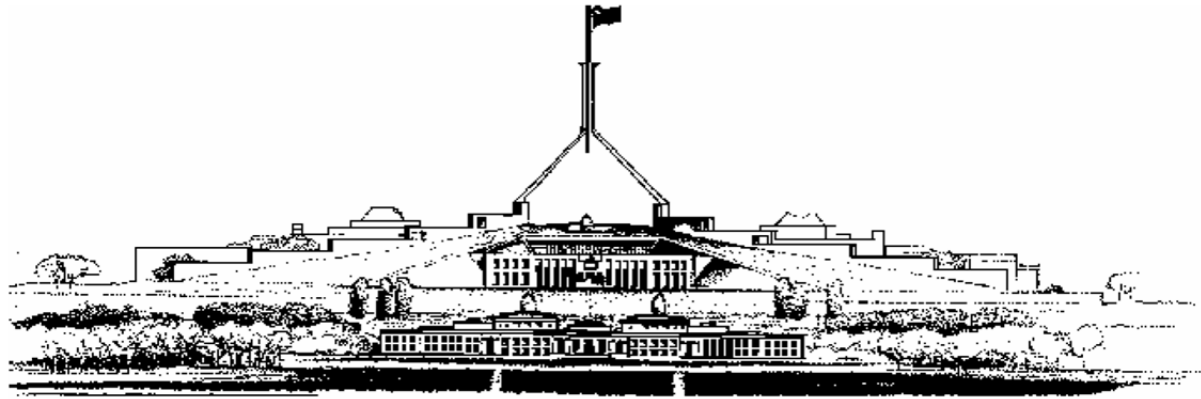




COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES



Senate

Official Hansard

No. 164, 1994

Tuesday, 10 May 1994

THIRTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT
FIRST SESSION—FOURTH PERIOD

BY AUTHORITY OF THE SENATE

THIRTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION—FOURTH PERIOD

Governor-General

His Excellency the Hon. William George Hayden, Companion of the Order of Australia,
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

Senate Officeholders

President—Senator the Hon. Michael Beahan

Deputy President and Chairman of Committees—Senator Noel Ashley Crichton-Browne

Temporary Chairmen of Committees—Senators Paul Henry Calvert, Hedley Grant Pearson Chapman, Bruce Kenneth Childs, Malcolm Arthur Colston, John Herron, Julian John James McGauran, James Philip McKiernan, Baden Chapman Teague, Suzanne Margaret West and Alice Olive Zakharov

Leader of the Government in the Senate—Senator the Hon. Gareth John Evans QC

Deputy Leader of the Government in the Senate—Senator the Hon.
Robert Francis Ray

Leader of the Opposition—Senator Robert Murray Hill

Deputy Leader of the Opposition—Senator Richard Kenneth Robert Alston

Manager of Government Business in the Senate—Senator the Hon. John Philip Faulkner

Senate Party Leaders

Leader of the Australian Labor Party—Senator the Hon. Gareth John Evans QC

Deputy Leader of the Australian Labor Party—Senator the Hon.
Robert Francis Ray

Leader of the Liberal Party of Australia—Senator Robert Murray Hill

Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party of Australia—Senator Richard Kenneth Robert Alston

Leader of the National Party of Australia—Senator Ronald Leslie Doyle Boswell

Deputy Leader of the National Party of Australia—Senator David Gordon Cadell Brownhill

Leader of the Australian Democrats—Senator Cheryl Kernot

Deputy Leader of the Australian Democrats—Senator Meg Heather Lees

Members of the Senate

Senator	State or Territory	Term expires	Party
Abetz, Eric ⁽⁴⁾	Tas.	30.6.99	LP
Alston, Richard Kenneth Robert	Vic.	30.6.96	LP
Baume, Michael Ehrenfried	NSW	30.6.99	LP
Beahan, Michael Eamon	WA	30.6.96	ALP
Bell, Robert John	Tas.	30.6.96	AD
Bolkus, Hon. Nick	SA	30.6.99	ALP
Boswell, Ronald Leslie Doyle	Qld	30.6.96	NP
Bourne, Victoria Worrall	NSW	30.6.96	AD
Brownhill, David Gordon Cadell	NSW	30.6.96	NP
Burns, Bryant Robert	Qld	30.6.96	ALP
Calvert, Paul Henry	Tas.	30.6.96	LP
Campbell, Ian Gordon	WA	30.6.99	LP
Carr, Kim John	Vic.	30.6.99	ALP
Chamarette, Christabel Marguerite Alain ⁽²⁾	WA	30.6.96	G(WA)
Chapman, Hedley Grant Pearson	SA	30.6.96	LP
Childs, Bruce Kenneth	NSW	30.6.96	ALP
Coates, John	Tas.	30.6.99	ALP
Collins, Hon. Robert Lindsay ⁽¹⁾	NT		ALP
Colston, Malcolm Arthur	Qld	30.6.99	ALP
Cook, Hon. Peter Francis Salmon	WA	30.6.99	ALP
Cooney, Bernard Cornelius	Vic.	30.6.96	ALP
Coulter, John Richard	SA	30.6.96	AD
Crane, Winston	WA	30.6.96	LP
Crichton-Browne, Noel Ashley	WA	30.6.96	LP
Crowley, Hon. Rosemary Anne	SA	30.6.96	ALP
Denman, Kay Janet ⁽³⁾	Tas.	30.6.99	ALP
Devereux, John Robert	Tas.	30.6.96	ALP
Ellison, Christopher Martin	WA	30.6.99	LP
Evans, Christopher Vaughan	WA	30.6.99	ALP
Evans, Hon. Gareth John, QC	Vic.	30.6.99	ALP
Faulkner, Hon. John Philip	NSW	30.6.99	ALP
Ferguson, Alan Baird	SA	30.6.99	LP
Foreman, Dominic John	SA	30.6.99	ALP
Forshaw, Michael George ⁽⁷⁾	NSW	30.6.99	ALP
Gibson, Brian Francis	Tas.	30.6.99	LP
Harradine, Brian	Tas.	30.6.99	Ind.
Herron, John	Qld	30.6.96	LP
Hill, Robert Murray	SA	30.6.96	LP
Jones, Gerry Norman	Qld	30.6.96	ALP
Kemp, Charles Roderick	Vic.	30.6.96	LP
Kernot, Cheryl	Qld	30.6.96	AD
Knowles, Susan Christine	WA	30.6.99	LP
Lees, Meg Heather	SA	30.6.99	AD
Loosley, Stephen	NSW	30.6.96	ALP
Macdonald, Ian Douglas	Qld	30.6.99	LP
Macdonald, John Alexander Lindsay (Sandy)	NSW	30.6.99	NP
McGauran, Julian John James	Vic.	30.6.99	NP
MacGibbon, David John	Qld	30.6.99	LP
McKiernan, James Philip	WA	30.6.96	ALP

Members of the Senate—*continued*

Senator	State or Territory	Term expires	Party
McMullan, Hon. Robert Francis ⁽¹⁾	ACT		ALP
Margetts, Diane Elizabeth (Dee)	WA	30.6.99	G(WA)
Minchin, Nicholas Hugh	SA	30.6.99	LP
Murphy, Shayne Michael	Tas.	30.6.99	ALP
Neal, Belinda Jane ⁽⁶⁾	NSW	30.6.99	ALP
Newman, Jocelyn Margaret	Tas.	30.6.96	LP
O'Chee, William George	Qld	30.6.99	NP
Panizza, John Horace	WA	30.6.96	LP
Parer, Warwick Raymond	Qld	30.6.99	LP
Patterson, Kay Christine Lesley	Vic.	30.6.96	LP
Ray, Hon. Robert Francis	Vic.	30.6.96	ALP
Reid, Margaret Elizabeth ⁽¹⁾	ACT		LP
Reynolds, Hon. Margaret	Qld	30.6.99	ALP
Schacht, Hon. Christopher Cleland	SA	30.6.96	ALP
Sherry, Hon. Nicholas John	Tas.	30.6.96	ALP
Short, James Robert	Vic.	30.6.99	LP
Spindler, Siegfried Emil	Vic.	30.6.96	AD
Tambling, Grant Ernest John ⁽¹⁾	NT		NP
Teague, Baden Chapman	SA	30.6.96	LP
Tierney, John William	NSW	30.6.99	LP
Troeth, Judith Mary	Vic.	30.6.99	LP
Vanstone, Amanda Eloise	SA	30.6.99	LP
Watson, John Odin Wentworth	Tas.	30.6.96	LP
West, Suzanne Margaret	NSW	30.6.96	ALP
Woodley, John	Qld	30.6.99	AD
Woods, Robert Leslie ⁽⁵⁾	NSW	30.6.96	LP
Zakharov, Alice Olive	Vic.	30.6.99	ALP

- (1) Term expires at close of day next preceding the polling day for the general election of members of the House of Representatives.
- (2) Chosen by the Parliament of Western Australia vice Josephine Vallentine, resigned.
- (3) Chosen by the Parliament of Tasmania vice Hon. Michael Carter Tate, resigned.
- (4) Chosen by the Parliament of Tasmania vice Brian Roper Archer, resigned.
- (5) Chosen by the Parliament of New South Wales vice Bronwyn Kathleen Bishop, resigned.
- (6) Chosen by the Parliament of New South Wales vice Hon. Kerry Walter Sibraa, resigned.
- (7) Chosen by the Parliament of New South Wales vice Hon. Graham Frederick Richardson, resigned.

PARTY ABBREVIATIONS

AD—Australian Democrats; ALP—Australian Labor Party; G(WA)—Greens (WA); Ind.—Independent; LP—Liberal Party of Australia; NP—National Party of Australia

Heads of Parliamentary Departments

Clerk of the Senate—H. Evans
Clerk of the House of Representatives—L. M. Barlin
Parliamentary Librarian—
Principal Parliamentary Reporter—J. W. Templeton
Secretary, Joint House Department—M. W. Bolton

SECOND KEATING MINISTRY

Prime Minister	The Hon. Paul John Keating
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Housing and Regional Development	The Hon. Brian Leslie Howe
Leader of the Government in the Senate and Minister for Foreign Affairs	Senator the Hon. Gareth John Evans QC
Deputy Leader of the Government in the Senate and Minister for Defence	Senator the Hon. Robert Francis Ray
Treasurer	The Hon. Ralph Willis
Minister for Finance and Leader of the House	The Hon. Kim Christian Beazley
Minister for Industry, Science and Technology and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Science	Senator the Hon. Peter Francis Salmon Cook
Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Multicultural Affairs	Senator the Hon. Nick Bolkus
Minister for Employment, Education and Training	The Hon. Simon Findlay Crean
Minister for Primary Industries and Energy	Senator the Hon. Robert Lindsay Collins
Minister for Social Security	The Hon. Peter Jeremy Baldwin
Minister for Trade	Senator the Hon. Robert Francis McMullan
Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Transport	The Hon. Laurence John Brereton
Attorney-General	The Hon. Michael Hugh Lavarch
Minister for Communications and the Arts and Minister for Tourism	The Hon. Michael John Lee
Minister for the Environment, Sport and Territories and Manager of Government Business in the Senate	Senator the Hon. John Philip Faulkner
Minister for Human Services and Health and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Status of Women	The Hon. Carmen Mary Lawrence

(The above ministers constitute the cabinet)

Second Keating Ministry—*continued*

Minister for Resources	The Hon. David Peter Beddall
Minister for Development Cooperation and Pacific Island Affairs	The Hon. Gordon Neil Bilney
Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs	The Hon. Robert Edward Tickner
Minister for Schools, Vocational Education and Training	The Hon. Ross Vincent Free
Minister for Consumer Affairs	The Hon. Jeannette McHugh
Minister for Family Services	Senator the Hon. Rosemary Anne Crowley
Assistant Treasurer	The Hon. George Gear
Minister for Justice	The Hon. Duncan James Colquhoun Kerr
Minister for Small Business, Customs and Construction	Senator the Hon. Christopher Cleland Schacht
Minister for Administrative Services	The Hon. Francis John Walker QC
Special Minister of State, Vice-President of the Executive Council, Assistant Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Public Service Matters	The Hon. Gary Thomas Johns
Minister for Veterans' Affairs	The Hon. Concetto Antonio Sciacca
Minister for Defence Science and Personnel	The Hon. Gary Francis Punch
Parliamentary Secretary to the Attorney-General	The Hon. Peter Duncan
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Employment, Education and Training and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for the Environment, Sport and Territories	The Hon. Warren Edward Snowdon
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Social Security	The Hon. Janice Ann Crosio MBE
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Industry, Science and Technology	The Hon. Eamon John Lindsay RFD
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Transport	The Hon. Neil Patrick O'Keefe
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Primary Industries and Energy	Senator the Hon. Nicholas John Sherry
Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Human Services and Health	The Hon. Andrew Charles Theophanous
Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer	The Hon. Robert Paul Elliott
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Housing and Regional Development	The Hon. Mary Catherine Crawford
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence	The Hon. Archibald Ronald Bevis

THE COMMITTEES OF THE SESSION

FIRST SESSION: FOURTH PERIOD

MEMBERSHIP

(As at 30 June 1994)

STANDING COMMITTEES

APPROPRIATIONS AND STAFFING—The President (*Chairman*)*, the Leader of the Government in the Senate, the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, Senators Bourne, Childs, Colston, Crichton-Browne, Denman and Harradine.

HOUSE—The President (*Chairman*)*, Senators Colston, Crichton-Browne, Minchin, Reid, Reynolds and Zakharov.

LIBRARY—The President (*Chairman*)*, Senators Devereux, Christopher Evans, Gibson, Harradine, Herron and Foreman.

PRIVILEGES—Senator Reynolds (*Chairman*), Senators Childs, Coates, Ellison, Kernot†, McKiernan, Teague and Woods.

†Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Kernot) appointed an additional member for the consideration of the committee's inquiry into the Parliamentary Privileges Amendment (Enforcement of Lawful Orders) Bill 1994, pursuant to the resolution adopted by the Senate on 12 May 1994.

PROCEDURE—The President (*Chairman*)*, the Deputy-President and Chairman of Committees, the Leader of the Government in the Senate, the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, Senators Bourne, Coates, Faulkner, Robert Ray, Reid and Teague.

PUBLICATIONS—Senator McKiernan (*Chairman*), Senators Calvert, Sandy Macdonald, Neal, Reynolds and Woods.

SELECTION OF BILLS—The Government Whip (*Chairman*), the Opposition Whip, the National Party Whip, the Australian Democrats Whip, and Senators Coates, Foreman, Herron and Panizza.

SENATORS' INTERESTS—Senator Colston (*Chairman*), Senators Abetz, Bourne, Brownhill, McKiernan, Minchin, Reid and Zakharov.

* ex officio members.

LEGISLATIVE SCRUTINY STANDING COMMITTEES

REGULATIONS AND ORDINANCES—Senator Colson (*Chairman*), Senators Abetz, Loosley, Minchin, O'Chee and Zakharov.

SCRUTINY OF BILLS—Senator Colston (*Chairman*), Senators Bell, Cooney, Forshaw, Troeth and Vanstone.

LEGISLATIVE AND GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEES

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS—Senator West (*Chairman*), Senators Denman, Forshaw, Herron, Lees¶, Sandy Macdonald†‡, Troeth and Zakharov.

†Senator Patterson to replace Senator Sandy Macdonald for consideration of the inquiry into aspects of the marketing of the Disability Reform Package.

