

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS — HUAWEI

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

Given this week's announcement by the United States government banning Huawei from US government contracts, will the Premier now immediately seek reassurance from Australia's national security agencies about whether the \$136 million communication contract to Chinese-based company Huawei that his government has signed will not present any national security risks now or into the future?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

This is the third day the member has gone on about this. I have been thinking about security threats to Western Australia, and, in thinking about security threats, I thought the biggest security threat to this state is the alternative Premier, who owes a tax bill to a foreign government! I would have thought that that would be a security threat that people want to think about—that someone who wants to be the Premier of the state owes a tax bill to a foreign government. Think about that!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members, please! I want to hear.

Mr M. McGOWAN: And then he misled us about it. One day he does not have a foreign passport; the next day he does. One day he has never used it; the next day he did. The Liberal Party launched that assault on foreign citizenship without thinking that thing through. It did not actually think, "Hold on; our leader is one."

Several members interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Maybe they did! Maybe the white ants were behind this. Maybe the three white ants there were behind this, and that was part of the white-anting strategy that the Leader of the Opposition refers to.

I remind the member for Scarborough again. We did seek advice from the commonwealth government. We got the advice on three separate occasions, as I told the member yesterday and the day before, and the commonwealth said there was no security threat. I have told the member that two times running. The Leader of the Opposition's office, on the other hand, is another security threat, because when we provide them with confidential briefings, they go and secretly photocopy documents—photograph documents.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! Member for Darling Range!

Dr M.D. Nahan: Do you have any evidence of that?

Mr M. McGOWAN: Do I have any evidence of that? Yes—in today's *The West Australian*, where the Leader of the Opposition confirmed that. We have got that! He confirmed today —

Several members interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: That is true. That is a good point—he does not read *The West*. For his information, it was in today's newspaper, where his office confirmed it.