

LAW AND ORDER — HOME INVASION LEGISLATION

**269. MR N.W. MORTON to the Minister for Police:**

Before I ask my question, on behalf of the member for Perth, I would like to acknowledge the presence today in the Speaker's gallery of the Greek Consul, Ms Sofia Choli, and Mrs Patricia Kailis.

I have had a number of constituents contact me to congratulate the Liberal–National government's introduction to Parliament of Australia's toughest home invasion laws.

- (1) Can the minister please update the house on the government's policy with regard to this legislation?
- (2) Is Parliament fully supportive of these laws, and are there any alternative views?

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:**

I thank the member for Forrestfield for this question. I am really proud to have him on this side of the house as part of a team that knows exactly where it stands with regard to mandatory sentencing for people who violently invade our homes.

- (1)–(2) People on this side of the house, like the members for Churchlands, Belmont, Geraldton and Forrestfield, know what their communities want. We went to the community and said that those people who violently invade our homes and those who repeat —

**Dr A.D. Buti** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Armadale, I call you to order for the first time.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** We said that when those people who repeatedly break into our homes are convicted in court of those offences, they will go —

**Ms M.M. Quirk** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Girrawheen, I call you to order for the first time.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** We said that they would face mandatory minimum penalties under this government. People on this side of the house know exactly where they stand, and I welcome the member for Girrawheen's invitation to "bring it on"; we want to bring it on, and we want to know where those opposite stand. For the last three days we have listened to members opposite —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Girrawheen, I call you to order for the second time. Minister, through the Chair.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** For the last few days we have been listening to members opposite talk about how evil mandatory penalties are and how evil mandatory sentencing is —

Several members interjected.

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

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** Yesterday, the member for Warnbro said that many members of the Labor Party were talking about the folly and the stupidity of implementing legislation that deprives the judiciary of discretion. He said that it was inappropriate and would ultimately be self-defeating. We then have the added benefit of listening to our friend the mad uncle from Butler —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Kwinana, I call you to order for the first time. Member for Girrawheen, the member for Kwinana drowned you out that time! Please, no more shouting out.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** The member for Butler spoke for two days about how dreadful mandatory sentencing is. He spoke at last year's Australian Law Students' Association conference in Perth, and in front of a bunch of law students he said—I will not quote exactly what he said, because I do not use the language that the member for Butler uses—that mandatory sentencing was BS.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Girrawheen, I call you to order now for the third time.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** He said that mandatory sentencing was BS. I will table for the rest of today's sitting what he said so that members can see what the member for Butler said.

[See paper 1530.]

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** That is an absolute disgrace. This member wants to be the Attorney General of a Labor government in this state. The member for Butler, the would-be Attorney General, stood in front of a bunch of law students and said that mandatory penalties were shocking and a terrible thing, but he will not say that to victims of crime or to the people in Clarkson who want these laws. He will not say it to the Police Union of Workers. He will only stand up in this place, and in front of a bunch of law students —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for West Swan, I call you to order for the third time. Member for Warnbro, I call you to order for the third time.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** He will say that in this place and he will say it in front of law students, but he will not say it to victims of crime and he will not say it in front of the police union. I want to know where the opposition stands on this. Is it going to support our legislation or not? Where is it going to stand? I refer to an article from *The West Australian* dated 17 June 2009. The article reads, in part —

Labor policy has long opposed mandatory sentencing and one Labor MP, who wanted to remain anonymous, said outside Parliament last night that the issue could “spell the death knell” for Eric Ripper’s leadership.

With only two out of 10 people voting for Labor, we are confident that the people in our community know exactly what they want. They want our legislation, they want the opposition to support it, and they want Labor Party members to answer to their communities as to where they stand on mandatory penalties and our legislation.