‡Senator Woods to replace Senator Sandy Macdonald for the consideration of the inquiry into the validation of CAM and SAM funding of nursing homes.

¶Senator Woodley to replace Senator Lees for the consideration of the inquiry into matters pertaining to the Social Security Legislation Amendment Bill (No.2) 1994.

EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION AND TRAINING—Senator Zakharov (*Chairman*), Senators Bell, Carr, Crane, Forshaw and Tierney.

ENVIRONMENT, RECREATION AND THE ARTS—Senator Devereux (*Chairman*), Senators Abetz, Bell, Loosley, McGauran and West.

FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION—Senator Coates (*Chairman*), Senators Campbell, Carr, Denman, Kemp and Watson.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE—Senator Jones (*Chairman*), Senators Burns, Ellison, Teague, West and Woodley.

INDUSTRY, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS AND INFRASTRUCTURE—Senator Childs (*Chairman*), Senators Burns, Chapman, Coulter, Devereux, Ferguson†, Murphy and Panizza.

†Senator Ian Macdonald to replace Senator Ferguson for the consideration of the committee's inquiry into major disasters and large-scale emergencies.

LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS—Senator Cooney (*Chairman*), Senators Ellison, Christopher Evans, McKiernan, O'Chee, Reynolds, Spindler and Vanstone.

RURAL AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS—Senator Burns (*Chairman*), Senators Brownhill, Calvert, Crane, McKiernan, Murphy, West and Woodley.

SELECT COMMITTEES

AUSTRALIAN LOAN COUNCIL, FUNCTIONS, POWERS AND OPERATION OF—Senator Coulter (*Chairman*), Senators Burns, Carr, Gibson, Sherry and Short.

COMMUNITY STANDARDS RELEVANT TO THE SUPPLY OF SERVICES UTILISING ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGIES—Senators Reynolds (*Chairman*), Senators Bourne, Burns, Cooney, Harradine, Herron, Loosley and Tierney.

PAY TELEVISION TENDERING PROCESSES, MATTERS ARISING FROM—Senator Cooney (*Chairman*), Senators Alston, Bourne, Loosley, McKiernan and Tierney.

PRINT MEDIA, FOREIGN OWNERSHIP DECISIONS—Senator Alston (*Chairman*), Senators Carr, Ellison, Kernot, Loosley, Sandy Macdonald, Minchin, Murphy and Sherry.

SUPERANNUATION—Senator Watson (*Chairman*), Senators Childs, Christopher Evans, Ferguson, West and Woodley.

WHISTLEBLOWING, PUBLIC INTEREST—Senator Newman (*Chairman*), Senators Calvert, Chamarette, Denman and Murphy.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEES

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE A—(*Prime Minister and Cabinet; Foreign Affairs and Trade; Communications and the Arts; Administrative Services*)—Senator Childs (*Chairman*), Senators Ferguson, Forshaw, Kemp, Loosley and O'Chee.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE B—(*Defence; Veterans' Affairs; Industrial Relations; Tourism*)—Senator Burns (*Chairman*), Senators Carr, Chapman, Christopher Evans, MacGibbon and Teague.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE C—(*Human Services and Health; Environment, Sport and Territories; Social Security*)—Senator Reynolds (*Chairman*), Senators Denman, Herron, Ian Macdonald, Patterson and West.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE D—(*Industry, Science and Technology; Treasury; Finance*)—Senator Coates (*Chairman*), Senators Gibson, Murphy, Neal, Parer† and Short†.

†Senators Chapman and Ferguson to replace Senators Parer and Short for the consideration of the estimates of the Department of Industry, Science and Technology.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE E—(*Primary Industries and Energy; Transport; Employment, Education and Training*)—Senator Devereux (*Chairman*), Senators Crane‡, Foreman, McGauran†, Troeth‡, and Zakharov.

†Senator Sandy Macdonald to replace Senator McGauran for the consideration of the estimates of the Department of Primary Industries and Energy.

‡Senators Teague and Tierney to replace Senators Crane and Troeth for the consideration of the estimates of the Department of Employment, Education and Training.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE F—(*Parliament; Attorney-General; Immigration and Ethnic Affairs; Housing and Regional Development*)—Senator Colston (*Chairman*), Senators Abetz, Cooney, Ellison‡, Knowles†§ and McKiernan.

†Senator Vanstone to replace Senator Knowles for the consideration of the estimates of the Attorney-General's Department.

‡Senator Short to replace Senator Ellison for the consideration of the estimates of the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs.

§Senator Tambling to replace Senator Knowles for the consideration of the estimates of the Department of Housing and Regional Development.

JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE

FAMILY LAW ISSUES, CERTAIN—Mr Price (*Chairman*), Senators Brownhill, Carr, Neal, Reid and Spindler and Mr K. J. Andrews, Ms Henzell, Mr L. J. Scott and Mr Williams.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEES

ELECTORAL MATTERS—Senator Foreman (*Chairman*), Senators Chamarette, Christopher Evans, Lees, Minchin and Tierney and Mr Cobb, Mr Connolly, Mr Griffin, Mr Melham, Mr S.F. Smith and Mr Swan.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE—Senator Loosley (*Chairman*), Senators Bourne, Brownhill, Chapman, Childs, Crichton-Browne, Denman, Harradine, Jones, Margetts, Reynolds and Teague and Mr Atkinson, Mr Campbell, Mr Duffy, Mr Ferguson, Mr Fitzgibbon, Mr Gibson, Mr Grace, Mr Halverson, Mr Hawker, Mr Hicks, Mr Hollis, Hon R. J. Kelly, Mr Langmore, Mr Lieberman, Mr Moore, Mr Price, Mr Simmons, Mr Sinclair and Mr Taylor.

MIGRATION—Senator McKiernan (*Chairman*), Senators Cooney and Short and Mr Ferguson, Mr Holding, Mr Ruddock, Mr Sinclair and Mr Woods.

NATIONAL CAPITAL AND EXTERNAL TERRITORIES—Mr Chynoweth (*Chairman*), the Deputy President, the Deputy Speaker, Senators Bell, Coates, Colston, Ian Macdonald and Reid and Mr Halverson, Mr Langmore, Mr McLeay and Mr Sharp.

JOINT STATUTORY COMMITTEES

AUSTRALIAN SECURITY INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATION—Mr Gorman (*Presiding Member*), Senators Coulter, Minchin and Zakharov and Mr Campbell, Mr Dodd and Mr B. C. Scott.

BROADCASTING OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS—The President*, the Speaker*, Senators Coates and Knowles and Mr Cameron, Mr M. J. Evans, Mr Hicks, Mr Knott and Mr Price.

* ex officio members.

CORPORATIONS AND SECURITIES—Mr Smith (*Chairman*), Senators Cooney, Gibson, McGauran, Neal and Spindler and Mr Humphreys, Mr Moore, Mr Sinclair and Mr Tanner.

NATIONAL CRIME AUTHORITY—Mr Cleeland (*Chairman*), Senators Jones, Loosley, Spindler, Troeth and Vanstone and Mr Duffy, Mr Filing, Mr P. F. Morris and Mr Vaile.

NATIVE TITLE—Senator Christopher Evans (*Chairman*), Senators Campbell, Chamarette, Ellison and Reynolds and Mr Knott, Mr Latham, Mr McGauran, Mr Quick and Mr Reith.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS—Mr L. J. Scott (*Chairman*), Senators Cooney, Forshaw, Gibson, Neal and Woods and Mr Brown, Mrs Easson, Mr Fitzgibbon, Mr Griffin, Mr Haviland, Mrs Moylan, Mr Somlyay, Mr Taylor and Mr Vaile.

PUBLIC WORKS—Mr Hollis (*Chairman*), Senators Burns, Calvert and Devereux and Mr Andrew, Mr Braithwaite, Mr Gorman, Mr Halverson and Mr Humphreys.

SENATE

Clerk of the Senate—H. Evans
Deputy Clerk of the Senate—A. Lynch
Clerk Assistant (Table Office)—C. J. C. Elliott
Clerk Assistant (Corporate Management)—J. Vander Wyk
Clerk Assistant (Procedure)—P. O'Keeffe
Clerk Assistant (Committees)—R. Laing
Usher of the Black Rod—R. Alison

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Clerk of the House—L. M. Barlin
Deputy Clerk of the House—I. C. Harris
First Clerk Assistant—B. C. Wright
Clerk Assistant (Procedure)—I. C. Cochran
Clerk Assistant (Table)—J. W. Pender
Serjeant-at-Arms—D. Elder

PARLIAMENTARY REPORTING STAFF

Principal Parliamentary Reporter—J. W. Templeton
Chief Hansard Reporter—B. A. Harris
Assistant Chief Reporter (Senate)—M. A. R. McGregor
Assistant Chief Reporter (House of Representatives)—V. M. Barrett

LIBRARY

Parliamentary Librarian—

JOINT HOUSE

Secretary—M. W. Bolton

Tuesday, 10 May 1994

The PRESIDENT (Senator the Hon. Michael Beahan) took the chair at 2.00 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Employment: White Paper

Senator PATTERSON—My question is directed to the Minister representing the Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Status of Women. Is it the case that in the white paper's social security arrangements widows and divorcees aged in their late 50s will be forced onto the jobsearch allowance and required to look for work while spouses in their early 40s with no recent labour market experience will be eligible for the partner allowance and not required to look for work?

Senator CROWLEY—There are a number of different recognitions for women in the white paper. First of all, as I understand Senator Patterson's outline for women over 50 with children over 16, yes, they will—

Senator Patterson—I am not talking about people with children. I am talking about widows and divorcees in their late 50s. They have a different system.

Senator CROWLEY—Widows and divorcees are no different. They should not be expected, as is the case with our current payments, to decline forever on a life restricted to the pension or the benefits that they are eligible for, and that is all. It is an expectation and an encouragement for women at any age to exercise their options to participate in the work force.

Senator Woods—Why?

Senator CROWLEY—That is because we do not believe that women should be confined to definitions that may be out of date and, indeed, preclude them from choice.

Opposition senators—Ha, ha!

Senator CROWLEY—Listen to those opposite howl. How many women of that age want to stay home, and how many want to go to work or university? How many want to

take up the options? Our policies recognise choice for women at any age and are encouraging women to make that choice.

Those opposite may argue, but our policies are about providing choice for women. It is about the expectation of women at whatever age not to be precluded or confined to one option. Women over 60 approaching eligibility for pension will certainly be able to have the mature age allowance if that prospect is something they prefer. That is available for them.

Senator PATTERSON—Mr President, I ask a supplementary question. I will ask that question again because the minister is supposed to represent the Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Status of Women. The question is: is it the case that widows and divorcees who are in their late 50s will be forced onto the jobsearch allowance and required to look for work while spouses in their early 40s or people with a partner with no recent labour market experience will be eligible for the partner allowance and not required to look for work? There are two groups of people—women who are older and women who are younger—who are treated differently. Is that the case under the new arrangements? The answer is yes or no, not some long lecture on choice. If there is a difference between the women in these two different age groups, why do widows have to go out and look for work and why do women with partners not have to go out and look for work under the government's new arrangements?

Senator CROWLEY—There are any number of details here. I will certainly check those out to make sure there is not anything I have missed.

Senator Ferguson—You don't know the answer.

Senator CROWLEY—That is not true.

Senator Woods—Tell us.

Senator CROWLEY—I will; and I will certainly make sure there are not details about this matter that I have missed. It is quite true that there is a difference between women who have a spouse and those who do not. The white paper makes it quite clear, as do the

proposed changes in the parenting allowance, that those women will be eligible to go into the work force in their own right. They may have the option of taking the parenting allowance or seeking support through the work force, if that is what they want. Widows are also assisted to go onto unemployment benefits, to assist them to participate in the work force.

Employment: White Paper

Senator McKIERNAN—I address my question to the Minister for Primary Industries and Energy. It is not about his cooking skills but about the impact of the government's Working Nation statement, particularly as it affects rural Australia. Is the minister aware of criticisms of the statement, in particular the changes to the administration of the rural adjustment scheme? Has the minister examined the criticisms, and are they justified? Can the minister also advise the Senate how farmers and rural communities—

Senator Ian Macdonald—I hope you have more idea than Rosemary.

Senator McKIERNAN—Does Senator Macdonald not care about rural communities? How will farmers and rural communities benefit from measures announced in the Working Nation statement?

Senator COLLINS—I did note the press statement that was put out by John Anderson. As the *Australian* accurately noted the other day, the only group that did not welcome the rural initiatives announced in the white paper was the federal opposition. The white paper does include increased funding for rural community access programs, which has been welcomed warmly across the rural community. It does also contain a refocusing of the government's major instrument in the restructuring of rural Australia, the rural adjustment scheme. The RAS refocus will enhance regional adjustment and continue to support individual farmers through training grants and interest subsidies for productivity improvements. The government's substantial support for RAS will be revealed when the budget is brought down tonight.

The new focus will draw on a reserve which will comprise, as I said publicly,

underspends on the normal RAS scheme and a modest levy on state RAS allocations.

Senator Panizza interjecting—

Senator COLLINS—If the senator from the bush would rather have these underspends go back to consolidated revenue instead of being retained in RAS, let him say so. I am negotiating the details of this new approach with the states, which administer the scheme and contribute a minor amount of the funding—about 10 per cent—to it. This new approach will also improve the linkages between the rural adjustment scheme and other Commonwealth, state and territory programs, which is a sensible thing to do.

Senator Crane—You blame everybody but yourself.

Senator COLLINS—I point out to the peanut gallery opposite that the suggestion that these changes should be made came to me from farm groups; so, if the honourable senator wants to continue on that course, he may do so.

There will be a competitive bidding process for funding from the reserve and projects will be developed in full consultation with regional or industry bodies. Mr Anderson queried whether \$6 million had been 'lopped off' the forward estimates for agribusiness programs in last year's budget. The fact is that a total of just over \$13 million will be directly available to agricultural based industries for the purpose of enterprise and export development—an increase over last year.

Another criticism levelled by Mr Anderson was with regard to the level of CSIRO funding. This is a matter for my colleague Senator Cook, but it does have an important focus in my portfolio because of the agricultural research that is conducted. Mr Anderson focused on a straight comparison of last year's funding with this year's, conveniently forgetting that the last triennium's funding was bolstered by this government by a special supplement of \$50 million per year for capital works.

The outcome of the government's consideration of funding for this triennium, and this is the important distinction, was to increase the base level of funding for the science

agencies by \$34 million a year—not the generous level of the special supplement that we gave for that triennium but a substantial boost to the historic levels of activity for CSIRO.

The outcome must also be viewed in the context of the white paper initiative to fund \$60 million of national research facility programs over the next eight years and the ongoing support of science agencies by the R&D corporations within the portfolio which, between them, now administer the allocation each year of \$250 million worth of research activity. I must say that Mr Anderson's statements in this portfolio, as they were in the previous portfolio, are grossly inaccurate.

Immigration

Senator SHORT—My question is directed to the Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs. I refer the minister to his statement yesterday that the migration intake will be increased by 10,000 in the coming year, including an 8,000 increase in the skilled migration category. Last week, at his press club appearance on the white paper, the Prime Minister said:

... complements to skill formation in the economic recovery will not come from migration. They will come only from our own workforce and people joining our own workforce as new entrants or re-training and replacing those who are long term unemployed.

