

WAGES POLICY — POLICE

266. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Minister for Police:

Given today's large rally of police officers, who enjoy strong community support of 67 per cent for their better pay deal, will the minister now demand that the Premier honour his commitment to a 1.5 per cent pay rise for WA police officers, as he promised at the election?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS replied:

I certainly acknowledge the dangerous and difficult work done by police officers in this state and I thank them all for their service. I am incredibly disappointed at the state of our finances—a parlous set of books that we have inherited from the former government—that has left our government with little alternative than to put a halt on wages. That is why there will be no increase in the wages of members of Parliament, judges or other senior executives within the public service over the next four years. That is why our government has a wages policy of just \$1 000 flat. That is a Labor commitment. It acknowledges that those lowest paid in the community are doing it the toughest. Unfortunately, everyone in the Western Australian community is having to bear the brunt of additional costs because of the debt incurred by the former government.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: Unfortunately, there is a deal of hypocrisy from people opposite who now complain that there has to be wage restraint because of their poor financial management.