

MEMBER FOR VASSE — ROAD TRAFFIC INCIDENT — POLICE INVESTIGATION

**127. Mr J.R. QUIGLEY to the Minister for Police:**

I refer to reports in the media on Monday, 10 March that there was no evidence upon which the member for Vasse could be prosecuted for driving under the influence of alcohol in Subiaco in the early hours of the morning of Sunday, 23 February —

*Point of Order*

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** While allegations may be made, I do not think there is any establishment yet—there may be—that the member for Vasse was driving under the influence of alcohol.

**The SPEAKER:** Okay. I will not accept that as a point of order. The member can ask his question.

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** Thank you. I will just start again, if I may, Mr Speaker.

I refer to reports in the media on Monday, 10 March that there was no evidence upon which the member for Vasse could be prosecuted for driving under the influence of alcohol in Subiaco in the early hours of the morning of Sunday, 23 February. In view of the new evidence, firstly, witnesses who observed the member for Vasse consuming alcohol over several hours, and a witness who observed him alight from his car in Roberts Road and who described him as appearing to be intoxicated; secondly —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Wanneroo, I call you to order for the first time. Member for Murray–Wellington, I call you to order for the first time. This is a very long question, member for Butler. Continue.

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** I will just have to start again, having been interrupted, Mr Speaker!

The second new element of fresh evidence is the multiple crashes that the vehicle may have been involved in, indicating an incapacity to properly control the vehicle; and, thirdly, the Premier's comments on Monday, 10 March concerning the member for Vasse driving his vehicle home, that he was involved in a car accident and that he had only a sketchy memory of driving home; and given that the law in Western Australia does not require a blood alcohol reading —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** This is a very, very long question, member for Butler.

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** I have two lines to read.

As the law in Western Australia does not require a blood alcohol reading —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Wanneroo, I call you to order for the second time. Member for Butler, continue.

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** As the law in Western Australia does not require a blood alcohol reading to sustain a conviction for driving under the influence of alcohol, will the Minister for Police now request the police to investigate whether the member for Vasse was driving under the influence of alcohol, based on this fresh evidence?

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:**

I might have missed something in the member for Butler's CV, but the last time I checked he was not a police investigator. He was not charged with conducting police investigations. I have said in this house on numerous occasions that, as Minister for Police, I will not interfere in an ongoing police investigation —

*Point of Order*

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** I was not asking the minister about an ongoing police investigation; I was asking the minister about a matter that the police said they would not investigate.

**The SPEAKER:** There is no point of order.

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** With respect—correct me if I misheard—I thought I heard the member for Butler say that he wants me to direct the police to conduct an investigation.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** A question was asked; please answer it to the best of your ability, and if the member wants to ask a supplementary question, he can ask a supplementary question.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** Once again, to be clear: the police are conducting an investigation into the matters of 23 February. As Minister for Police, convention dictates that ministers do not get involved in ongoing —

**Mrs M.H. Roberts:** Don't rely on the lies you put up yesterday!

*Withdrawal of Remark*

**The SPEAKER:** Withdraw that statement please, member for Midland.

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** I will withdraw that statement, Mr Speaker —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members! I want an unqualified withdrawal, member for Midland. Just withdraw, please.

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** I was attempting to say the words. Mr Speaker, it seems that you have lost control of that side of the house, because —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Mr D.A. Templeman:** You don't like the questions, but they must be asked!

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Mandurah, I call you to order for the first time. Member for Forrestfield, I call you to order for the first time. I want to hear the member for Midland in silence.

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** You can listen to the tape if you like, but the only words I have been attempting to utter, despite the interjections of members opposite, is that I will withdraw that statement.

**The SPEAKER:** The statement is withdrawn. I want the minister to answer the question, and if the member for Butler wants to ask a supplementary question, he gets a supplementary.

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** Once again, there is an ongoing police investigation. As Minister for Police, it is not fair for me to comment on an ongoing police investigation. I do not know what is going on over there and why members opposite do not have confidence in the ability of our police force to conduct a thorough and professional investigation into these matters. Our police are highly trained and well resourced; they have a terrific Commissioner of Police at the helm. They are conducting the investigation and they are the experts. They need to be able to do a high-profile investigation into these matters on 23 February without interference, commentary or direction from me or any other member of Parliament, and I stand by that position. I will wait for the police to conclude their investigations, and at that point in time I will comment, if it is appropriate to do so. At present, the police need to conduct their investigation as they see fit. I am not a police officer, and I will not direct, request or interfere in this investigation in any way, because it is not appropriate.