I ask the minister: what has changed since then? How does he reconcile these totally conflicting statements?

Senator BOLKUS—This question comes from a person who has spent the last 24 hours on radio and in media interviews telling the world how the Prime Minister last week suggested that we would cut immigration.

Senator Short—I haven't said that at all in the last 24 hours.

Senator BOLKUS—Senator Short was wrong on that. He has been reported as saying that. I have heard some of the interviews. In the same way that he has deliberately misrepresented that point, he is deliberately misreading this point. If one were to read the—

Senator Short— Reconcile the statements.

Senator BOLKUS—Does Senator Short want an answer? In the same way that Senator Short has quoted from that press statement, he ought to take into consideration precisely what the Prime Minister said. He did not say that there would not be a role; he said that there would be a complementary role for skills coming through. That is on page 4 of the speech at the press club, and it is there very starkly for Senator Short to read.

Senator Short has made the mistake—a mistake made quite commonly on his side of parliament these days—of not going to sources, not going to the basic source document, but going by some second- or third-hand press report. The Prime Minister always acknowledged a role for migration. What he said was that the major focus of growth through this recession for this government would be the skills formation that we will generate in our response to the white paper. That still stands as the fundamental basis of our response.

That acknowledges a complementary role for skills formation and skills development through migration. That is something that this government recognises the need for. I must also say to Senator Short that that is not something that just the broader community recognises a need for; it is something that his purported constituency recognises a need for—the business community. It, I must say, was at the forefront of asking government to focus on this. I make those two points.

Thirdly, if he looks at the actual document that came out yesterday, Senator Short will see that 8,000 in that so-called skills bracket are people who have been here for four years or so, people who were involved in the 1 November decision last year. They are not just Chinese nationals, but people from some 20 different backgrounds who have been able to access the best and fairest aspect of that 1 November decision. If we deduct those from the increase in the number for the so-called skills category, we come back to a status quo in that category.

Let me also say to Senator Short—and this is something that he really should know because he is the opposition spokesman in this area, and someone who is supposed to have spent some time in researching the

area—when, in migration terms, we talk about the skills category, we are not talking purely about tradespeople. We are not talking purely about electricians or those working in the manufacturing industry—blue-collar workers. We are talking about—under the criteria that apply to the skills category and the independent family category—people who have qualifications of a tertiary nature, or diplomas or the like. People who have those sorts of qualifications must be—and are—recognised in Australia within a short period. They are people who, on the whole, are young and have some understanding of English and work experience from six months to three years.

We are not talking about direct conflict in the skills category of the migration intake between those sorts of people and the ones that the Prime Minister and the government showed primary concern for last week. The migration statement announced yesterday is quite complementary to the statement of last week and to the budget as it will be announced tonight. It is a responsible statement. It is a moderate increase, but it is one well in tune with the government's priorities and the priorities of this community.

Senator SHORT—Mr President, I ask a supplementary question. It is quite obvious that the minister himself has not read what the Prime Minister said at the press club last week. Let me remind him again that the Prime Minister said that complements to skill formation will come only from our own workforce and people joining our own workforce as new entrants or retraining and replacing them with the long-term unemployed, and that they will not come from migration. Whilst noting the minister's answer, I ask him why the Chinese students were not accommodated within the government's existing skilled component rather than merely added on, given the undertakings that the minister himself gave last year that these people would be accommodated within the existing program. In the context of the Prime Minister's remarks, will this addition for the Chinese students next year be a once off addition, so that the following year's program will be reduced accordingly, or does yesterday's decision consti-

tute a permanent inbuilt uplift in the intake level?

Senator BOLKUS—We do once again have the basic problem of a supplementary question being written before the answer is given and the questioner goes ahead with it, regardless of the answer. I said to Senator Short in answer to the first question that the beneficiaries of that 1 November decision are not all Chinese students. There are some 20 ethnic communities, 20 nationalities, which are accessing that provision already. We made it very clear on 1 November that the continuing intake will be part of our annual migration program. It is part of our annual migration program. Is it a one-off or not? We also made it very clear last year that it will take a number of years before we finish processing all those people who would be the beneficiaries of that decision. There is nothing new in what I am saying to Senator Short. If he goes back to the debate last year, he will probably find himself in estimates committees saying exactly what I have just said.

Construction Industry

Senator COLSTON—I direct my question to the Minister for Small Business, Customs and Construction. My question relates to an initiative in last week's white paper, Working Nation, namely, the government's announcement of assistance to the Australian construction industry in the preparation of bids for major infrastructure projects in Asia. Is the minister able to provide information to the Senate on how this initiative will operate to the advantage of Australian companies?

Senator Ian Macdonald—I would say no.

Senator SCHACHT—Only Senator Ian Macdonald could be negative. Only he could say no to any positive move to improve Australia's trade outlook and it is typical of him. The only amazement I have is that he is still on the front bench.

One of the major initiatives in the industry paper last week was the announcement of a \$12 million program of loan funds over four years to the Australian construction industry to form single consortiums from Australia to bid for some of the major infrastructure projects in Asia. We anticipate being able to

fund 24 of these consortium bids at about half a million dollars each over the next four years. It will be on a risk sharing basis with the consortium concerned. If the consortium is successful, the public money will be repaid and put back into the fund to pay for further funding or future consortiums.

We point out that estimates anticipate that until the end of this decade infrastructure projects in Asia will total around \$A600 billion, and some people even estimate it going close to \$US1½ trillion by the middle of the next decade. So there is to be a major building construction program in that region, probably the biggest in the world's history. Until now, Australian companies have been bidding against each other as well as against companies from overseas, despite the fact that our construction industry is, in most aspects, world best practice, innovative and using the latest technology. But often in these countries we find that if Australian companies are bidding against each other, a company from another country—a sole bid with the support of the government of that country—comes through the middle and wins the project. Therefore, we believe that by encouraging consortiums of Australian companies to come together to bid and prepare the feasibility study, we can enhance our chances of winning some of these major projects.

This consortium idea is not about picking winners. It is an idea that came from the industry itself. Mr Duff, in particular, from Fletcher Construction, prepared a report on this as part of the construction industry reform process over the last two or three years. This is a major initiative that will be advantageous to the Australian construction industry—an industry that has the potential to earn a lot of export dollars for Australia when it starts winning some of these major contracts that are now available in the region.

Asset Sales

Senator KERNOT—I address my question to the Minister representing the Treasurer. In the last two years the government has sold off \$3 billion of its assets and reduced public investment in infrastructure by \$2 billion. At the same time, however, there has been an increase in government debt of nearly \$50

billion. Why does the government think it is responsible economic behaviour to keep selling off assets to fund not long-term spending but day-to-day spending?

Opposition senators interjecting—

Senator KERNOT—That is the opposition's only solution, too. Should not the proceeds of any justifiable asset sales go towards paying back government debt?

Senator COOK—The government has sold over the years a number of government assets; that part is true. We have done so in order to add to the greater efficiency of the economy and because fundamentally we believe the assets that have been put up for public sale are assets that can function efficiently outside of public ownership. That has been a prime reason for making the decision in the first place.

As far as the rest of the question is concerned, I think it falls into that category of questions related to the forthcoming budget. We have to wait only a couple of hours for that. I do not propose to answer it now.

Senator KERNOT—Mr President, I ask a supplementary question. This is a question about the approach to budgeting. I have got a stocktake here of what is left in public ownership. I have to ask the minister: what are governments—your lot and the other lot—going to fall back on when we have run out of this list? Are we going to sell the Reserve Bank and Parliament House, for example? Why is the government making a consistent choice to postpone rather than solve the real problem of needing to raise revenue?

Senator COOK—I know of no intention to sell the Reserve Bank or Parliament House, and on that I can be categorical. The question may well be one that can be answered only by reference to the particular philosophical view we have about what the role of government is in the economy. Senator Kernot may well have a different view of that from what we have, in which case I can respect her view whilst disagreeing with it. But our view is that those assets that we have put forward for public sale are assets that can function equally well or better in private ownership. It means that government can be more efficient.

We have a very small public sector in Australia compared with other OECD economies. While we remain a mixed economy, and will always be so, nonetheless we are an efficient economy and have a lower tax rate as a consequence. All those things go to the efficiency of the economy and our ability to underpin the sorts of economic achievements which will, I believe, increasingly cause investment to flow into this economy. (*Time expired*)

Review of Government Services

Senator MARGETTS—My question is directed to the Minister representing the Prime Minister in the Senate, Gareth Evans.

Senator Hill—Gareth!

Senator MARGETTS—I ask: with reference to the review of Commonwealth and state service provision, can the minister explain why no formal mechanism has been set in place for this review to consult with service users and the community and why the government is not calling for submissions? Can the minister explain why this review concerns itself only with the cost effectiveness of service delivery rather than, more importantly, the quality and level of service delivery? With respect to the education component of the review, can the minister detail what educational outputs and outcomes the steering committee is reviewing and how they will be measured?

Senator GARETH EVANS—I thank Dee for her question and I am happy now to proceed to answer it as best I can. The terms of reference of the review of Commonwealth-state service provision indicate that its primary function is to establish the collection and publication of data that will enable ongoing comparisons of the efficiency and effectiveness of Commonwealth and state government services, including intra-government services.

Given that the main function of the review relates to the collection and collation of data from internal government sources, no particular purpose would be served by establishing an extensive consultation and submissions process. However, the chairperson of the review, Mr Bill Scales, has indicated that he

will accept and respond to written input from service users and the community and that such written input will be drawn to the attention of all members of the working party undertaking the review.

As to the second question, the review has been asked not to concentrate on policy considerations which determine the quality and level of services but, rather, to focus on the cost effectiveness of service delivery in establishing performance indicators for different services which would assist comparisons of efficiency and effectiveness. Such performance indicators will include consideration of program outputs and client outcomes. Accordingly, while it is not intended that the review undertake direct examination of the policies, as I have said, which underpin the service delivery programs, the overall intention of the government is that the review will provide data which will be useful to governments in examining policy options to improve the quality and level of service delivery.

As to the third and last question, at its meeting on 25 February, the Council of Australian Governments received a preliminary report from Mr Scales and called for a further report to its next meeting in August. In addition, the council agreed that the review be asked to give priority to the development of information on educational outputs and outcomes, if appropriate, using the Australian Council for Educational Research, to provide assistance in this area and to provide a report. It was further agreed that, in the light of this report, the Ministerial Council on Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs should provide advice to the council on further action. So, in terms of educational outputs and outcomes, the review is at present examining the areas of schools and vocational training, TAFE, and its work is at a preliminary stage.

Senator MARGETTS—Mr President, I ask a supplementary question. The minister says that outcomes will be referred to, so I ask: how will the government measure efficiency of outcome provision without formally asking clients of those services?

Senator GARETH EVANS—I think I have totally exhausted my knowledge of this

particular subject by reading the brief on it. I thought I had answered that question but if I have not done it to Senator Margetts's entire and complete satisfaction, I will be happy to seek some further information.

Human Rights: Mr Hugh Crawford

Senator TAMBLING—I direct my question to the Minister representing the Attorney-General on matters affecting the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission and the Australian Federal Police. I refer to a number of unresolved and controversial cases—outstanding since January—before the human rights commission in Darwin involving four allegations of sexual harassment against a Northern Territory union leader, Hugh Crawford. I ask: is the minister aware that this matter has attracted media attention and there has been correspondence to the Attorney-General and Senator Collins? Can the minister explain: firstly, why the human rights commission is reluctant to proceed with this case, even though one of the women has sought police protection after receiving threats of violence against her children; secondly, whether senior figures in, or associated with, the Australian Labor Party have conspired to delay the hearing of these cases until after the Northern Territory election this year, so as not to embarrass the ALP; and, thirdly, whether this scandal reveals the darkest side of Labor—ranging from union thuggery and manipulation to threats of physical violence and the denial of natural justice?

Senator BOLKUS—Someone at home watching this today will get the stark contrast: on the one hand, a government concerned about issues of the day and, on the other hand, an opposition right in the gutter. Day after day we come in here to address major national, international and domestic issues of great moment to all sorts of people. What happens today? Senator Tambling comes in here, prejudices whatever investigation might be going on, and makes the statement that HREOC has been sat on by members of the government.

Anyone who has been in this place for a moment, let alone the time that Senator Tambling has been in here, would understand the independence of the Human Rights and

Equal Opportunity Commission. I understood it full well when I was trying to get legislation through this place and everyone from the other side of the parliament had access to that body.

The commission is independent; it is not sat on by government. Those opposite know that very well, but they come in here trying to throw slurs at the government.

Senator Collins—Is that the one they wanted to abolish?

Senator BOLKUS—As I am reminded by my colleague on my right, we should not look for consistency from the opposition when it comes to these sorts of issues. It has no consistent line of belief in the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission. The opposition's initial Fightback document wanted to do away with HREOC. We did not want to sit on it; the opposition wanted to squash it and quash it. There is autonomy for the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, and Senator Tambling knows that. If Senator Tambling were responsible about the rights of the people involved, there are different ways in which he could have raised this matter. He would not have come in here throwing unsubstantiated slurs at this side of the parliament.

Mr President, I will take this particular question with the dignity with which it was delivered—none at all. But to the extent that there is any issue arising from the question and there is any answer that can be given, I will try to get one. But I must say to Senator Tambling that it does him or his side of parliament no good to throw unsubstantiated slurs at this side of parliament, at the same time doing something that is quite objectionable, that is, reflecting on the integrity and independence of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission.

Senator TAMBLING—After question time I will certainly seek to table some correspondence that will establish the dates. Mr President, I have a supplementary question. Given the need to resolve the complaints against Mr Crawford and the perception that the human rights commission has been compromised, will the Attorney-General order an investigation into the commission and the involvement

of a number of Labor Party members and officials associated with the forthcoming Northern Territory election as a matter of urgency?

Senator BOLKUS—That is the point. If it was not for the forthcoming Northern Territory election, Senator Tambling would not care about this. He would not have raised it at all. He would not have come in here and made a real goose of himself by throwing unsubstantiated slurs. Senator Tambling has made an allegation of interference. We look forward to seeing whether he can substantiate that. What about the other element of hypocrisy? There is icing on the cake here. On the one hand, Senator Tambling has accused us of interfering; on the other hand, he comes in with his supplementary question and wants us to interfere. Come on, get it straight.

Trade Barriers

Senator COONEY—My question is directed to the Minister for Trade, Senator McMullan. Yesterday the government issued an updated edition of its report *United States trade barriers affecting Australian exports* which deals with recent developments in bilateral trading relationships, including those affected by the outcome of the Uruguay Round. Does the government intend to pursue the issues it raises? If so, how?

Senator McMULLAN—Welcome back, Senator. I am very pleased to see my colleague back and in control. This is an issue of great significance to a large number of Australians and I hope to get an opportunity to say something about it here. Most senators will have seen media reports concerning the release by my department yesterday of a report entitled *United States trade barriers affecting Australian exports*. This is the second time that we have released a report of this nature. It is designed fundamentally to be another element in the debate about the opening up of trade and, particularly, addressing the balance of trade between Australia and the United States.

