

lic servants earn as part of their employment. In May 2006 we established the Future Fund and we deposited into it \$18 billion. In 2006-07, we will deposit another \$14 billion. We have now put aside nearly \$30 billion towards the \$100 billion of unfunded liability that the Commonwealth has. Just as with normal superannuation—where an employer makes a contribution into a fund—the employee gets the contribution and the earnings. But there are proposals to rob the Future Fund of its earnings—that is, to rob the earnings of superannuation entitlements. This has caused the chairman of the guardians, Mr David Murray, to say in Senate estimates:

If that is done, the real growth rate of the fund would be zero to negligible—

because you would be taking the earnings out.

I have alerted the House to how the Leader of the Opposition promised to take earnings out of the Future Fund on one of his whistlestop tours to northern New South Wales. Like a bear to the honeypot is the Leader of the Opposition but I find it has now gone wider than the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Lilley is now at it. Members of this House will know that every morning the member for Lilley wakes up, clears his throat, practises his focus group line for the day and comes in and delivers it. He does that every day except on days after journalists have been excluded from ALP conferences for no ticket, no start. He came in on 4 May 2006 and said this:

... it's good news we got 18 billion, —

he is speaking of the Future Fund—

it's bad news that it will be locked up to pay off public servants superannuation.

The journalist said:

You want ... that \$18 billion spent ... ?

He said this:

The income from the Building Australia fund should be spent on productive pursuits—

in other words, taking the income out of the Future Fund and spending it on his priorities; taking away superannuation earnings from the fund which the Labor Party never had the wit to set up.

Last night I truly had an out-of-body experience. I was in my flat alone watching the ABC news. While watching the ABC news I saw the member for Lilley. He had obviously practised his focus poll-driven line for the morning and he delivered it. And the line for that day was: 'The government's global warming policies could be written on the back of a postage stamp.' But the camera had a wide-angle lens and as he delivered this line you could see his press secretary, Lachlan Harris, moving his lips in sync with those of the deliverer of the lines. They had obviously practised it to such a degree that the timing was perfect. I wish the member for Griffith wasn't enjoying this so much. We

had the rooster puppet talking on this side and the ventriloquist mouthing the words on that side. The rooster—

*Opposition members interjecting—*

**Mr COSTELLO**—What do roosters do to chickens? Mr Speaker, I'm staying away! I have found on the web you can actually buy a thing called a rooster puppet: 'Don't be afraid to get cocky when you work this rooster puppet,' it says, 'you can strut and crow with the best of them when you animate his head and his feet.' So there was Lachlan Harris in sync with the member for Lilley with the tried and true practised line of the day—

**The SPEAKER**—Order! The Treasurer will bring his answer to a conclusion.

**Mr COSTELLO**—another white bread politician with no substance.

### Workplace Relations

**Mr STEPHEN SMITH** (2.40 pm)—Regrettably, my question is not to the chicken; it is to the Prime Minister.

**The SPEAKER**—The member for Perth will come to his question.

**Mr STEPHEN SMITH**—I am, Mr Speaker. I again refer the Prime Minister to the Connor Hunter website, which also states:

Now a workplace agreement will result in a reduction in the overall terms and conditions of employment of the employee.

Isn't this confirmed by the government's own statistics, provided at Senate estimates on 29 May, which showed that under the Prime Minister's industrial relations legislation, from March until Senate estimates in May, 52 per cent of AWAs reduced or removed shiftwork loadings, 63 per cent of AWAs reduced or removed penalty rates and 64 per cent of AWAs reduced or removed leave loadings?

*Mr Tuckey interjecting—*

**The SPEAKER**—The member for O'Connor is warned!

**Mr HOWARD**—Mr Speaker, through you, I would remind the member for Perth that it is now 2 November, the world has not come to an end and the sky has not fallen in.

*Mr Stephen Smith interjecting—*

**The SPEAKER**—The member for Perth has asked his question.

*Mr Stephen Smith interjecting—*

**The SPEAKER**—The member for Perth has asked his question.

**Mr HOWARD**—We have continued to employ Australians at a record high. We have seen 205,000 more jobs created in Australia.