

BIKIE ANTI-ASSOCIATION LAWS

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

It has been reported recently that the Mongols, the California-based outlaw motorcycle gang described by the United States Department of Justice as the most violent bikie gang in America, has patched over the Finks in Western Australia. My question relates to bikie anti-association laws.

- (1) Why are we still waiting for the minister's government to proclaim parts 3 to 10 of the Criminal Organisations Control Act?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house when police will at long last be able to use the anti-association laws that last year were described as urgent?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for this question. Organised crime and outlaw motorcycle gangs are certainly a very great concern, not only to this police jurisdiction, but to other jurisdictions right across Australia. We have a very good collaborative and cooperative working effort with the commissioners in other states to try to ensure we share intelligence to track organised crime. With respect to the legislation that the member has mentioned, the challenges we have with it are that similar pieces of legislation have been introduced in other states and presently a number of High Court challenges have been put challenging that legislation. We are in the process of keeping very much a watching brief on the outcomes of some of those challenges.

Dr A.D. Buti: Why don't you proclaim the legislation?

The SPEAKER: Please listen to the answer to the question, member for Armadale.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: The proclamation of the legislation is imminent.