

POLICE — COURT ACCOUTREMENTS

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

I refer to the heightened terror threat to our police as referenced in *The Weekend Australian* as a front-page article and the fact that the WA Police Union wrote to the minister in January this year about the wearing of accoutrements in court precincts. I also note that this issue has been continuously raised with the minister since January.

- (1) Why does the minister and her government continue to leave police vulnerable while travelling to and from court, despite the raised terror alert level?
- (2) Why has the government not over the last year at the very least provided for the safe storage of accoutrements at our courts so that hundreds of police every week are not left vulnerable as they travel to and from court?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

- (1)–(2) The member has asked this question in this house previously, and I thought I had explained what was happening with respect to the negotiations WA Police are having with the heads of jurisdiction in the judiciary around the wearing of accoutrements in court. It is not a decision of the government. The magistrates and judges are in control of their courts, and they are the people we need to convince of the need and requirement for police officers to wear their accoutrements in court or, indeed, for the provision of storage facilities for accoutrements in court precincts.

Mrs M.H. Roberts interjected.

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

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Since January I have facilitated a meeting between the Commissioner of Police and His Honour Chief Justice Wayne Martin. There has been a dialogue running since that time between the Chief Justice, the police union, WA Police and the government. We have not landed on a successful resolution at this time, but I understand that they are negotiating in good faith and I expect that we are going to come to an acceptable resolution in the near future.