This latest edition has been updated to reflect the outcome of the Uruguay Round of GATT negotiations and other recent changes to United States trading policies. We welcome

the fact that, as a consequence of those changes, some of the barriers are somewhat lower and some of the access opportunities are slightly enhanced. But it is important to note—because there has been some international coverage of some of these issues of trade imbalance—that Australia's trade imbalance with the United States is, in relative terms, bigger than that faced by the United States with Japan. We are trying to say to the United States, 'We have a circumstance here where our trade imbalance with you is bigger proportionately than yours with Japan, and yet you have trade barriers to our legitimate export industries and you should be seeking to do something about lowering those restrictions, particularly the severely restricted access for a range of our agricultural exports like beef, dairy products and sugar.'

Those markets should be more open. We welcome the extent to which they have been opened somewhat more, but they should be opened further; we would then have the opportunity to redress the trade imbalance. The subsidy practices and measures in the United States exacerbate this problem. The changes as a result of the round will alleviate rather than eliminate many of these impediments.

We do not want to take an unbalanced approach to this. The United States has a more open market than many countries in the world, and certainly an open market to many of our products. Indeed, we have a very successful and rapidly growing manufacturing export trade to the United States. Four of our top five exports to the United States are manufactured products—that is, elaborately transformed manufactures. That is very welcome.

We are putting out this report to make a further contribution to the debate here and in the United States about trade policy. We are seeking to continue the pressure that we have exerted with our Cairns Group colleagues, bilaterally and directly in meetings at ministerial and official level through the Cairns Group. This has also been done through negotiations in the Uruguay Round that were conducted by our officials and by my predecessors as trade minister, up to and including

my colleague Senator Cook. Those collective efforts achieved significant improvement, but there is much further to go. That is unquestionably true, and the agricultural sector welcomes those significant changes for beef, sugar and dairy products—

Senator Kemp—What you are saying is not clear from the figures.

Senator McMULLAN—Those in the agricultural sector, unlike Senator Kemp—and I hope he feels better soon—welcome those significant changes but agree with us that much more needs to be done. We are seeking to work constructively and cooperatively with them to achieve those improvements in Australia's interests, and particularly in the interests of our primary producers. We have also made some significant gains in some of our resource based and mining based industries. The United States is Australia's second largest trading partner. We do have with that country the opportunity to raise, regularly, contentious issues and we intend to continue to do so. (*Time expired*)

Employment: White Paper

Senator CRANE—I address my question to the Leader of the Government in the Senate and Minister representing the Prime Minister and it relates to the white paper the minister delivered on behalf of the Prime Minister last week. What are the terms and conditions of employment which will apply to the youth and adult training wage? For instance, do trainees receive leave loadings, holiday pay, overtime, sick leave, maternity or paternity leave, and so on, as an integrated part of their wage or separate payment on top of this base? Are these entitlements subject to negotiation through the enterprise bargaining system?

Senator GARETH EVANS—The details of the youth training wage have not been completely sorted out yet. I am not sure what the intention is so far as all those specific matters are concerned. I will take the question on notice and give a reply as soon as possible.

Senator CRANE—I ask a supplementary question, Mr President. As this is the centrepiece of the statement delivered by Senator Evans, I am surprised he cannot answer my

question. While the minister is investigating the matter, I ask: is it not a fact that the training wage is not regulated by an award? If this is the case, does this preclude trainees participating in workplace bargaining?

Senator Hill—When you have to refer to Senator Schacht for help, you are in real trouble. Why not ask Rosemary?

Senator GARETH EVANS—I am just trying to give those opposite a sensible answer. We do have responsible ministers for each area of the white paper. I cannot be expected to carry the details around in my head. Yes, it is intended that there be an award covering this, but as to what the precise details of that award will be on that particular issue I will need to get further advice. I might be able to give it after question time, if those opposite stay polite, otherwise they will have to wait a bit longer.

AIDC Ltd

Senator SPINDLER—My question is directed to the minister representing the Treasurer. I refer to the government's proposal to sell the rest of AIDC Ltd and ask: apart from any strategic considerations related to the provision of investment funds to Australian industry, how can the minister justify selling a taxpayer's asset earning approximately \$37 million per year when the comparable cost of a loan would be approximately \$24 million or less? Is it correct that the real reason for such a ludicrous financial decision is to hide the true size of the budget deficit? Finally, when will the government introduce a rational system of public accounting which shows changes in the government's balance sheet rather than just cash flows?

Senator COOK—The finance minister and I, in my capacity as Minister for Industry, Science and Technology, announced a fortnight ago that we would dispose of the remaining public shareholding in the AIDC. That was an in principle announcement. The full scoping study has to be completed by the Department of Finance, and the way in which the disposal will be conducted will, of course, be announced at a later time. But this question is not so much about that. As I understand the question, it is about how the govern-

ment will deal with the provision of finance to companies that the AIDC may have serviced.

I have answered this sort of question on several occasions. But I should perhaps reiterate that we believe that the reasons the AIDC was first introduced in 1970 by the then Deputy Prime Minister, Mr McEwen, have been substantially met by the fact that we deregulated the financial markets in 1983. In 1992, as Senator Spindler said, there was a dividend paid to the Commonwealth by the AIDC. But he omitted to say that in 1991 there was a \$90 million loss incurred by the AIDC although, to be fair to the institution under its new management, it has certainly been conducting its affairs very well, and one would expect that it will continue to be in profit from now on.

The question is whether this asset should be retained in public shareholding or is it better able to service the needs of industry if it is in private ownership. The answer to that question is that it can work effectively both ways. But there is no reason why the government should remain as the sole owner of the AIDC, or even as a shareholding owner—no reason at all.

The change since the Black Jack McEwen days is the deregulation of the financial market and the rise of a number of other companies able to service the same sort of market need that the AIDC was established to service. These include Citibank, Schroders, Bain and Co. and a whole range of other private banks that do this sort of work. Therefore we made a decision, which will be subject to a national conference of the Labor Party on whether policy change will occur, that we would proceed to dispose of the AIDC. It will not affect the provision of finance to the sorts of projects that the AIDC now operates. There is a more competitive market there.

The illusion that has been referred to in Senator Spindler's press releases that somehow or other this will deprive small to medium business of access to finance is but that—an illusion—because the AIDC operates at the big end of town; it really does not operate in providing funds or support for small to medi-

um enterprises. As Senator Spindler will have seen in the white paper, we have deepened, broadened and enriched the access to finance area for small to medium companies in Australia so that they can have access to equity and developmental finance and venture capital to establish themselves more effectively.

Austrade and Ausindustry

Senator TEAGUE—My question is directed to Senator Cook, Minister for Industry, Science and Technology. Does the minister not agree that the success of Australian exports and Australian trade are too important to remain in any confusion following the white paper? I ask the minister to explain the relationship between Austrade and the new body, Ausindustry. I ask him more specifically to explain the limitations on the Minister for Industry, Science and Technology to prevent him interfering in Austrade, for instance, through the board or in any other way. What are the limitations on the minister? In his public statements of recent days, what does he mean by 'compromise' and 'seamless collaboration'?

Senator COOK—I understand that my colleague Senator McMullan answered a similar question to this yesterday. Having read in *Hansard* the question and the answer provided by Senator McMullan, I endorse absolutely what he said. There is no confusion in the community about the creation of Ausindustry. There is no confusion in the community about Austrade. To premise a question on whether I will dispel the confusion is to premise it on an illusion or an invention of the honourable senator's. I say that with force and certainty because in recent days I have been talking with Australian industries all around this country and not one of them has raised any question about confusion at all.

Senator Teague—Try the press—all of them up there.

Senator COOK—There is no confusion in the press gallery, either. If those opposite want to come to grips with the subject in depth, I can offer them the papers. A simple reading of the papers will dispel any confu-

sion that there might be in Senator Teague's mind, too.

Let me go over the arrangements. Ausindustry is an office established within the Department of Industry, Science and Technology which will be the domestic deliverer of industry programs from whatever portfolio in this government as a single or first stop shop for simple access by Australian business to programs provided by the government.

There remains one area of negotiation to complete, and that is how we fit it around the NIES arrangements with the state governments. I have talked to the state ministers about this. The state ministers have been welcoming the initiative of Ausindustry. Overwhelmingly, business has as well. Business has because it sees this as a way of simple entry and total access. There will be a simple entry point under the heading 'Ausindustry' and total access to the whole sweep of government programs, irrespective of department, at a domestic level. This will be overseen by a private sector appointed board to ensure that it works efficiently, non-bureaucratically and in a way in which business can access and use those programs for the purposes that are set.

Perhaps the confusion that Senator Teague is referring to relates to the fact that Senator McMullan and I will constitute a board, the National Board of Industry, Trade and Investment, in which we will put the various assets of our portfolios—in Senator McMullan's case, Austrade, which remains of course in his portfolio, and, in my case, EFIC and Ausindustry.

Senator Teague asked about a seamless web; he asked about compromise. I do not quite know what he means by 'compromise' because there are no compromises here. This government has a vision to provide to Australian companies a seamless web of interchange between Ausindustry and Austrade all the way through to the marketplace. This will function without there being any bureaucratic delay; it will function smoothly within a total concept; and it will function in a way in which the two portfolios operate very closely together to delight our customer—in this case,

the Australian business community—and ensure that it gets access to its market.

Senator TEAGUE—Mr President, I ask a supplementary question. As a former minister for trade, I am sure Senator Cook knows that this chamber wants export growth to succeed, it wants Austrade to succeed and it wants Ausindustry to succeed. We do not want confusion. The minister has not addressed the question of what limitations there are on the minister for industry not to over-interfere with Austrade; not, through the board, to run Austrade; and to win in respect of his desire some months ago to have Austrade entirely in his own portfolio.

Senator COOK—Austrade works under its own private sector board and ministers therefore do not interfere in the administration and operation of Austrade. The board provides the strategic plan; ministers approve that. Ministers consult from time to time and ministers appoint board representatives for Austrade. But Senator McMullan is the responsible minister for Austrade. What the National Board of Industry, Trade and Investment does is cause Senator McMullan and me to run jointly the assets of Austrade, Ausindustry and EFIC in a holistic manner on a basis agreed between us collaboratively. That is the way in which the whole thing functions.

Maybe in the coalition it is hard to conceive of cooperation between ministers, given the deep divisions riven in its ranks, but on our side of this chamber it is very easy to conceive of it, and Senator McMullan and I will be working to that end.

Senator Vanstone—Your time is up.

The PRESIDENT—Senator Vanstone, I will determine when time is up.

Senator Vanstone—Mr President, I raise a point of order. It is not a matter of your personal prerogative when time is up at all. Time is up when time is up. If you cannot follow the standing orders, we can.

The PRESIDENT—There is no point of order. If you believe that I am not allocating the time properly, you should rise to a point of order. You do not yell it out; that is

a disorderly way of doing it. I ask you to rise on a point of order if you think that is so.

Employment: White Paper

Senator WEST—My question is directed to the Minister for Industry, Science and Technology. Given that the Working Nation statement, announced last week by the Prime Minister, calls on all elements of Australian society to work together in a concerted national effort to create employment opportunities for the unemployed, and that the business sector has a key role to play in this process, what has been the reaction of industry to this concept?

Senator COOK—The short answer is that industry has been overwhelmingly and uniformly positive to the white paper as a whole, to the industry elements of the white paper and, so that I am not asked another question by Senator Baden Teague, to the industry and trade elements of the white paper. It has been very positive indeed. Rather than describing the reactions I received at meetings I have held in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and Perth, let me allow members of the business community to speak in its own voice by quoting from its official press releases in response to the white paper.

The release from the Business Council of Australia by Ivan Deveson, the chairman of the Human Resources Panel, is very fulsome. I will not go into all of that. Mr Ian Spicer, the Chief Executive of the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said:

The Industry element of the package signals a significant shift towards better coordination of government efforts to enhance the capabilities of firms and remove impediments.

He goes on to say:

Initiatives to improve access to finance, innovation, government purchasing and fostering an effective networking infrastructure will help address the major constraints identified in recent reports.

ACCI along with its member organisations will utilise its own unique national business Network to work cooperatively with government in these new initiatives.

Senator Vanstone—Is that all he had to say?

Senator COOK—If I read his statement in full, those opposite would see that he had a

lot more positive things to say. Mr David Edwards, the Chief Executive Officer of the Victorian Employers Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said, among other things:

... changes to government purchasing policy where a national procurement plan will be established, will increase the access that Australian companies have to government contracts.

This initiative combined with the AUSINDUSTRY proposal, will lead to a greater understanding of government activities and the services offered by government to business, particularly small business.

There is no confusion there. It is an outright and direct endorsement. Mr Philip Holt, the Chief Executive of the Chamber of Manufactures of New South Wales, said, in part:

The helping hand for the long-term unemployed extended in today's Government White Paper is also in the best interests of industry ...

Bert Evans of the Metal Trades Industry Association stated:

MTIA regards the Government's White Paper, "*Working Nation*", as a constructive contribution to public policy, one which provides new directions for industry policy while genuinely attempting to address unemployment.

The Paper's recognition that Australian industry is now part of the international market place and that this requires new and very different industry policy approaches is strongly supported and reaffirms and builds on the Prime Minister's statement made in April last year that Australia must become a "*creative, innovative manufacturing nation in the front rank of trading nations* ..."

The Small Business Coalition said:

Small and medium enterprises appreciate the effort that the Government has made to address a number of issues that are significant impediments to growth and employment creation.

It goes on to laud the white paper. I have quoted from comments by the Business Council, the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Victorian Employers Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Chamber of Manufactures of New South Wales, the Metal Trades Industry Association and the Small Business Coalition.

Senator Vanstone—Selectively.

Senator COOK—Might I say that not only have I quoted accurately from all of these, but I have caught the tone, the nature and the atmosphere of the comments made so that this

is a true characterisation of the responses. The only reason the opposition would appear to be wanting to interject and distract attention from this is that it hates the fact that the business community has come forward and endorsed this government and this white paper. (*Time expired*)

Senior Labor Figure: Allegations

Senator BOSWELL—My question is addressed to the Minister representing the Minister for Justice. Yesterday I asked whether the Minister for Justice or the Attorney-General had been briefed by the National Crime Authority or the Federal Police on the CJC investigation of organised crime involving one of Australia's most powerful Labor figures and a prostitute. The minister replied that neither the Australian Federal Police nor the National Crime Authority was 'investigating any allegations relating to the person involved', nor had the Federal Police 'provided any assistance or information', nor had it been requested by the Queensland authorities. This did not answer my question. I ask again: has the Minister for Justice or the Attorney-General been briefed on the matter by the Federal Police or the National Crime Authority?

Senator BOLKUS—There seems to be a continuation of this perverse interest on the other side. In answering the question yesterday, I told Senator Boswell that my understanding of the operations of the CJC is that it is governed by privacy provisions. One of those provisions ensures that information cannot be released by the CJC to any other body. By implication, that means no-one else has been briefed, but I will double check that for Senator Boswell and let him know.

Senator BOSWELL—Mr President, I ask a supplementary question. In this investigation have any resources of the National Crime Authority, including its surveillance resource, been applied jointly with the Criminal Justice Commission or any other law enforcement agency in Queensland?

Senator BOLKUS—I made it very clear yesterday, and Senator Boswell made it clear in his question today when he quoted what I said yesterday, that the NCA has not been in-

involved. Why does Senator Boswell not get on to something better, some issues that might be of concern to people? Why does he trawl in the Bob Katter gutter, following Grant Tambling? This sort of issue gives him a reputation that, knowing him, he does not deserve.

