

EXTENDED RETAIL TRADING HOURS

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

As a working mother, I note with disappointment the opposition's retrograde step to move away from delivering me, other women and the young families of my electorate the opportunity to shop when we want to. Can the Premier please explain to the house the effect of this outdated antifamily and anti small business —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! Member for Girrawheen, I formally call you for the first time. I want to hear the question. I would like the member for Scarborough to start from the very beginning.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Thank you, Mr Speaker. My question is to the Premier.

Mr P. Papalia: You opposed the breastfeeding legislation.

The SPEAKER: Member for Warnbro, I do not think that interjection was necessary. I formally call you for the first time. Any member who interjects before the question is finished is going to be called. I think members understand that. Start from the beginning, thank you, member.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Thank you, Mr Speaker. As a working woman and a mother, I note with great disappointment the decision by the opposition—the retrograde step—to move away from giving me, other women and the young families of my electorate the convenience to shop when we choose. Can the Premier please explain to the house the effects of this antiquated, anti small business —

Mrs M.H. Roberts interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Midland, I am sure you heard what I said. I formally call you for the first time.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: — and antifamily decision made by the opposition?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Mandurah, member for Armadale and member for Rockingham, perhaps you might not like to hear the answer from the Premier. There might be some people who would like to hear the answer from the Premier. I am one of them.

Mr M.P. Murray: We'd like to hear from the National Party.

The SPEAKER: It is an interesting day already, members. Member for Collie-Preston, I formally call you for the first time.

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

I thank the member for Scarborough for the question. She would be typical of literally hundreds of thousands of Western Australians living in Perth who will be dismayed—absolutely dismayed—at the attitude of the Labor Party, particularly those Labor members representing city constituents.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I do not think that member is typical.

For the Liberal Party, trading hours has been a long-running and contentious issue. The Liberal Party took its position in June.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Warnbro, I formally call you for the second time. I suggest to most members to my left that they keep their lips shut for a little while longer if they do not want to be called.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: In June, the Liberal Party declared its position that we would support and introduce legislation for weeknight trading to 9.00 pm—hardly radical. That was four months ago. For four months the Labor Party has had the opportunity to talk to its constituents to determine what they want. The Leader of the Opposition said, "Give me more information." He had information. He spent \$60 000 of taxpayers' money on a publicly commissioned survey that he has to this day refused to release because it showed overwhelming support for weeknight shopping. He has refused requests for that to be released—\$60 000 of taxpayers' money that gave him the answer that presumably many members opposite did not want. Putting aside that clear and blatant misuse of taxpayers' money—blatant misuse—done pre-election for the Labor Party, there are a few other surveys that have been done along the way. A Westpoll showed that 64 per cent were in support.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! Premier, I hope you are going to reach an answer to the question that you have been asked. Also, to those members, once again to my left, who might be interested in the answer, I would like to hear some of the answer at least, so I suggest you keep it down to a dull roar.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Also, 15 000 emails were sent to local members.

Several members interjected.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Denials! It is a sad sight!

Woodside—one company; others are doing it too—surveyed its staff, and 94 per cent were in support. So far, we have got 78 per cent support, 64 per cent support, 15 000 emails, and 94 per cent of Woodside workers in support. Yes, Coles has an interest. Coles commissioned a survey of 800 people.

Ms A.J.G. MacTiernan: What about their staff?

Mr C.J. BARNETT: The member is out of here on 28 November! Go! Go join Mr Carpenter!

In the Coles survey, 62 per cent were in support. Any member opposite who is in the post-Victorian part of the Labor Party might be interested to know that among 20-year-olds, support for weeknight shopping was 82 per cent. The support from people in their 30s was about 75 per cent. The only demographic group that did not have plus-50 per cent support was the over-65s, who presumably do not shop at night. So, I urge anyone who is interested in voters under the age of 65 to reconsider—80 per cent of 20-year-olds. What an absolute embarrassment members opposite are! Not only are Labor members leaving this Parliament in droves, others are leaving just the Labor Party and staying in Parliament! Members opposite are so out of touch! After all this time and all this public debate, all they can come up with is an extra four hours a week! That is absolutely hopeless. Until members opposite change their minds, we will pursue this day in and week in, right through to the next election, in their electorates. As some by-elections are coming up, we might talk about trading hours to their constituents and see what happens!