

POLICE — LOCALITY ALLOWANCES AND VACANCIES

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

I ask a supplementary question. Does the minister have anything useful to say about the union's locality allowances submission, and the one, or more, vacancies at Laverton, Norseman, Gnowangerup, Katanning, Kojonup, Mt Barker, Bunbury, Ravensthorpe, Bridgetown, Australind, Collie, Manjimup, Moora, Northam and Kellerberrin?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Treasurer, and Minister for Regional Development, it is not your question. I want to hear the supplementary from the member for Midland. I formally call you both to order for the first time today.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: Does the minister have anything useful to say about the many long-term, current vacancies at Laverton, Norseman, Gnowangerup, Katanning, Kojonup, Mt Barker, Bunbury, Ravensthorpe, Bridgetown, Australind, Collie, Manjimup, Moora, Northam and Kellerberrin, and a whole list of other stations, or should the union not waste its time talking to the minister and talk directly to either the Premier or the commissioner?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

I thank the member for her somewhat extensive supplementary question.

Mrs M.H. Roberts: It's a very long list and it's not even complete!

Several members interjected.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Vacancy management is one of those areas that can from time to time be problematic. Officers will apply for a transfer, and the commissioner will advertise for a transfer for people to fill those vacancies. It is a moveable feast. Officers move in and out of stations all the time as their period of tenure finishes.

Mrs M.H. Roberts: These are long-term vacancies! Do you understand the issue?

The SPEAKER: Member for Midland!

Mr P.B. Watson interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Albany!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: It is an ongoing discussion that I have with the commissioner. It is an issue that I have raised with the commissioner many times. As I mentioned previously, I have been to Australind and Katanning, and I have spoken to members and district superintendents in the south west and great southern, and they are managing their vacancies to my satisfaction. But obviously long-term vacancies are one of the discussions that we have had with respect to attraction and retention options and that we are arriving at a position on with the commissioner to put to the police.

Mrs M.H. Roberts: What have you done? Nothing!

Mrs L.M. Harvey: Rubbish! You do not know what you are talking about!

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

Mr M.P. Murray: Take a Bex and have a lie down!

The SPEAKER: Yes, member for Collie–Preston, I take your advice. Before I take your advice, I call you to order for the first time today. Member for Murray–Wellington, you have not escaped either. I formally call you to order for the first time today.