Child Care

Senator CARR—My question is addressed to the Minister for Family Services. She would be aware of recent controversy concerning apparent claims by Penelope Leach that formal child care has a negative effect on children. I ask: in the light of the most recent research by the Australian Institute of Family Studies into this matter, and given the Commonwealth government's policy of regulated child-care services, what is the minister's response to the claim that formal child care has a negative effect on children?

Senator CROWLEY—Most senators would have seen some of the commentary about both Penelope Leach's book *Children First* and the report recently from Gai Ochiltree of the Australian Institute of Family Studies. I note that the senators who want to quote Penelope Leach are not nearly so interested in quoting Gai Ochiltree. If they are serious about looking at what is the best care for children, it behoves them to quote both. Senator Herron said in this place yesterday that the best child care is given at home by parents. That is a bland statement with which it is very difficult to agree or disagree. He might want to ask children who live in families where there is violence, or at home when there is assault, or whose parents are—

Senator Alston—Are they in the majority?

Senator CROWLEY—Those opposite can talk about majorities, but the facts are that the quality of care is what is most important, according to these reports. The research from Gai Ochiltree has examined 40 years of child-care research documents. It shows that the most important factor is the quality of care, whether that is care provided at home or at child-care establishments. That is why, in recognition of that, I find the Australian Institute of Family Studies report very important because it supports so well the accredita-

tion program we have introduced into child care.

It is very important to note the importance of that accreditation program, particularly in the light of the nonsense that went on in this place about whether or not we should introduce it. It is the quality of care—whether it is provided by the parent or in the child-care centres—that makes the difference. It is very important in our policies that we support and promote choice for parents. We do not support judgment—judging whether people who make choices are right or wrong. That is what the opposition is doing, and that is what the Australian Family Association is doing. It says that parents who make certain choices are bad, and that they are bad because they are abandoning their children to less than good care. This research shows that that is not the case. I certainly suggest that the opposition would be much better off supporting parents in making those choices and supporting quality of care—both at home and in the child-care arrangements—than by damning parents and condemning them.

Senator Newman—You put the costs on parents to make it less affordable.

Senator CROWLEY—It is also interesting that I have never heard Senator Newman, for one, come in here and criticise occasional care, which parents at home often use. It was designed for them.

Senator Newman—Which I have used myself.

Senator CROWLEY—The parents at home who use kindergarten—

Senator Newman—And after school child care.

Senator CROWLEY—The parents who use occasional care and all of those sorts of care—

Senator Newman—And occasional care.

The PRESIDENT—Order! Senator Newman, there is one person answering this question.

Senator CROWLEY—Thank you, Mr President. The quality of care—the child care provided in those places—the opposition neglects to mention.

Senator Newman—Never have, and our policy spells it out.

The PRESIDENT—Order, Senator Newman!

Senator CROWLEY—Those places are designed to assist parents precisely because we recognise that parents do want that respite care, that backup care, that complementing care to the care they are provided at home, and sometimes care for when they are in the work force. It would be much better for the opposition to read Gai Ochiltree's invaluable piece of research, put it with the contribution that Penelope Leach has made, and remember that it is better to support choice than to sink into motherhood statements and/or cheap judgments.

Australian Customs Service: Mr Frank Kelly

The PRESIDENT—I call Senator Ferguson.

Senator Gareth Evans—I ask that further questions be placed on the *Notice Paper*.

The PRESIDENT—I have called Senator Ferguson.

Senator Gareth Evans—Oh!

Senator Alston—Mr President, I rise on a point of order. I cannot imagine you would tolerate that behaviour on this side of the chamber. I would have thought that if there is to be respect for the chair, and you expect all sides to acknowledge your role, the least that our slow-moving friend could do would be to give you an unequivocal apology.

The PRESIDENT—I would have thought that I am not getting much respect from either side of the chamber. I have called Senator Ferguson. I do not require an apology.

Senator FERGUSON—My question is directed to the Minister for Small Business, Customs and Construction. I refer the minister to the appointment of the former Comptroller-General of Customs, Mr Frank Kelly, to an adviser's position in DITARD and the subsequent disallowance by the Senate of the pay determination relating to this position. I ask: is it a fact that Mr Kelly has never taken up this position negotiated in February in return for his resignation as Comptroller-General of

Customs? Is it a fact that he is currently an unattached SES band 3 officer once again within the Customs Service? Can the minister give an assurance that Mr Kelly will not, under any circumstances, be appointed to a top management position either now or in the future within the Customs Service?

Senator SCHACHT—I know Senator Ferguson has been a devotee of a witch-hunt against a particular public servant, but I have to say that this question and its imputation really go to a new low level. Mr Kelly, as explained to Senator Ferguson on innumerable occasions, resigned the job of comptroller-general but did not resign from his position in the Public Service. He was fully entitled to stay in the Public Service. He is still a member of the Public Service at his substantive level, as I understand it, of deputy secretary. At the moment, he is unattached to the Customs department.

The pay level position of Mr Kelly was rejected by the Senate. As a result, the position for Mr Kelly, as outlined, was based on a position and salary level equivalent to the level of a secretary to a department. Mr Kelly's future is a matter for discussion between the head of my department and the head of Customs. As I understand it, at the moment, he is on accumulated annual leave, which he is entitled to under the Public Service Act.

Senator Cook—Why don't you try to take that from him?

Senator SCHACHT—Those opposite may wish to take that off him, but he is on accumulated annual leave, to which he is entitled. As I understand it, discussions and negotiations are taking place between the head of my department, the new head of Customs and Mr Kelly. At the appropriate stage, an announcement will be made in accordance with the Public Service Act. Those opposite may have had a victory in the Senate in blackening Mr Kelly's name and reputation beyond all reason, but there is nothing improper happening now. He has not taken up the job because the job had been designed as the equivalent of a secretary's level and those opposite rejected the salary at that level. Now he is at

his substantive level as a deputy secretary unattached to the Customs department.

Senator FERGUSON—Mr President, I ask a supplementary question. Given that the government rightly made the decision to replace Mr Kelly and given the minister's own statement on 26 April that it is necessary to change the culture and organisational structure within the Customs Service, and that there would be 'a new top management', how can the minister tolerate a situation where the former head of the Customs Service may still have an opportunity to influence the new course and direction of the Customs Service? I ask again: can the minister give an assurance that Mr Kelly will not be given one of these top management positions?

Senator SCHACHT—I have to say we certainly cannot win! If I interfered with the proper Public Service determination to appoint an SES level officer—a deputy secretary—those opposite would be in here screaming that I was interfering and breaking all the provisions of the Public Service Act, interfering with the deliberations of the Public Service Commissioner and so on. I will not interfere in any way that Senator Ferguson suggests or implies in that supplementary question. It is a matter for discussion and negotiation with the appropriate Public Service officers, and that is what they are doing at the moment. I think Senator Ferguson, with all due respect, should get off gnawing this bone about Mr Kelly, because I think he has gone way beyond what is reasonable in natural justice terms about Mr Kelly's future.

Senator Gareth Evans—Mr President, I ask that further questions be placed on the *Notice Paper*.

PARLIAMENTARY VIDEO

The PRESIDENT—Yesterday, Senator Campbell raised some questions in the Senate following my statement announcing that the Speaker and I had agreed to a proposal by the Parliamentary Education Office for a new video on parliament to be produced by ABC TV Marketing. These questions related to the tenders received for this project and to the wider issue of whether government companies

enjoy advantages over private companies when competing for government contracts.

In relation to the tendering for the video on parliament, I offer the following information. A selective tendering process, in accordance with current purchasing guidelines, began in November 1993. The firms invited to tender were Film Australia, Ryebuck Media, NRS Group and ABC TV Marketing. Ryebuck Media is an independent educational media company based in Melbourne, which has twice won competitive tenders to produce videos for the Parliamentary Education Office. The NRS Group is a private Canberra firm.

In considering the tenders, the selection panel took into account the creative ideas presented to it, the potential offered by the proposed theme and script and the relative experience of firms undertaking work of this nature. The prices quoted for the video by each of the four firms were within a close range of each other, and for this reason had no significant bearing on the decision made by the selection panel. The ABC was successful because, in the panel's opinion, its proposal was the best and because it has a proven capacity to undertake this type of work.

As to the broader question of the commercial operations of ABC TV Marketing, Senator Campbell would be aware that the charter of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation provides for its involvement in commercial operations. The extent to which these commercial operations are subsidised by exemption from the range of costs to which private companies are liable, and which were mentioned in Senator Campbell's speech, is a matter which I will refer to the Corporation for it to provide an answer. As I have indicated, the quoted price was not a significant factor in the award of this contract.

ADDITIONAL RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Midford Paramount

Senator COOK—In my capacity as Minister representing the Treasurer, I was asked a question by Senator Watson on 4 May about compensation paid to parties under the Midford Paramount case. At the time, I sought to put the question on notice and

obtain an answer from the Treasurer. I have now obtained the following answer:

Due to the secrecy provisions of the tax law, the Commissioner of Taxation cannot provide particulars relating to specific taxpayers.

I am informed that the compensation payments were assessed on the basis that they would be subject to the application of the tax laws.

The formal written advice of the Government's decision to offer compensation to each claimant stated that the compensation had been assessed on a pre-tax basis.

Any liability to tax in respect to those payments is a matter between the claimant and the Commissioner of Taxation to be dealt with under the tax laws.

The following general principles apply to the taxation of compensation payments.

A lump sum payment made to an individual to compensate for the loss of income earning capacity is not taxable as ordinary income.

A lump sum paid as compensation or damages for any wrong or injury suffered by an individual to his or her person or in his or her profession or vocation is also not subject to capital gains tax.

Capital gains tax will also generally not be payable on amounts paid, as part of the compensation package, to reimburse an individual for specific expenses, such as legal expenses, incurred by the individual in connection with the claim.

Amounts paid in substitution of lost income is of an income nature and is subject to income tax.

Organised Crime

Senator BOLKUS—On 23 March 1994, Senator Vanstone asked a number of questions about a paper by the AFP on organised crime in Australia. In respect of that paper, the Minister for Justice has provided the following answers:

1. The AFP advised that the paper was cleared at the assistant commissioner level;

2. No, a copy of the paper was not provided to the minister.

Parliamentary Triangle: Substandard Buildings

Senator BOLKUS—On 3 May 1994, Senator Ian Macdonald asked some questions in respect of the buildings on the lawns across the road in front of the old Parliament House. Mr Brian Howe, as minister responsible for that area, has provided the following answers to Senator Macdonald's questions:

I am aware of the buildings that Senator Macdonald has referred to.

2. The buildings were not legally erected. They were established without any form of approval by either the National Capital Planning Authority or the then managers of the land, the then Department of Arts, Sports, Environment and Territories. In March 1993 the NCPA, by then the managers of the land, issued a permit for the buildings under the Trespass on Commonwealth Lands Ordinance 1932. The permit has since expired and no permit currently exists. At no time has works approval under the Australian Capital Territory Planning and Land Management Act 1988 been applied for or granted.

3. No action is currently being taken to remove the buildings or to prosecute those responsible for their construction and maintenance. The NCPA is currently seeking clarification from the Australian Government Solicitor of the provisions in the Trespass on Commonwealth Lands Ordinance 1932 for the granting of permits on unleased Commonwealth land.

4. I have asked the National Capital Planning Authority to give a report on the buildings on what action is proposed and on whether the authority is interested in having the buildings removed.

Employment: White Paper

Senator COLLINS—I have got some brief additional information to add to an answer that I gave to Senator McKiernan during question time about the special annual supplement of \$50 million to CSIRO in the last triennium funding arrangements which I said had been attributed to capital works. That is correct, but the \$50 million was also spent on some additional research activity that had been identified in the 1989 science statement.

Employment: White Paper

Senator CROWLEY—Further to the answer I gave to Senator Patterson today, I have to add the advice provided to me by Minister Baldwin:

As part of the white paper employment strategy, it is intended to encourage women under 40 with no dependent children and older women with recent work force experience to remain in or re-enter the work force. That is because the work force experience of these women is likely to be much more substantial than for older women or those with children. The activity test will not be applied to women over 40 at 1 July 1995 unless they have had recent work force experience. In 1987, the government decided to phase out the widow B pension, and at the time the opposition supported that change. However, I understand that the

Minister for Social Security is now looking at the circumstances of older women affected by the phasing out of widows B pension.

Review of Government Services

Senator GARETH EVANS—In further response to Senator Margetts's question today, in particular her supplementary question, I refer her again to what I said in the course of my main answer, namely, that the chairperson of the review, Mr Scales, has indicated that he will accept and respond to written input from service users in the community and such written input will be drawn to the attention of all members of the work force undertaking the review so that, if consultation is sought during the review process, it will work in that way.

I can now add, moreover, that the review is at present considering the potential for the use of such indicators as client satisfaction surveys, hospital clinical indicators—for example, reinfection rates—and the distribution of school test scores to assess service outcome performance. Such indicators can be accessed without the need to undertake an extensive consultation process with service users and the community on the process of the review.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Employment: White Paper

Senator PATTERSON (Victoria) (3.16 p.m.)—I move:

That the Senate take note of the answer given by the Minister for Family Services (Senator Crowley), to a question without notice asked by Senator Patterson this day, relating to the application of the Jobsearch allowance to women.

The question I asked Senator Crowley was:

Is it the case that, under the white paper social security arrangements, widows and divorcees aged in their late 50s will be forced onto the jobsearch allowance and required to look for work, while spouses in their early 40s with no recent labour market experience will be eligible for the partner allowance and not required to look for work?

She could not answer that question. In this chamber she represents the Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Status of Women (Dr Lawrence) and the Minister for Social Security (Mr Baldwin), so I would have expected her to have known the answer to

that question. We on this side know that in 1987 the government put into force legislation which meant that over time the widow B pension would be phased out. Senator Crowley reminded us that the coalition supported that legislation. However, I remind people that those opposite are in government. At the time, Mr James Porter, the then shadow minister for social security, in his speech at the second reading stage of that bill, said:

Again, the Government is acting against the woman who marries young, raises her children and stays at home to care for those children. Once the mother reaches the age of 50 or 55 and has little or no income—her children have grown older and her husband has died—the Government says that she should not receive a pension. She is expected to go back into the work force. Of course, she will have few skills to enable her to go back into the work force and, if she does not, she will have to go on to the dole.

We expressed concern at that time. Now the situation is that, with the phasing-in, as of 1994, a 58-year-old widow will have to go on a jobsearch allowance and be involved in the activity work test and all that being on the jobsearch allowance involves.

With the new white paper, women who have a partner, either a spouse or a de facto, who are over 40 and who have not been in the work force or not had recent labour market experience will be eligible to take a partner allowance which would entitle them to \$265.30 paid fortnightly. A widow or divorcee in her middle to late 50s who is on the widows B pension and who is in the same situation of not having any recent work force experience will receive \$294.10 a fortnight and be on JSA, with no partner or spouse to assist her. Compare that with a younger woman in exactly the same situation—no recent work force experience but with a partner, a de facto or spouse—who will get \$265.30 a fortnight. That is the issue I want clarified, because the documents are so detailed.

How can the minister justify that significant discrimination against a woman who, through no fault of her own, has lost a spouse who has died? While the minister was on her feet, she was unable to explain why this anomaly exists. I found it amazing that she had to

spend the whole of question time on the phone to find out what I thought she would have known—that widows with no recent experience in the work force now have to be involved in work activities under the jobsearch allowance and yet a woman who chooses the partner allowance—she can choose JSA, as we read in the document; I do not know whether Senator Crowley would have been able to tell us that without briefing—gets a little under \$30 a fortnight less than a widow gets.

