

NAVAL SHIPBUILDING PLAN — FEDERAL GOVERNMENT — ADELAIDE

17. Ms J.M. FREEMAN to the Minister for Defence Issues:

I refer to the federal government's \$89 billion naval shipbuilding plan announced in Adelaide and the 12 submarines that will be built in Adelaide, the nine frigates that will be built in Adelaide and the offshore patrol vessels that will start being built in Adelaide. Is there anything in this plan for Western Australian workers?

Mr P. PAPALIA replied:

I thank the member for the very astute question. I asked myself the same thing this morning when I heard that the Prime Minister was in South Australia talking about defence and making a number of announcements. I found a couple of media reports, a small portion of which I want to share with the house. This is a direct quote from the Prime Minister in an ABC online article. This morning he said —

“This is the largest single Commonwealth investment in any single state ... it is going to create another 5,000 jobs in shipbuilding directly again, almost all of which will be in South Australia, and another 10,000 in sustainment,” Mr Turnbull told ABC Radio ...

He went on to say —

“This is a massive commitment to South Australia and the proposition that the Federal Government is neglecting South Australia is frankly nonsense and it defies the reality of this incredibly substantial nation-building commitment.

That raises the question: which state is being neglected? I have to say that I admire the South Australian Liberals. I admire Christopher Pyne. He does a wonderful job for his state. He is a tremendous member of Parliament for South Australia. We have to ask where the Liberals are in Western Australia. How many Liberal ministers do we need in the federal Parliament before one of them gathers the courage to raise an issue on behalf of Western Australia? It is identical to the treatment we receive with the GST.

Dr M.D. Nahan interjected.

Mr P. PAPALIA: I will get to the Leader of the Opposition in a minute. It mirrors the treatment Western Australia receives at the hands of the federal Liberal Party with the GST.

Another news site reported that the Prime Minister today was re-announcing \$90 billion worth of ship and submarine construction. How much does South Australia get? It gets \$86 billion. The federal government announced today \$1.3 billion of investment in ship infrastructure and shipyards in South Australia and Western Australia. What did South Australia get? It got \$1.2 billion. It created a centre for industrial development in South Australia, which it spent \$300 million on and which employs dozens of people. What do we get? We get one person. Western Australia has been completely and utterly duded by the federal Liberals. I want to hear from Senator Mathias Cormann. Where is Hon Christian Porter? Where is Julie Bishop? Where is Ken Wyatt? Where are they all? It is fair to ask how many federal Liberal ministers do we have to have before Western Australia gets treated without utter contempt.

The only thing I want to say to the member for Churchlands is that I have no idea what he was doing when he was in the car with Minister Pyne when he came over here and did not want to meet with me as the state Minister for Defence Issues.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Point of Order

Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE: Although I am enjoying the sooky minister on the other side of the chamber —

The SPEAKER: I call you to order for the first time. If you have a point of order, you make the point of order and you sit down.

Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE: I have a point of order.

The SPEAKER: Do not test me! Do not test me today! What is your point of order?

Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE: I noticed that the minister was referring to documents. I ask whether he can table those documents for the Parliament to look at.

The SPEAKER: He can.

Mr P. PAPALIA: It is a printout of ABC online news. The member might want to look at it because he will find out how poor a deal we got.

The SPEAKER: Is it an official document?

Mr P. PAPALIA: No; it is a printout of ABC online news.

The SPEAKER: Okay. Paper tabled.

[See papers 210 and 211.]

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mrs L.M. Harvey: There are three papers there.

Mr P. PAPALIA: That is a printout of the Prime Minister's press release.

Several members interjected.

Mr P. PAPALIA: As I said, member, I have no idea —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: This is not a shouting match. The minister is making his statement. If you do not like it, sit there and suck and see but that is what is happening.

Mr P. PAPALIA: Member, it does elicit a question: what was the member doing in the car with Christopher Pyne all that time? Clearly, the one thing the member was not doing was asking whether Western Australia was going to get a better deal.

Mr S.K. L'Estrange: I wasn't in his car!

Mr P. PAPALIA: I do not know—was the member basking in the warm inner glow of a successful Liberal or something? I do not know! I have no idea what the member was doing in that car, but, sadly, what he did not do was ask for a better deal for Western Australia, in the same way as the previous government failed in eight and a half long years to get any sort of deal for Western Australia on shipbuilding.