

**PAULINE HANSON'S ONE NATION PARTY — McGOWAN GOVERNMENT**

*Statement*

**HON COLIN TINCKNELL (South West)** [6.31 pm]: My feelings are with the honourable member on that.

I wanted to make a short statement. I want people to understand that we three members from One Nation came into this place around six months ago. We are very honoured to be here, and absolutely have taken our responsibility to the people who elected us very, very seriously. However, we feel as though the government, which is in a privileged position, has not taken on that responsibility and the fact that we have now formed a crossbench—a group of gentlemen who have become stronger and more united over the last six months. I want to thank the Premier for making that easier for us by ignoring us in many ways. The government's unwillingness to deal with One Nation in particular, we feel is disrespectful. It is doing a disservice to the people of Western Australia who have chosen the three members of One Nation to be here in this place. As I mentioned, we take that responsibility very seriously. We were elected by those people in WA to deal with this government and to show the interests and thoughts of the people who elected us, so that the information they give us is passed into this house and debated. We are keen to work with the government in all reasonable aspects, especially with this budget. We understand the difficult fiscal position the government finds itself in, but by refusing to even meet with certain members of One Nation the government has not really attempted to resolve some of these issues—not in a diplomatic way, anyway. One Nation is expected to lie down and accept these sorts of measures. That will not happen. That is not our intention. The Premier has decided to meet with other members of our crossbench to try to divide us. That will not happen. It has made us stronger. I am proud to say that.

The other thing I would like to mention is that three members are in the upper house. This is a house of review. The Premier has an absolute majority in the lower house. Part of the reason this house is so special is that if a worthwhile bill needs to pass through as legislation, we get a chance to debate it in here. We will look through that legislation and make an informed decision. If our informed decision happens to be different from that of the government, so be it. The Premier knows that all five members of the crossbench have chosen to stand and vote together in an effort to try to safeguard the people of Western Australia. We will not just lay down to reckless or irresponsible fiscal management. We have had that previously; we will not allow that to happen again.

I think there are things we can tolerate. We can tolerate the fact that we have received poor resources in certain areas, including particularly my office. The facilities there are very unprofessional and I really cannot communicate properly—so much so that I have to get notes from the committee that I represent because I cannot reprint them off my computer. This has been going on for six months. These things I have talked about. I have had the run-around when it comes my office in particular. I am not the only one; I know that. Other members on the other side have had the same run-around. I just want to say thank you, Premier; you are making this crossbench stronger.

*Statement*

**HON SUE ELLERY (South Metropolitan — Leader of the House)** [6.36 pm]: That was a really extraordinary contribution. I want to set out the facts. These are not normally things that I would put on the record, but I have no choice now.

Yesterday Hon Rick Mazza came to see me to advise me, on behalf of the crossbenchers, of the position he told me you had taken in respect of budget matters. On that basis—that he was communicating on behalf of the whole group—the Premier asked me if I could invite Hon Rick Mazza to have a conversation with him because I was told that Hon Rick Mazza was speaking on behalf of the whole group. So that conversation happened. In the course of that conversation, we discussed, very sensibly, making sure that we spoke with everyone. Not long after that, I asked Hon Aaron Stonehouse whether he was available, and he came and had a conversation. The Premier was then tied up. I am sorry to tell you, but he is a busy guy. Today—you know this is the case—I came to you and said, “The Premier would like to meet with you. If it's not today, it will be tomorrow.” You, Hon Colin Tincknell, said to me—you literally said—“Just me, or the whole group?” I said, “It's entirely up to you. The whole group is welcome.”

So the suggestion that the Premier has refused to meet you is just not true—just not true! And when you say something in this house that is just not true, you need to correct that.

**Hon Colin Tincknell:** Six months. Six months. Three letters, six months—nothing.

**Hon SUE ELLERY:** Did I say to you today —

**Hon Nick Goiran** interjected.

**Hon SUE ELLERY:** Honourable member—Madam President, I do not often ask for protection, but I am going to.

**Hon Colin Tincknell:** Two days later.

**Hon SUE ELLERY:** Honourable member, did I come to you today—I stood right there—and say to you, “The Premier would like to meet with you?”

