

COMMISSIONER OF POLICE — RECRUITMENT PROCESS

256. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. How can any police officer or member of the public—other than the member for Burns Beach—have any confidence in the selection process for the new Commissioner of Police, given the unusual decision to expand the short list for interviews from six to 10 for no apparent reason other than lobbying by the member for Burns Beach?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

As I indicated recently—perhaps to the house, but certainly publicly—the member for Burns Beach mentioned a name to me in a brief conversation. I took no further action on that; it was some months ago. People say all sorts of things to me all the time, on all sorts of different issues.

An opposition member: I'll bet they do!

Mr M. McGOWAN: Oh, my goodness. There is a heavy hitter down the back!

I must say, for the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to raise these issues after her appalling performance as Minister for Police —

Several members interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Honestly, the two members over there!

Several members interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: We might as well have the Berlin Wall there between these two and these two. I am unsure which is East Berlin and which is West Berlin, but I know that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition has no ticker. She had the opportunity after the election —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, I call you to order for the second time.

Mr M. McGOWAN: She had the opportunity to be Leader of the Opposition after the Liberal Party's state election loss, and she passed it up. However long he lasts, I know and the current Leader of the Opposition will know for the rest of his career and the rest of his life that he had the ticker to take on a difficult role in politics that some of his colleagues did not.