

BOOZE BUS OPERATIONS — LETTER TO MINISTER FOR POLICE

**528. Mr F.A. ALBAN to the Minister for Police:**

During question time last week, concerning the location of booze bus operations—something that I fully support—the minister was accused of providing me with a copy of a letter —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you, members!

**Mr F.A. ALBAN:** — to the minister from the member for West Swan. Would the minister please advise the house what actually occurred with regards to the allegations?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON replied:**

Mr Speaker —

**Mr W.J. Johnston:** Criminal behaviour!

**The SPEAKER:** Take a seat, minister. Member for Cannington, I formally call you for the first time today.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** I just heard the member for Cannington call out “criminal behaviour” and I have heard similar comments this morning.

*Withdrawal of Remark*

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** Mr Speaker, the member did allege that the Minister for Police had been involved in criminal behaviour, and it is unparliamentary and I ask you to ask him to withdraw it.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** With respect to your point of order, member for Jandakot, you have not given me a particular point of order. I will ask the member for Cannington if, in fact, he did make that allegation to withdraw it. I did not hear it from here, but if it has been heard in the house, I ask him to withdraw it.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** I withdraw it.

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** In question time last week the member for Swan Hills asked me a question about the location of booze buses. I know her commitment to trying to ensure that we locate them in the right place to get those people who drink and drive tested and off the roads as quickly as possible. In answer to that question, I did refer to a letter that the member for West Swan had sent to me because I could not believe what the letter contained. She was so worried about the location that she wanted the police to tell local businesses where they were going to locate the booze bus —

Several members interjected.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** Wait until members hear the lot!

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** In that letter, the member quoted many businesses. When finally drawn on the subject, the member admitted that the business was an icecream van—a Mr Whippy. Therefore, the member put the interests of a Mr Whippy operator before the interests of having a booze bus there to be able to test people who drink and drive!

*Point of Order*

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** The minister has —

**Dr K.D. Hames:** Tell us the number!

**The SPEAKER:** I need to have a number.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** Yes, 72. The minister alleged that the member had a particular reason for doing something and he can only do that if he brings it by way of —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you, members!

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** — a motion to the house; therefore, he cannot make an allegation about the intention. The minister cannot allege that the member intended to do something; he can only say what she did.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Take a seat, member for Cannington. I instruct members on my right that I have given the call on the point of order to the member for Cannington. It is not an opportunity for anybody in this place to add anything while a member is making a point of order. Member for Cannington, if you wish to make a point of order, I ask you for the number; otherwise, I will sit you down.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** Mr Speaker, I can provide you with a number; it is standing order 92 about the imputation of improper motives. I think what the member for Cannington was getting to was that the Minister for Police's answer is imputing a motive to the member for West Swan in relation to her letter to him; therefore, it is unparliamentary and outside standing orders, and to do so, the minister would have to move a substantive motion under standing order 92. I request that you consider that matter and also the manner in which the Minister for Police perhaps misuses letters from members and the propriety of him doing that when other members will not release letters!

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Rockingham, I have listened to your point of order. I am going to give the Minister for Police the opportunity to answer this question and I ask him to be brief and concise in doing so.

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** Mr Speaker, I intend to be brief and concise, I do assure you, and I ask your protection from members on the other side who continue to interject and do not want to hear the truth. My good name has been impugned by members on the other side and I think that I have a right in relation to my answer to the question.

As I said, the business in question was a Mr Whippy van; that was the clear case. Notwithstanding that, the member for West Swan accused me of showing the letter that she sent to me to the member for Swan Hills.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Bassendean!

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** The member for Cannington—I will come to him a bit more in a moment—also accused me of doing the same, and other members have. It went on to the degree that the next item of business before the house after question time was the Prohibited Behaviour Orders Bill debate, during which the member for Cannington went on to say —

I would like to know from the Attorney General whether a person who received a document leaked by a minister against the laws of this state would be covered by the matters that we are dealing with now. The reason I am interested is that, as the Attorney General knows, we heard during question time that a minister provided information to a backbench member of Parliament in contravention of the laws of the state and that information was then used to frame a question.

The member then said that perhaps it should be referred to the Corruption and Crime Commission or a police inquiry. That is a summary of what the member for Cannington said. Yesterday, the member for Willagee went on to say —

The member behind you has made much out of a letter you passed to him that was personal correspondence between one of the members of this chamber —

*Point of Order*

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** The minister is quoting from the uncorrected *Hansard*; he is referring to statements made by the member for Willagee yesterday. As everyone knows, members cannot quote from the uncorrected *Hansard*; therefore, I ask that the minister no longer continue his answer.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** Mr Speaker, I consider that I paraphrased that. The previous *Hansard* was from last week and that was the more important one that was about the member for Cannington.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you, members!

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** I want to assure this house 100 per cent that I never, ever showed the letter that the member for West Swan sent to me —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Take a seat. Member for Cannington —

**Mr M.W. Sutherland** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** I do not need to hear anything from you either, member for Mount Lawley, I call you formally for the first time. Member for Cannington, I formally call you for the second time today. Minister, I did ask you to be brief and I think you might have stretched that relationship a bit too far.

**Ms M.M. Quirk:** He's filibustering!

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Girrawheen, you might also be filibustering. I am going to call you formally for the third time today.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** Mr Speaker, I am coming to the conclusion of this answer, I promise you.

**The SPEAKER:** I hope so.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** I hope I do not get any more interjections because it is important that I point out the hypocrisy of members opposite. After question time last week, I went into my ministerial office to find another letter from the member for West Swan. When I talk about hypocrisy, this is what I mean. The letter is dated 23 August—some time before last week, I can assure members. It states, in part —

I seek access to all documentation between the Member for Swan Hills and the Minister for Police ...

It goes on to say —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you, members!

**Ms R. Saffioti** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for West Swan, there is a process in this place that when the Speaker is on his or her feet, you acknowledge that. I formally call you for the first time. Minister, this is not a brief response.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Warnbro, I formally call you for the first time, along with the member for Nollamara and the member for Bassendean. Minister, if you want my assistance in this place at any point, I will insist that you be brief in your response.

**Ms R. Saffioti** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for West Swan, I formally call you to order for the second time today.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** I will conclude now but I think it is important that the house knows that the information requested by the member for West Swan included all documents such as correspondence, briefing notes, file notes, internal memos, email attachments, notebook entries, diary notes, files and any other correspondence. If I am to be accused of leaking information to a member, which I did not do, I have to wonder what the member for West Swan is going to do with her information about another member of Parliament.