

MRS ELIZABETH FOSTER

410. Mr P. PAPALIA to the Premier:

Can the Premier advise the house whether Mrs Elizabeth Foster has contacted him today and for what purpose?

Mr A.J. CARPENTER replied:

I thank the member for Peel for the question. Mrs Foster is the Gosnells grandmother who was brutally bashed in her home in July. She rang my office this morning in a very distressed state seeking to speak to me. I was sitting in this chamber listening to the member for Dawesville give his speech and was asked to go out of the chamber if I could take the call. By the time I had gone out of the chamber and got to my office, she had spoken to someone else. I therefore got a message from Mrs Foster and subsequently rang her. Mrs Foster has asked me to put a question directly to the Leader of the Opposition. She was very distressed and stated that her family was very distressed about some coverage involving her that she received two days ago. She is distressed and angry at the use of her photograph in party political advertisements without her permission.

Mr P.D. Omodei: Party political advertisements?

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: The Leader of the Opposition has stopped laughing about her situation now, has he not?

Point of Order

Mr P.D. OMODEI: The Premier said that I have just stopped laughing about Mrs Foster. At no time have I laughed. This is a serious matter and I will not accept the Premier trying to denigrate me by saying that I have stopped laughing when I was not laughing at all.

The SPEAKER: Clearly that is not a point of order.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr P.D. Omodei: Stop lying to the Parliament!

Withdrawal of Remarks

The SPEAKER: The Leader of the Opposition will withdraw that comment.

Mr P.D. OMODEI: I withdraw, Mr Speaker.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: I withdraw my comment. I apologise to the Leader of the Opposition. There was laughter from his side of the house; I acknowledge it did not come from him.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: Mrs Foster is very distressed and angry at the use of her photo. Members will recall that the Liberal Party released an Internet advertisement and posters earlier this week that featured Mrs Foster. Mrs Foster advised that at no time was she approached by the Liberal Party seeking her permission to use her photograph. She also stated that no-one from the opposition had even contacted her subsequent to the attack. Mrs Foster advised that if she had been approached, she would not have agreed to the use of her photograph for political purposes. Mrs Foster has asked for my assistance to get the Liberal Party to stop using her photograph, and she wants the Leader of the Opposition to apologise for using that photograph. I advised Mrs Foster that I would raise the matter with the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament today. I rang Mrs Foster and spoke to her directly, and she said -

It has come to my attention that my photo is being used in a campaign by a political party. No-one asked for my permission to use my photo. If I had been asked, I would not have agreed. This has been very distressing for me and my family. I am very angry that this has happened. Please do not use my photo in your campaign again.

Mrs Foster wants the Leader of the Opposition to apologise to her, and I ask him to do so.

Mr P.D. Omodei: I will certainly contact Mrs Foster. Give me her details. It is not a political party; it is a Parliament.