**Hon Colin Tincknell:** Yes, you did; later on today.

**Hon SUE ELLERY:** Thank you!

**Hon Colin Tincknell:** Yes; later today.

**Hon SUE ELLERY:** Has the Premier refused to meet with you?

**Hon Colin Tincknell:** On other occasions, yes.

**Hon SUE ELLERY:** Okay. So let us also talk about other issues. When you were first elected, I contacted each of you. I met with the majority of you and I offered all sorts of briefings, if that was what you wanted. Hon Stephen Dawson and I met with you and said, “Regular briefings in respect to legislation.” Of course, they happen for everybody, but if there is something in particular—policy areas—you are interested in, we will arrange those. I said, “You just need to tell me”, and every time the honourable member indicated a specific issue he wanted to be briefed on, I took steps to arrange it. If he wanted to say to me, “We want a briefing once a week on everything the government is doing”, frankly that is what he should have asked for. I think it would be an unreasonable request, but that is what he should have asked for. I have bent over backwards to offer you and to say to you, “Please, tell me what it is that you want and I’ll provide it.”

I have observed the commentary on social media but I have not engaged. I have observed that comments have been made that you were offered briefings too late in respect to legislation. Here is what happens: the legislation is read in. My office then makes contact with the relevant minister’s office to set up times for briefings. You determine what time the briefing suits you. If you don’t arrange a briefing until the Monday before a sitting day, that is your choice. If you want a briefing at any other time, it will be arranged at your convenience. To suggest that you are not being offered briefings is just not true.

I have said to you on many occasions, “If there are any issues you want me to take up, I’ll take them up.” If you had come to me and said, “There’s a problem with the computer in my office”, I would have acted on it. There are other members in this chamber who have had issues with their offices and have contacted me about them, and I have acted on their issues. If you had raised that with me, I would have acted on it. You are entirely entitled to take whatever position you want on every matter that comes before the house. In fact, that is your obligation. You need to consider every matter that comes before the house. But in respect of resources, you have been offered two full-time equivalent additional staff to assist you specifically in dealing with legislation. That is what you have been offered.

**Hon Colin Tincknell** interjected.

**The PRESIDENT:** Member, you had your opportunity. It is not a debate; the minister is responding.

**Hon SUE ELLERY:** That is what you have been offered. You may well think that that is not satisfactory. If it were me in that position, I would have filled those two positions and continued my campaign to get extra, if that is what I thought I needed. But you have made a decision—strategically or tactically or whatever—that it is better to say no to any support than to take some support and continue your campaign. That is your choice, but you have specifically been offered two additional full-time equivalent staff to assist a party of three people to deal with and understand legislation. That is what you have been offered. The fact that you have chosen not to take it is your choice. That is not the Premier not listening, that is not the Premier being disrespectful, it is certainly not me being disrespectful and it is not me not listening. You need to communicate if you think you have real issues. If it is not about real issues but grandstanding, well, I am a politician and I know what that is like; I get that. But if it is about real issues, my friend, you need to come to me and I will deal with them. I challenge you to find any member of this house who says I do not take my responsibilities seriously and do not respond when members say, “There are legitimate administrative issues that we are trying to sort out and we can’t; can you please help?” I challenge you to find a member of the house who says that that is the case. I challenge you to stand now and say that you know —

**Hon Nick Goiran** interjected.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**Hon SUE ELLERY:** I challenge you to correct the record —

*Point of Order*

**Hon NICK GOIRAN:** I ask that you have the Leader of the House correct the record. It is ridiculous for her to ask a member to stand and speak when she knows their time has now expired. The member is unable to stand and speak, and I ask her to withdraw that.

**The PRESIDENT:** There is no point of order. The member could, if he so chose, seek leave at the end to make a member’s statement. I do not think that will happen. I hope there are no further interjections. The minister has

**Extract from *Hansard***

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Hon Colin Tincknell; Hon Sue Ellery; Hon Nick Goiran; President

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only a couple of minutes to go to complete her comments in response to the member's statement that has already been made by Hon Colin Tincknell.

*Debate Resumed*

**Hon SUE ELLERY:** Thank you, Madam President.

My invitation to you is to correct the record about whether the Premier has refused to meet with you. That is my invitation to you; you can take it up or not, but that is my invitation to you. It is not correct to say that the Premier has ignored you, which is what you have just said. It is not correct to say that the Premier is unwilling to deal with you, which is what you have just said. It is not correct to say that the Premier has been disrespectful of you, which is what you just said. That is not the case. You have just stood and said that the government has not taken seriously our responsibility to deal with you; that is not correct. I will argue the political point with the honourable member as long and hard as he wants to. I respect your right to take a view on every single piece of legislation, but do not confuse your frustration at not getting exactly what you want with the government choosing to ignore you, because on all the evidence, that is patently untrue.