

## Legislative Council

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### RACING INDUSTRY

**The Hon. A. BRESSINGTON** (16:36): I also rise to speak on this issue of a parliamentary select committee into the SAJC. Although I am not as opposed to select committees as the Hon. Bernie Finnigan appears to be, I believe they serve a useful purpose for this parliament.

The Hon. B.V. Finnigan interjecting:

**The Hon. A. BRESSINGTON:** Every one you read out you are opposed to, and that is about all we have had here. All that aside, parliament has select committees to get to serious issues that affect the general public where there is perceived to be misconduct or unfair decisions made by government departments or whatever.

I think they do have a place in this parliament; obviously, they do have a place, because we have them. However, I do not support this select committee inquiry into the SAJC, simply because I believe we are crossing a boundary. There are issues before the courts. In the Hon. Bernie Finnigan's contribution, we heard that it was stated by South Australia Police that having this select committee and having documents tabled might interfere with the judicial process.

I am not saying that there is not cause for concern, but I do believe that the police investigations and the judicial process should be allowed to go through their normal course and be completed. At that time, if there are still issues that we in this parliament have concerns about, by all means, I would support a select committee at that point in time. However, right now, I cannot in all good conscience say that I agree with the timing of this select committee. As I have indicated, I am not saying that I do not believe that there may be matters of concern, but there are police investigations and also court proceedings in train, and we need to be very careful. If we do not want the judiciary encroaching on our turf, I believe that we should not be encroaching on their turf, either. We need to have a healthy respect for that separation. It is our job in this place to make sure that we stick within our mandate, and I honestly do believe that this select committee is blurring the line. As I have said, I do not support this select committee.

I want to make one more comment about all the other matters, as the Hon. Bernie Finnigan did. We do not often agree on very much at all—I did not agree with the first bit of his contribution, but regarding the rest of it: credit where credit is due. There are all these other issues now encompassing thoroughbred racing and Cheltenham. All these things have now been dragged into this select committee on the SAJC.

I believe that every political party in this place will use this particular select committee to run their own agenda. I do not believe that anyone is too concerned about what is actually going on in the SAJC. I see this as being an opportunity for some to raise a red flag, for the Greens to wave their green flag about Cheltenham, and for the Hon. Robert Brokenshire to express his concern about thoroughbred

rating—all in together this fine weather! In this particular case, I am voting against a select committee—not that I would do that often.

The Hon. R.P. Wortley: Very sensible.

**The Hon. A. BRESSINGTON:** I am a very sensible person, and I thank you for acknowledging that, again on the record—I have been overcome by this over the past two days. Anyway, I am not going to rave on. I just think that we need to be careful that we do not overdo these processes and that the general public do not become conditioned to parliamentary select committee inquiries. Once upon a time, I think select committees were held in awe.

The Hon. R.P. Wortley interjecting:

**The Hon. A. BRESSINGTON:** Well, they used to mean something. I think we are now getting to the point where some people are becoming more and more sceptical about that process. Rarely do they see that an outcome is actually achieved, and I believe that is a fault on both sides. When a select committee inquiry makes recommendations, I believe that those recommendations should at least be considered by the government and debated. However, that does not even happen. These reports seem to be put on a shelf to gather dust, never to be seen or heard of again, and I think that is a shame.

I believe that this select committee is politically motivated. I do not believe that it will do any good for any of the citizens we in this place are paid to serve. Of course, everyone else is jumping on board, including the minor parties, and bringing in their own particular issues. I think it has quite distorted the whole thing. I say: leave it alone and let the police and the judiciary do their job and then, if we have concerns, by all means we should step in.