

COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIVE SERVICES — RESIGNATION

73. Mr M. McGOWAN to the Minister for Corrective Services:

I refer to the minister's claim in this place yesterday that he could not have met with the former commissioner of his department before he was sacked because he was on four weeks' extended leave.

- (1) Can the minister confirm that Mr Johnson returned from leave on Monday, 15 April and that therefore the minister had an entire week to meet him prior to his fateful meeting with the Public Sector Commissioner on Monday, 22 April?
- (2) Given that yesterday the minister also said that he talked to lots of people in his department as part of his cold-eye review, why did it not cross his mind to meet with the department's commissioner in the week that he could have?
- (3) Why did the minister mislead the house yesterday when he said that he could not meet with Mr Johnson when he was on leave?

Mr J.M. FRANCIS replied:

(1)–(3) I will have to check the date on which he officially returned from leave. I do not know that date.

Mr M. McGowan: I just told you.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: That is what the Leader of the Opposition said. I will have to check that date. I am not going to take everything the Leader of the Opposition says for granted. I am not that stupid. I will check the date on which he returned from leave.

Mr M. McGowan: Will you correct the record? You misled the house.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: What I understand is the case is that he went on leave before the new cabinet was sworn in and that he returned three or four weeks after that. I will check the date. I do not know.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr D.A. Templeman: You would know!

The SPEAKER: Member for Mandurah, I call you for the second time. I would appreciate it if the minister could answer the question and a further supplementary question could be asked, as well as any further questions on the subject. Member for Girrawheen, I call you to order for the first time.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: What I know is that he was on leave. I do not think it is proper for me to tell the Parliament where he was. But I know that he was out of the metropolitan area.

Mr P. Papalia: You said he was on a caravan trip around the state!

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: That is right, but I am not going to tell members the exact location. What I can tell members is that he was not in the metropolitan area for some time—three or four weeks. I know that he did come back, and for whatever reason—I think maybe it was a sitting week of Parliament—I did not have the opportunity to meet him —

Several members interjected.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: — for a short amount of time.

Mr P. Papalia: How long would it have taken you to tell him that he was going to be sacked?

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: That is a conversation that the Public Sector Commissioner had with the former director general and that I was not part of. What I can tell the Leader of the Opposition is that I will find out on what date he returned from leave. But I know that he took four weeks' leave just before—maybe days, maybe a week—cabinet was sworn in.