I want to know why the government did that. Why has the government got this complete anomaly? A woman in her early 40s is more likely to be able to find employment if she has been out of the work force for a while than a woman in her mid to late 50s. Surely the minister can understand that. I hope the Minister for Social Security addresses it soon because there is a grave anomaly here and the government should look into it immediately.

Senator HARRADINE (Tasmania) (3.21 p.m.)—I am not critical of the government's white paper in this particular respect. However, I have some problems when it relates to the income of single income families. I agree with Senator Patterson about this question of the widow's pension. I opposed the legislation in 1987. On 23 November last year I asked a question of the minister representing the Minister for Social Security, and I referred to a particular widow in my constituency of Tasmania. That lady is 50 years of age and was recently widowed after 33 years of marriage. She nursed her mother, father-in-law and husband through their terminal illnesses. She has raised four children and has 11 grandchildren and is currently involved in community work. The Minister for Family Services talks about choice. Fourteen weeks after this woman's husband died she was forced out into the paid work force. She had no choice.

The government repudiated what she had done for her own family and what she had saved this government. The government denied her the status of widowhood because it had introduced legislation which cancelled the widow's pension for her. For century after century widowhood has been a status which

has been recognised by the community. But the Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Status of Women, Senator Crowley, does not recognise that status for the first time in centuries. This government is not providing a choice for this woman or for thousands like her—and not only women in their early 50s but, as Senator Patterson said, in their middle to late 50s. The government is not giving these women any choice; it is forcing them into the paid work force. The government is forcing these women to compete for jobs with their own sons and daughters. Is that sensible? Is that fair? Is that just? It is crazy.

It is time that the Minister for Social Security had a look at this. In answer to my question the minister said that the government would have a look at it. Then I received a response from Mr Baldwin emphasising that the government would have a look at it. Nothing has happened. The Minister for Family Services comes in here and in a supplementary statement says that the government is going to have a look at it. It is about time that the government had a look at it and restored that status to women. They should at least be given a choice. If they choose to go on JSA, allow them to go on JSA. If they choose to retain the status of widowhood for the purposes of the widow's pension, the government should restore that which it has taken from them. Women are very disappointed. I have had letter after letter from widows who are very concerned about this matter, and they feel cheated.

Much has been said about what Ben Chifley did. I suppose I have had more experience of the Labor movement than almost anybody in this chamber and know a bit about what Ben Chifley said and did. I remind the chamber that it was Ben Chifley who, as Treasurer in the Curtin government in 1942, introduced the widow's pension. It is this government which has taken it away. I now appeal to the government to restore it in order to give dignity, choice and status once again to the widows of Australia.

Senator NEAL (New South Wales) (3.26 p.m.)—I would like to deal with the matter of the parenting allowance which has been raised.

Senator Patterson—It has not been raised at all. We are talking about the partner allowance. Get your facts straight.

Senator NEAL—A comparison has been made between moneys paid to women in their 50s and 60s and—

Senator Patterson—Nobody has mentioned anybody in their 60s.

Senator Gareth Evans—Let Senator Neal make her point.

Senator Patterson—You don't protect me, so why protect Senator Neal?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT—Order!

Senator NEAL—There is no reason to protect me.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT—I intend to, Senator Neal, whether you want me to or not. Senator Neal has the call.

Senator NEAL—A comparison has been made between the moneys paid to women in their 50s and 60s and moneys paid to women in their 40s. At present a parenting allowance is to be provided.

Senator Patterson—We haven't mentioned that.

Senator NEAL—I am quite free to mention things that those opposite have not mentioned. The parenting allowance is at a maximum of nearly \$130 per week and will be paid to one partner of an unemployed couple where there are dependent children under 16 years of age. Partners in low income families will receive on average a \$59 per week parenting allowance. This will be combined with the home care child allowance to ensure that families with one partner out of the work force catering for children will receive at least \$30 a week irrespective of family income. Essentially this is to deal with a growing problem that is being created by an ongoing situation of long-term unemployment of both partners within a family. This difficulty has existed for many years, long before this government came to office. However, steps are being taken to deal with the situation.

Yesterday and today we have had examples of the failure by opposition senators to recognise the positive things that have been done by this government in trying to meet the real

difficulties that face women in the community. At present we have a parenting allowance of \$133; a child-care rebate, effective as of 1 July 1984, of \$61.20 a week or up to that amount for two children. We have child-care assistance on a means tested basis of up to \$94 a week. In total in a year this assistance amounts to \$11 billion. That is what this government is doing for mothers and women in the community.

Senator Newman—I rise on a point of order, Mr Deputy President. I draw your attention to the fact that this is a time for taking note of answers. Senator Patterson took note of the minister's answer relating to partners' allowances and mature age allowances. Senator Neal is addressing a different allowance which we would happily debate at another time. However, I ask you to call her to order. She is meant to be addressing the answer given by the minister of which Senator Patterson is taking note.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT—Do you wish to speak to the point of order, Senator Neal?

Senator NEAL—I am addressing the general issue raised of financial support for families and women in the community. I believe that it is within the scope of noting the answer to the question.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT—In response, Senator Newman, the practice of the chair has been to allow wide ranging debate—to use that terrible expression—given the form in which it is intended. It has been the practice of the opposition to meander quite a way off the direct answer given by the minister. The President and I have held that it is a tolerance allowed, given that this is very often a substitute for an MPI.

Senator Newman—Mr Deputy President, may I speak to your ruling?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT—No, you cannot, Senator Newman. I have ruled on the point of order. If there is a further point of order you wish to raise, you may do so.

Senator Newman—Mr Deputy President, I raise the point of order that, while I recognise that you may allow a debate to take place over allowances for women, in this case

Senator Neal is talking about allowances for families. That is quite clearly a different issue from allowances for women, which was the subject of both the answer and Senator Patterson's taking note. I ask you to rule on whether Senator Neal can stray into the area of family allowances as distinct from women's allowances.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT—Thank you, Senator Newman. You are in fact canvassing my ruling. I have ruled, and I propose to maintain my ruling.

Senator NEAL—As I was saying, over the last year more than \$11 billion has been paid to women in association with their role as child carers. Since 1983 a half of this, \$5.5 billion, was transferred by this government from payments to men to payments to women. I think that this transfer of support to women is something we should be applauding. I am proud that this government has taken these steps.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Human Rights: Mr Hugh Crawford

Senator TAMBLING (Northern Territory) (3.31 p.m.)—I move:

That the Senate take note of the answer given by the Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs (Senator Bolkus), to a question without notice by Senator Tambling this day, relating to the consideration by the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission of a case of alleged sexual harassment.

The case of a Northern Territory union leader facing four allegations of sexual harassment is nothing short of a scandal in the way in which it has been handled by the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission in Darwin. The four cases, comprising two official complaints and two written statements to the commission, make serious allegations against Mr Hugh Crawford. Mr Crawford is the president of the Northern Territory Trades and Labor Council. He also works as an organiser for the Automotive, Food, Engineering and Metal Workers Union in Darwin. It is important to point out that Mr Crawford emphatically denies any allegation of impropriety and intends to defend his name.

The decision to raise this matter publicly was made by one of the women involved. She

is so concerned about her welfare and safety that she specifically requested that it be raised in federal parliament. She believes that the publicity will protect her and her family. Two of the women making allegations are members of the Australian Services Union. Earlier this year the branch secretary of that union, Mr John Gazzola, wrote several letters on their behalf. The first letter, on 8 February 1994, was addressed to Ms Jill Huck of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission in Darwin. I refer to the following three quotes. In the second paragraph it says:

Our Union writes officially to inform you that our NT Representative, Lucio, and our member, Dianna Lothian, are concerned about their welfare and safety. The ASU is also concerned for their welfare and safety.

In the third paragraph it says:

Lucio has been receiving nuisance calls at his home and our member Dianna Lothian has informed the Union that she has received calls asking for her to drop her case or an accident may happen to her children.

In the final paragraph it says:

We are extremely concerned for the welfare of Lucio Matarazzo, and our member Dianna Lothian.

The second letter dated 25 February 1994, again to Ms Huck, pleads for hearing dates to be set as soon as possible. Mr Gazzola highlights the urgency of the case, saying:

... the Commission must recognise that while the matter remains unheard it is having a detrimental effect on the health and welfare of those involved.

The third letter of 27 April 1994 to the Sex Discrimination Commissioner in Sydney again pleads for the complaints to be heard at the earliest opportunity. In this letter Mr Gazzola expresses concern that the Northern Territory regional director of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, Ms Jill Huck, is—

currently considering whether to exercise her power to decline the complaint—

He also notes that Ms Huck failed to reply to his letters. The *Australian* newspaper of 11 April this year reported the resignation of a female trade union leader in Darwin.

Apparently Ms Cathy Richardson, the technical branch president of the Automotive, Food, Engineering and Metal Workers Union, re-

signed in protest at her union's federal executive which had decided not to investigate an allegation of sexual harassment against Mr Crawford.

She added that she was 'unhappy and disillusioned' and that the union's federal secretary, Mr George Campbell, had ignored human rights guidelines and compromised union efforts to negotiate grievance procedures with employers in cases of sexual harassment. She told the paper:

To see absolutely nothing being done by an employer, which in this case happens to be a trade union, makes me wonder what chance we have in dealing with other employers.

I would like to place on record my concern that these cases against Mr Crawford have been caught up in unsatisfactory and unresolved administrative delays of the human rights commission in Darwin. I urge the commission to resolve the matters as soon as possible—I remind the Senate that the matters go back to January of this year—for the women's sake and for Mr Crawford's sake.

I am also concerned that the senior staffer of the commission is a person closely associated with the hard-core Left and with senior members of the Labor Party in the Northern Territory. We also need to acknowledge that this is an election year in the Northern Territory—a year in which political parties come under close scrutiny. The Australian Labor Party does not have a proud history. On this occasion the party has again revealed its darker side, ranging from union thuggery and manipulation to threats of physical violence against women and children and, finally, the denial of justice.

I sought earlier from the minister permission to table the correspondence that had been made available to me. He replied that he would be happy to do so except for the first letter, from which I have now quoted. I therefore seek leave to table the correspondence dated 25 February and 27 April to the human rights commission, the letter of 4 February from a lawyer to Mr Matarazzo, and an article from the *Australian* of 11 April. The minister has denied me the right to table the letter dated 8 February from the union to the human rights commission.

Leave granted.

Senator BOLKUS (South Australia—Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (3.37 p.m.)—Mr Deputy President, welcome to the start of the dirty tricks, at the federal level, of the Northern Territory 1994 election campaign. We all know the election is going to be held on 11 June. That is an open secret in Darwin. Senator Tambling has brought that dirty trick, Darwin-style, into Canberra; and that should be resented.

Since the time Senator Tambling raised this question, I have had the opportunity to get some information about the assertions. I say they are assertions because no substance has been given today to substantiate anything that Senator Tambling has said. All we have seen today is scandal, guilt by association, guilt by inference and allegations. Basically, we have seen a pretext for raising a matter to try to score some political points. There has been no substantiation of some of the assertions that Senator Tambling has made in terms of thuggery, threats of violence or whatever—none at all. They are just allegations.

In terms of the operation of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, the assertions that Senator Tambling makes that the commission is reluctant to handle this matter and that people are guilty by association are just totally objectionable to the way that we run government in this country.

I have been able to check the assertions. I have been able to check Senator Tambling's inferences, his allegations, his smearing of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission. I have been able to check his smearing of individuals working for that commission. Let me say that I have had advice from the Sex Discrimination Commissioner to this effect: a complaint involving Mr Crawford and the metal workers unions has been received; it is ongoing. I would imagine that we in this place would respect the fact that there is an ongoing investigation; and that investigation should be allowed to continue.

Senator Robert Ray—Who interfered? Nobody!

Senator Collins—Where's your proof?

Senator BOLKUS—The second point—and this goes very much to the point that Senator Ray and Senator Collins have responded to—is that I am advised by the commissioner that no interference or pressure has been brought to bear on the commission. No-one has contacted the Sex Discrimination Commissioner, directly or indirectly, regarding the matter. This has been confirmed by her Darwin officers. Senator Tambling ought to withdraw. That is what this should lead to. If Senator Tambling had any dignity, if he had any respect for his own reputation, if he had any respect for individuals, if he had any respect for the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commissioner, if he had any respect for any fair process of laws, he would withdraw and apologise. But he will not, because he is a grime. He will not withdraw and apologise; we know that.

Furthermore, let us go to this particular case. The Sex Discrimination Commissioner advises me that this matter is being handled in the normal way. Normally, it takes some six months to settle a case. This complaint was lodged just three months ago, and the commissioner has written to the parties involved—gee, Senator Tambling is looking like a real mug now—informing them that she will be in Darwin next week and will meet with the parties and deal with the matter.

There is no reluctance to handle the matter, no deferral of it, no interference, no thuggery, no conspiracy and no threats of violence from them as a Labor Party—none at all. But what is Senator Tambling getting into? He is getting into that sleaze of the gutter—behind the newspaper shed sleaze—that we are all quite used to him being involved in. That is what he is involved in.

Senator Panizza—Mr Deputy President, I raise a point of order. Associating Senator Tambling with the gutter and newspapers reflects badly on him and I think Senator Bolkus should withdraw it.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT—Senator Panizza, I think it is typical robust debate of a nature with which we have perhaps become too familiar in this chamber, but there is no point of order.

Senator BOLKUS—Mr Deputy President, every point of concern that Senator Tambling has raised is of no concern.

Senator Tambling—I represent my constituents.

Senator BOLKUS—What he has done in here is abuse his constituents, abuse their privacy and abuse their right to a process for base political purposes. Did they tell him to come in here and make assertions of thug-gery? Of course they would not have. Did they tell him to make assertions of people being sat on? I am sure they would not have.

What he has done in here in the context of an unannounced election—but, as we know, I can announce it today; it is to be held on 11 June in Darwin—is abuse his constituents, but, more importantly, abuse this process, this parliament and the sanctity of the Senate. He has also abused his reputation but, even more importantly, he has abused a very important institution in this country—the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission. He should withdraw; he should apologise.

In the interests of the professionalism of the people involved, those against whom he has thrown those slurs in politics and outside it, he and his colleagues in Darwin will be judged on 11 June for the sordid way that they have treated government there. We all know that Darwin is the gateway into Asia, but the current administration in Darwin gives that gateway a very grubby doormat, and Senator Tambling is part of that.

Senator Panizza—Mr Deputy President, I raise a point of order. Calling the government of the Northern Territory a grubby entrance into Asia is surely reflecting on that house, and I think Senator Bolkus should withdraw it.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT—It is not the sort of language that, frankly, is attractive in the chamber. In a normal circumstance I would be very tempted to ask the minister to withdraw it. It was in the context of debate, but if that sort of language is used in the future I will be asking the minister to withdraw it.

Senator BOLKUS—Mr Deputy President, on that point of order, I presume that when you made that ruling you also meant that in the future senators such as Senator Tambling will not be allowed to come in here and slur all sorts of individuals inside and outside of politics in the way that he has without restraint.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT—Order! Senator Bolkus, you know there is no point of order.

