

POLICE — COURT ACCOUTREMENTS

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

I have a supplementary question. Do we have to wait for a police officer to be killed or to suffer some dramatic injury before the minister and her government will allow even the most basic accoutrements and provide some storage facilities in court precincts?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

This is an absolute joke coming from the member for Midland. When she was Minister for Justice, how many people escaped the court precinct?

Mrs M.H. Roberts interjected.

The SPEAKER: Through the Chair, please.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: When the member for Midland was Minister for Justice, looking after and responsible for courts, *The West Australian* was calling for her to be sacked because of her mismanagement of the courts.

Mrs M.H. Roberts interjected.

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

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: When the member for Midland was responsible for —

Mrs M.H. Roberts interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Midland!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: When the member for Midland was responsible, people were escaping from custody in courts, and *The West Australian* was calling for her to step down.

Mr W.J. Johnston interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Cannington!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: As I have said, the negotiations are in train.

Mr W.J. Johnston interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Cannington! We want a quick answer through the Chair.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: The negotiations are in train and I am well aware of the heightened threat alert for police officers. There has been a heightened terrorism alert since September 2014. The Commissioner of Police and the union are negotiating with the Chief Justice and I will leave it up to the Chief Justice. He and the judges and magistrates are in charge of their courts, and what we and the police have needed to do is to acquaint the judiciary with the perceived risk that police officers say exists and requires them to use their accoutrements in court. We will leave it up to the people responsible for the courts to make those decisions.