviting them to attend Labor Party campaign seminars at the electorate offices of the members for Joondalup and Southern River on 28 September and 5 October respectively? I table a copy of the letter.

The SPEAKER: Order! The letter will remain on the table of the house for this day's sitting.

[The paper was tabled for the information of members.]

Dr G.I. GALLOP replied:

I will look at that letter and examine the issues that the Leader of the Opposition has raised.

TOURISM INDUSTRY

496. Mrs D.J. GUISE to the Minister for Tourism:

I refer to the state government's commitment to making Western Australia the nation's premier tourism state and ask for an update on the state of the tourism industry in WA.