Senator Tambling—Mr Deputy President, I need to establish from you whether the minister is now prepared to allow me to table the letter of 8 February, which he previously denied me, which contains the following statement:

Our Union writes officially to inform you that our NT Representative, Lucio, and our member, Dianna Lothian, are concerned about their welfare and safety. The ASU is also concerned for their welfare and safety.

Does the minister now enable me to table that letter as well?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT—Senator Tambling, the answer is yes.

Senator COLLINS (Northern Territory—Minister for Primary Industries and Energy) (3.43 p.m.)—On the same issue, I got a bit of a mention while Senator Tambling was engaging in what has now become a fairly sorry practice for him. He has a well established reputation for it. Who could forget—and I certainly will not—the response of Senator Tambling to criticisms of his accusations a number of years ago that there was a black Mafia in existence in Australia? He accused the then head—I am sure Senator Cooney will recall this—of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Charles Perkins, of being the head of it.

Senator Tambling—Get your facts right.

Senator COLLINS—It is on the record. He got himself the headline that he was looking for. I have waited in here for an hour for nothing—as I should have expected—for proof of a conspiracy that Senator Tambling breathlessly told us all he was going to lay on the table during this five minutes, but he has not done so. What was Senator Tambling's

response then when it was proved that those accusations were nothing more than cheap headline hunting in an election context and that there was no proof? He said on the public record, 'Yes, it's true. I concede I have no evidence that a black Mafia exists in Australia, but I had to say that to attract the attention of the press gallery.' Who could forget that? We do not often have politicians who convict themselves out of their own mouths, but on that occasion Senator Tambling—

Senator Tambling—Get your *Hansard* out.

Senator COLLINS—I would be happy to drag it out for Senator Tambling, and his public statement that he knew it was wrong when he said it. Today he made a shallow accusation, one absolutely without foundation, purely in the context of trying to pick up the traditional grubby points that people try to pick up in here when there is a state or territory election running. As I have observed in here on previous occasions, and it is a fact, honourable senators cannot successfully fight territory and state election campaigns in the Senate. It is not actually worth a vote. I do not know why senators keep bothering to do it, but that is what it is all about.

Senator Tambling made an accusation, protected by privilege of course—the good old coward's castle—here in the Senate that senior figures in the Labor Party in the Northern Territory had been engaged in a conspiracy to stop this investigation and impede the work of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission in the Northern Territory. Let me put the facts on the record. These concerns have been brought to my office. I have personally met with Lucio Matarazzo who, apart from being a factional colleague, also happens to be a friend of mine, and with the person who made the complaint. I gave them an hour of my time. I will be happy to repeat that if it is of any assistance to them. My office has been active in continuing to assist the people who have made these complaints—which have not yet been substantiated, I stress—to use the avenues that are available to them to press the complaints to a conclusion.

Senator Tambling knows perfectly well that there is no evidence whatsoever of any im-

proper pressure being placed on the Human Rights Commission, as the minister has made abundantly clear today. Senator Tambling's disgraceful allegations in question time today made under the protection of parliamentary privilege—an abuse, might I say, in my view, of that privilege which should not be abused as it has been by Senator Tambling—are without any foundation whatsoever.

The minister has made it clear in here today and put it on the public record that there has been no interference with the Human Rights Commission operations in the Northern Territory with the investigation of this matter, and they are proceeding. But I want to make it absolutely clear that, in terms of these baseless allegations from this senator who has a proven track record of doing it in here again and again, my office and I personally have been involved in ensuring that the complainant, Mr Matarazzo, and the union will be given every assistance that can be given in using all of the avenues that are available to those people.

Senator Tambling—What about the women and kids?

Senator COLLINS—The concerns about the women and kids that Senator Tambling is raising once again have been made by the people concerned, but I stress again, not disparaging those claims, that there is no evidence offered at this stage that any of that is correct. The evidence that Senator Tambling so bravely stated would be laid on the table in here has not been laid on the table, and he has an obligation, as Senator Bolkus said, to apologise to the Senate and to the people that he has defamed in the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission in Darwin in the Northern Territory.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT—The time for consideration of this item has expired.

PETITIONS

The Clerk—Petitions have been lodged for presentation as follows:

Breast Cancer Research

To the Honourable the President and Members of the Senate in Parliament assembled:

The petition of the undersigned citizens of Australia:

(a) deplores the fact that six Australian women per day die from breast cancer and notes the possibility of contracting breast cancer is as high as one chance in 12 for Australian women;

(b) recognises the fact that breast cancer has the potential to affect every Australian family;

(c) recognises that there are inadequate research funds available to help combat breast cancer.

Your Petitioners ask that the Senate call on the Government to:

(a) increase funding for breast cancer research ten-fold (a minimum of \$14 million) in the 1994/95 Budget; and

(b) consider further initiatives through the tax system to encourage donations for breast cancer research.

by **Senator Crane** (from 64 citizens),

Senator Crowley (from 44 citizens),

Senator Sandy Macdonald (from 523 citizens),

Senator Ian Macdonald (from 29 citizens) and

Senator Woods (from 90 citizens).

Chemical Registration

To the Honourable the President and members of the Senate in Parliament assembled:

We the undersigned respectfully call upon the Federal Government to introduce legislation that will require the National Registration Authority to provide all available information on registered chemicals.

by **Senator Bell** (from 104 citizens).

Mabo

To the Honourable the President and Members of the Senate in Parliament assembled:

We, the undersigned citizens of Australia, respectfully submit that:

The High Court's Mabo decision has caused division and dissension, uncertainty, resentment and economic damage in Australia.

Mabo will not solve the social, educational, housing and other problems of Aboriginal people.

Mabo is an attack on our Federal system of government, under which the absolute control of Crown lands and management of land titles have always rested with the States.

The only solution to Mabo is a referendum of the Australian people for a law to overrule the High Court and re-establish equal land rights for

all Australians, under the normal procedures of State and Territory laws.

And we strongly urge the Senate to reject any other proposed solution.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

by **Senator Crane** (from 142 citizens).

Road Funding

To the Honourable the President and members of the Senate in Parliament assembled:

The petition of the undersigned show:

We the undersigned citizens respectfully submit that the current arrangements for federal road funding discriminate savagely against Victoria.

The petitioners note particularly that:

Victorians contribute about 27% of federal fuel excise revenues

More than 27% of freight movements occur on Victorian roads

However, Victoria over the last decade has received less than 20% of total funds available. This means that major investment funds are not available to upgrade deficient roads and create an efficient road network.

Your petitioners therefore request that:

The Federal Government ensure that Victoria receives its fair share of funding for existing and proposed national highways—at least \$220 million in the next financial year.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

by **Senator Kemp** (from seven citizens).

Army Training Manual: *Aid to the Civil Power*

To the Honourable the President and Members of the Senate assembled in Parliament. The petition of the undersigned respectfully sheweth that:

1. The Army training manual entitled *Aid to the Civil Power* is counter to Australian and international covenants on civil liberties.
2. This manual threatens the human rights of Australians and is an attack upon the democratic rights of the citizens of this country.
3. We call on the Government to hold an open public enquiry into this document to establish how and why it was thought necessary to train Australian Army personnel in illegal and undemocratic procedures.
4. We seek assurances from the Government of community input and access to any document relating to Australian Defence Personnel

involvement in civil protest or industrial disputes.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

by **Senator Childs** (from 452 citizens).

Petitions received.

NOTICES OF MOTION

Business Migration Program

Senator COULTER (South Australia)—I give notice that, on the next day of sitting, I shall move:

That the Senate—

(a) notes:

- (i) the inclusion of 1 000 business migrants in the program announced on 9 May 1994, and
- (ii) the failure of the former business migration program in which money sometimes failed to remain in Australia;
- (b) considers that those who have made their considerable fortunes in other countries and who are prepared to shift their wealth to Australia have shown a greater loyalty to the protection of their wealth than to any particular country and are very unlikely to show any loyalty to Australia; and
- (c) calls on the Government to scrap any proposal in which Australian citizenship is for sale to the greedy and, if there are an additional 1 000 places available for migrants, to allocate these positions to refugees.

Regulations and Ordinances Committee

Withdrawal

Senator COLSTON (Queensland)—Pursuant to notice given at the last day of sitting, on behalf of the Regulations and Ordinances Committee, I now withdraw the business of the Senate notices of motion Nos. 3, 4, 5 and 6 standing in my name for four sitting days after today.

Australian Trade Commission Amendment Bill 1994

Senator ROBERT RAY (Victoria—Minister for Defence)—I give notice that, on the next day of sitting, I shall move:

That the following bill be introduced: A Bill for an Act to amend the Australian Trade Commission Act 1985.

Excise Tariff Legislation Amendment Bill 1994

Senator ROBERT RAY (Victoria—Minister for Defence)—I give notice that, on the next day of sitting, I shall move:

That the following bill be introduced: A Bill for an Act to amend legislation relating to duties of excise.

US Trading Policies

Senator BROWNHILL (New South Wales)—I give notice that, on the next day of sitting, I shall move:

That the Senate—

(a) notes:

- (i) the stand taken by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in a recent departmental report in which it attacks discriminatory United States (US) trading policies,
- (ii) that the report lists complaints about US trade barriers to Australian agriculture, steel, wine and beer, and
- (iii) that the balance of trade between the US and Australia is massively in favour of the US and, at \$8 billion, is our largest bilateral trade deficit; and
- (b) calls on the Government to continue to highlight this imbalance to US officials and press them to match their rhetoric of a fair and free trading environment with meaningful trade reforms.

Employment: White Paper

Senator TIERNEY (New South Wales)—I give notice that, on the next day of sitting, I shall move:

That the Senate—

- (a) condemns the Labor Government for all but ignoring regional Australia in the White Paper on employment and growth released on 4 May 1994;
- (b) notes:
 - (i) with dismay, that the greatest shortcoming of the White Paper is its treatment of rural areas, and
 - (ii) that the recommendations of recent expensive reports into regional Australia have not been addressed;
- (c) calls on the Labor Government to address the serious unemployment in regional areas, which is standing at 16.4 per cent in Newcastle and 17 per cent on the north coast of New South Wales;

- (d) objects to only 4.1 per cent of the spending in the White Paper being directed to regional development;
- (e) condemns as inadequate the paltry \$70 million over 4 years for regional infrastructure announced in the White Paper; and
- (f) urges the Labor Government to stop ignoring regional Australia and show some concern about the welfare and future of all Australians.

Prime Minister: Piggery

Senator MICHAEL BAUME (New South Wales)—I give notice that, on the next day of sitting, I shall move:

That the Senate—

(a) notes that:

- (i) Danmeat Pty Ltd is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Danpork Properties Pty Ltd, which is owned by Mr Keating's former piggery joint venturer, Danpork AS of Denmark, and has never filed an annual return with the Australian Securities Commission (ASC) since its formation in July 1992,
- (ii) Danmeat Pty Ltd delayed filing its financial statement for the 1991-92 financial year with the ASC until April 1994, many months after the due date for the return, even though it had been available for filing, but not filed, for 11 months, having been signed by the auditor in May 1993, and
- (iii) Danmeat Pty Ltd's belated accounts show land and buildings costing \$831 516, although a search of the NSW Land Titles Office reveals that the only property held in NSW at that time was one adjoining the Brown and Hatton Parkville piggery which was purchased from Mr Keating's half-owned Belesdan Pty Ltd the day after the Danmeat Pty Ltd's formation in July 1992 for \$350 000, a price that gave a profit of \$230 000 to Mr Keating's Belesdan which had purchased it only 3 months earlier, and that another property in south Strathfield, out of which Danpork Australia Pty Ltd operates as a meat wholesaler, was purchased for \$490 767 but this was not until February of the following financial year; and
- (b) calls on the Danpork partners in the Keating piggery joint venture to explain why the companies in its group, including Danmeat Pty Ltd, Danpork Australia Pty Ltd and Danpork Properties Pty Ltd, have failed so

frequently to meet the ASC's requirements relating to the filing of annual returns.

Recycling

Senator BELL (Tasmania)—I give notice that, on the next day of sitting, I shall move:

That the Senate—

- (a) congratulates the Launceston City Council for conducting a survey of its residents to determine their attitude towards collecting recyclable domestic waste at the kerbside;
- (b) notes:
 - (i) that the survey reveals that 92 per cent of the residents would use a kerbside recycling service if it were available, and
 - (ii) with surprise, that the Launceston City Council intends to ignore the overwhelming message of its own survey which supports the findings of a similar survey conducted by the Australian Democrats almost 2 years ago; and
- (c) suggests to the Launceston City Council that the \$60 000 it intends to spend on an education program would be better spent on an implementation program because the residents have proven that they already appreciate the economic, social and environmental benefits of recycling.

Hindmarsh Island Bridge

Senator CHAMARETTE (Western Australia)—I give notice that, on the next day of sitting, I shall move:

That the Senate—

(a) notes that:

- (i) the Lower Murray Aboriginal Heritage Committee, representing the Ngarrindjeri people, is opposed to the construction of a bridge to Hindmarsh Island in South Australia, and
- (ii) despite this opposition, the South Australian Government has allowed bridge construction on aboriginal sites;
- (b) condemns the South Australian Minister for Aboriginal Affairs for, to quote his own words, 'authorising damage' to aboriginal sites; and
- (c) calls on the federal Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs (Mr Tickner) to take action to protect these special areas.

Uranium Mining

Senator COULTER (South Australia)—I give notice that, on the next day of sitting, I shall move:

That the Senate—

- (a) notes, with concern, the recent statements by the Prime Minister (Mr Keating) about uranium mining on Channel Ten's 'Meet the Press' program, where he said that the three mines policy should not be seen as set in stone;
- (b) recognises that uranium mining, being the first part of the nuclear fuel cycle that ends as nuclear waste, is totally contrary to both ecologically sustainable development and the moral principle of inter-generational equity;
- (c) acknowledges that nuclear waste is highly radioactive for a period 100 times longer than the longest-lived human dynasty; and
- (d) calls on the Prime Minister to abandon the three mine policy at the next Australian Labor Party conference and to replace it with a no uranium mine policy.

Regional Development

Senator SPINDLER (Victoria)—I give notice that, on the next day of sitting, I shall move:

That the Senate—

- (a) notes:
 - (i) the Australian Agricultural Economics Society seminar on regional development held on 9 May 1994 at the Brassey Hotel in Canberra at which the speakers were Professor Cliff Walsh, Ms Iola Mathews of the Australian Council of Trade Unions and Mr Gary Goucher of the National Farmers Federation,
 - (ii) in particular, the following themes which arose during the seminar:
 - (A) the importance of mobilising superannuation funds to invest in regional Australia,
 - (B) the need to recognise the maintenance and development of viable industries and communities based outside the major cities as an explicit social goal,
 - (C) recognition that Government has a role to play in paving the way for the shift of economic capacity to regions where it will be best located,
 - (D) the need for a positive bias to encourage industries to locate outside the major cities, and

(E) the need to focus on transport and communications infrastructure and to ensure that the pricing policies of utilities do not discourage industry from locating in regional Australia; and

(b) calls on the Government:

- (i) to require superannuation funds to invest 1 per cent of their funds as venture and development capital,
- (ii) to reject calls for low-wage regions,
- (iii) to increase substantially its investment in regional infrastructure, and
- (iv) to address cost biases acting against country areas in fuel and utility pricing.

