

DANGEROUS SEX OFFENDERS — RELEASE FROM PRISON

168. Mrs M.H. ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:

I have a supplementary question. Was the Minister for Corrective Services right or wrong when he said that there would be consequences for just the slightest breach, or is that under review as well?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

I am not going to give an opinion on what the minister —

Mr P.C. Tinley interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Willagee, I call you to order for the first time.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I come back to the crux of the issue here, which is the decision made by the court to release this person into the community. There was a 34-paragraph, 12-page judgement —

Mrs M.H. Roberts interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Midland, I call you to order for the first time.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Just about every single paragraph of that report and that judgement referred to this person being a dangerous person, a threat to the community and difficult to manage.

Point of Order

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: My question was whether the minister agreed with the Minister for Corrective Services. She said she was not going to give an opinion on that, so I am wondering why she is still on her feet.

The SPEAKER: Minister, can you answer the question?

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: To finish my sentence, the point I am making is that this person was released inappropriately, in my view, into the community.

Mr B.S. Wyatt interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Victoria Park! Minister, I would like you to confine the answer to what the member for Midland asked you, and then we just need to move on.

Mr M.P. Murray interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Collie–Preston, I call you to order for the first time. I have been up and down like a yoyo for seven minutes and we have not even finished the supplementary question.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I think it is important that we look at what the government is doing about the issue we are facing that the community is concerned with. The issue of concern to the community is that a person who is known to be a recidivist dangerous sex offender has been released by the court into the community.

Mr J.R. Quigley: And by the police!

The SPEAKER: Member for Butler, I call you to order for the second time. Can you wind this up, minister?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: The member for Butler can criticise police, but police have arrested this person and he will appear before the court next week, and, once again, the courts will make a decision about what they do with this dangerous sex offender. Police have acted absolutely within the legislative requirement, and I am confident that they have done everything they can do, given the circumstances they have been placed in by having to deal with this person whom the court has released into the community.