Education Funding

Senator BELL (Tasmania)—I give notice that, on the next day of sitting, I shall move:

That the Senate—

- (a) notes:
 - (i) recent reports of Tasmanian school children being charged for assaulting a teacher, and
 - (ii) reports of incidents relating to drug usage in Tasmanian schools being referred to police;
- (b) recognises that such actions are the inevitable result of the cuts to education funding perpetrated by this Labor Government, aided and abetted by the Coalition; and
- (c) calls on the Government to restore schools' support and funding to levels that will properly address the serious decline in numbers of teachers, and enable the re-establishment of proper and traditional notions of responsibility, respect and authority.

Australian Democrats

Senator PARER (Queensland)—I give notice that, on the next day of sitting, I shall move:

That the Senate notes that the Australian Democrats:

- (a) oppose nuclear power generation;
- (b) oppose coal-fired power generation; and
- (c) oppose hydro-power generation.

Tasmanian Electricity Supply

Senator BELL (Tasmania)—I give notice that, on the next day of sitting, I shall move:

That the Senate—

- (a) endorses the comments by the Tasmanian Minister for Energy (Mr Robin Gray) in dismissing proposals for a cable linking Tasmania's electricity supply to mainland Australia;
- (b) recognises that such a proposal would have had the almost inevitable result of encouraging Tasmania to return to policies of more and bigger dams at the expense of yet more areas of national parks; and
- (c) calls on the Tasmanian Government to instead establish an energy authority with a broader charter that could address the wider issues of energy, such as how to best promote an ethanol industry in Tasmania to reduce imports of leaded petrol.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Rwanda

Motion (by Senator Margetts) agreed to:

That general business notice of motion No. 777, standing in the name of Senator Margetts for this day, relating to the violence in Rwanda, be postponed till the next day of sitting.

COMMITTEES

Procedure Committee

Extension of Time

Motion (by Senator Robert Ray, on behalf of Senator Schacht) agreed to:

That the time for the Procedure Committee to report on ways in which the Senate committee system could be made more responsive to the composition of the Senate be extended to 31 May 1994.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Days and Hours of Sitting

Motion (by Senator Robert Ray, on behalf of Senator Schacht) agreed to:

- (a) That the Senate meet on Tuesday, 10 May 1994, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. to adjournment and on Thursday, 12 May 1994, from 9.30 a.m. to 6 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. to adjournment;
- (b) That the routine of business on Tuesday, 10 May shall be:
 - (i) Questions
 - (ii) Petitions
 - (iii) Notices of motion

- (iv) Postponement and rearrangement of business
- (v) Formal motions—discovery of formal business
- (vi) Any proposal to debate a matter of public importance or urgency
- (vii) Government Business
- (viii) At 7.30 p.m., Budget Statement and Papers 1994-95 (approximately 30 minutes)
- (ix) At the conclusion of the Budget Statement, consideration of Government documents for up to 30 minutes under standing order 61
- (x) Adjournment
- (c) That the routine of business on Thursday, 12 May shall be:
 - (i) Petitions
 - (ii) Notices of motion
 - (iii) Postponement and rearrangement of business
 - (iv) Formal motions—discovery of formal business
 - (v) Any debate on committee reports
 - (vi) Government Business
 - (vii) At 2 p.m., questions
 - (viii) Any proposal to debate a matter of public importance or urgency
 - (ix) Not later than 4.30 p.m., General Business
 - (x) Consideration of committee reports and Government responses under standing order 62
 - (xi) At 7.30 p.m., Budget Statement and Papers—party leaders to make responses to the document
 - (xii) Further consideration of General Business (if not concluded)
 - (xiii) Further consideration of committee reports and government responses under standing order 62 (if not concluded)
 - (xiv) Adjournment
- (d) at the conclusion of the business specified, the question for the adjournment of the Senate shall be proposed, and the procedures for the adjournment specified in paragraphs (b) and (c) of the sessional order of 2 February 1994 relating to the times of sitting and routine of business shall apply.

CASSELDEN PLACE BUILDING: LEASING ARRANGEMENTS

Senator CAMPBELL (Western Australia)

—I ask that general business notice of motion No. 771 be taken as formal.

Leave not granted.

Suspension of Standing Orders

Senator CAMPBELL (Western Australia) (4.01 p.m.)—Pursuant to contingent notice of motion standing in the name of the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, Senator Hill, I move:

That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent Senator Hill moving a motion relating to the conduct of the business of the Senate, namely a motion to give precedence to General Business notice of motion No. 771 standing in the name of Senator Campbell for this day, relating to the censure of the Minister representing the Minister for Administrative Services (Senator McMullan) and the Minister for Administrative Services (Mr Walker) in relation to an order for the production of a document.

Senator McMULLAN (Australian Capital Territory—Minister for Trade) (4.02 p.m.)—Obviously the government does not agree with the motion, nor do we actually consider there is sufficient urgency to warrant this course of action. But we understand that the course has support, so it is pointless having a half hour debate about whether we should have a debate. Let us pass this motion and then we will have our debate on the substantive motion.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Procedural Motion

Motion (by Senator Campbell) agreed to:

That General Business notice of motion No. 771 standing in the name of Senator Campbell for this day, relating to the censure of the Minister representing the Minister for Administrative Services (Senator McMullan) and the Minister for Administrative Services (Mr Walker) in relation to an order for the production of a document, may be moved immediately and have precedence over all other business till determined.

Motion

Senator CAMPBELL (Western Australia) (4.03 p.m.)—I move:

That the Senate—

- (a) censures the Minister representing the Minister for Administrative Services (Senator McMullan) and the Minister for Administrative Services (Mr Walker), for their joint contempt of the Senate in failing to comply with an order made on 5 May 1994 that documents be tabled containing information about the rental and the outgoings of leases between Commonwealth agencies;
- (b) rejects as absurd the Ministers' claims that such information involving Commonwealth agencies can be withheld from the Commonwealth Parliament because it is so confidential that parliamentarians may not have access to it;
- (c) reasserts its right to information and documents relevant to public expenditure as propounded in the spirit and tenor of numerous past resolutions of the Senate, in particular, information about leases where only Commonwealth agencies are involved and which the Government has no right to conceal from the Australian community or its representatives; and
- (d) resolves that the Ministers purge the contempt in which they have held the Senate by tabling, on or before 6 p.m. on 10 May 1994, the documents ordered to be tabled, namely:
 - (i) the effective net rental rates, and
 - (ii) the outgoing payable per square metre, in the Casselden Place building in Melbourne under the leases of the Commonwealth agencies called Projects, Interiors and Assets Services.

Effectively, this motion censures both Senator McMullan—the minister representing Mr Walker—and Mr Walker for failing to comply with an order of the Senate which was, quite simply, to have tabled by five o'clock, I think it was, last Thursday some relatively small details in relation to some leases of some Commonwealth agencies in a building owned by the Commonwealth government—namely, Casselden Place, which is in Melbourne. That order was not complied with. The second important part of the motion is that the Senate would resolve that the ministers purged the contempt of the Senate by, indeed, tabling that information by six o'clock this evening.

I do not want to delay the Senate by re-running the argument that we held here last week in relation to the reasons for wanting to see these documents tabled, but I want to go

to the principles involved in that order being breached. I might do that firstly by bringing to the Senate's attention a letter I received from Mr Walker, the Minister for Administrative Services, after, I think, the time that order expired. In that letter, which is addressed to me, Mr Walker said:

I understand that you moved a motion in the Senate this morning seeking information about lease arrangements for three DAS businesses at Casselden Place in Melbourne.

He went on to say:

As you know I provided to Senator McMullan a letter outlining my reasons for not agreeing to provide the information you requested.

He then reiterates his reasons in brief. He went on to say:

I gather that you may not have had adequate time to appreciate the points made in my letter before you moved your motion. I should therefore like to reaffirm the offer—

and so forth. The offer was to provide some general details about rent levels in these buildings and to provide them on a confidential basis. I wrote back to Mr Walker basically saying that the Senate had been made aware of the contents of the letter to Senator McMullan. Indeed, Senator McMullan I think read the letter to the chamber during that debate and tabled the letter. I know that, from speaking to, particularly, Senator Spindler from the Australian Democrats, he was well aware of the contents of the letter.

I quite politely informed Mr Walker, with a copy to Senator McMullan, that the contents of his letter were well and truly understood by the Senate and that the Senate had passed that motion requiring the documents to be tabled in full knowledge of the offer that had been made. I also reminded the minister that the Senate's resolution had been breached. One of the sad facts of this is that there has been absolutely no communication from either Senator McMullan or Mr Walker in all of that time that has passed since then. I actually went through the process of giving notice of this censure motion yesterday to allow some fundamental courtesies or sensible discussion to take place between the giving of notice yesterday and the actual moving of the censure today. However, none of that has occur-

red, and I suppose there may be reasons for that which I do not understand.

I want to quickly touch on the principles that I think are important here. We have, with the commercialisation of DAAS businesses and other entities of the Commonwealth government, created a conflict of principle—I think as Senator McMullan calls it—in allowing these government owned and operated service entities to compete in the marketplace fairly.

There is a genuine concern where we find the parliament having the power to ask those enterprises to table information, which may be of a commercial nature, that may or may not prejudice their operations in the marketplace. We then have the competing principle of the parliament having the right to know about—indeed, the responsibility to oversee—these operations to ensure that the taxpayers' money is being spent wisely and to ensure that they are properly accountable. It is quite an important responsibility, and one that cannot just be thrown away because these enterprises have moved into a commercial sphere of operation.

I have had the need to move return to order processes here in the last few months. The first was in relation to a question about Centenary House where I had a similar answer from Senator McMullan saying that some information that I had requested was commercial-in-confidence. I had to use the return to order process because I could not get the information out of the minister. We heard the very same arguments that Senator McMullan put up last week in relation to that return to order—that it would be commercial-in confidence and would prejudice things and so forth.

When Senator McMullan actually complied with the order of the Senate on that occasion, the information that was provided totally supported all of the doubts I had about it. I will remind the Senate that that was to seek information to prove that the Australian National Audit Office was actually paying to the Australian Labor Party at Centenary House the highest net effective rental negotiated anywhere in Australia at the time. Senator Murphy will remember this vaguely. I

actually put it to the Australian Property Group at an estimates committee that it should find me evidence of any lease negotiated anywhere in Australia in the last two years that was higher than Centenary House. I said, 'If you say that Centenary House isn't the highest rental—'

Senator McMullan—At least you are proving this is a political stunt.

Senator CAMPBELL—No, it is not. When the information was finally provided to me using a return to order it showed that the rentals that had been provided which, *prima facie*, looked higher than Centenary House were rentals for properties negotiated for a 10-year period with absolutely fixed rents—no increases, no nothing. In other words, rents negotiated in 1993, 1994 or whenever it was, fixed for the next 10 years. Basically, we had been misled by both the minister and the Australian Property Group. That made me extremely cynical about any assurance given to me by this minister and this government in relation to commercial confidentiality.

The next occasion was in relation to the Dasfleet car leases to the Transport Workers Union. On that occasion I had an offer to go to the minister's office, look at the agreement and get certain details. I accepted that offer very reluctantly on the basis that if I discovered that something was wrong, or that there had been a commercial subsidy or that the leases were not commercial, then I would have the opportunity to make those things public. I found some leases—Senator McMullan and I could have a debate about this for hours, but I do not seek to re-run that debate—that were grossly uncommercial, even to the extent that after assurances that commercial people leasing cars from Dasfleet paid sales tax, we uncovered the fact that they did not pay sales tax and would have to repay a quarter of a million dollars worth of sales tax.

Senator McMullan—You are deliberately misrepresenting the situation—and you know it!

Senator CAMPBELL—I am seeking to make a point and if I am being too political about it, then I am a politician and this is a parliament, and it is probably a good place to be political.

The point I want to make is that one of the offers we have had in relation to this is for me to go and have a confidential look at some documents again. The problem with that is that if I take up the offer, have a confidential look and am not satisfied by what I see, what do I do? If I come back here and say, 'I have just discovered some major fraud,' or, 'I have discovered a major maladministration,' Senator McMullan would put out press releases saying, 'Senator Campbell has rorted the truth again.' I would be putting myself in an invidious position.

It is an important principle that we are discussing and having confidential briefings in the minister's office is not the way to solve it. In the end, the Senate has got to make a sensible decision about the balance between accountability and the commercial interests of these commercialised bodies. If one is forced to make a decision as to where commercial interest or accountability lies, then any doubt should fall on the side of the accountability.

We are dealing here specifically with Casselden Place. The Commonwealth government built a building and leased it to a number of its agencies. I have severe doubts about how the government is using its money and managing its property in relation to leases to three of the agencies involved. Those three Commonwealth entities are: Interiors Australia; Australian Construction Services, which at the time the agreements were entered into was known as Projects; and Asset Services. All of them have entered into agreements. I believe that those agreements were initially entered into in about 1988 but, according to the minister's answer, the tenancies did not start until 1 December 1992. We found out subsequently that these new tenancy agreements commencing in 1992 received from the property adjustment scheme upwards of \$1.5 million in rental subsidies. We need to know all the information about these leases because, effectively, the property adjustment program was designed to help the transition of departmental agencies into their new commercialised environment.

I understand now, because I have had leaked to me the second part of a draft. I received an anonymous letter yesterday,

obviously from someone in DAS, telling me some of the background. It would have been quite helpful if it had been provided to the Senate, because it actually goes to the reasons why the property adjustment program came into place. The government, at least in this answer from the minister—which he did not agree with because he obviously crossed it out and did not want it given to me, but someone else did—basically says that the tenancy agreements were entered into in 1988. I presume they were agreements entered into prior to the construction of the building. That is possibly a reasonable explanation as to why the property adjustment program is being used in this circumstance.

The Senate needs to know all this information. We need to know whether the rents are fair; we need to know why the property adjustment program was used; we need to know what rents are being paid; we need to know how the outgoings in the building are being charged to the various bodies; and we need to know the details about any incentives or additional assistance that these bodies were given in moving into the building.

It does not reflect only on the entities that have moved into the building, it reflects also on the ownership of the building and the way that government property is being managed. If everything that I know is true, then the government is using all sorts of double accounting to make it look as though it is running its properties efficiently when it is not.

Again, I am falling into my own trap of arguing the case about the building and why I need to know the information. That, of course, is not the subject of this censure motion. The subject of the censure motion is that the minister has breached an order of the Senate. That is a serious offence. The Senate considered the points I put to it last week and made the decision to order the minister to table documents. The minister has breached that without any apology or explanation and without even seeking to have discussions, and that requires censure.

If the Senate loses its power to compel the executive to table these sorts of documents then we may as well go home. The Senate should consider this breach by the minister

representing Mr Walker and Mr Walker himself and, equally compelling in considering whether to censure these ministers, is Mr Walker's most arrogant assumption that the Senate misunderstood him and therefore passed the motion without properly considering his information.

Senator McMULLAN (Australian Capital Territory—Minister for Trade) (4.18 p.m.)—The one thing I agree with Senator Campbell about in his contribution is that this is a debate about conflicting principles and a difficult balance of principles that we have had several times before. I do not agree with what he said about the previous occasions but he has outlined the previous occasions on which we have had it.

There is one other thing that we also need to note which is that in recent times the Senate has taken to distributing censure motions rather like confetti. There was a time when they were very important, weighty matters which needed to be taken with extreme concern, because this was a product of the due deliberation of the majority of the Senate.

As Senator Campbell correctly said, this has always been a political chamber and there have always been political decisions, but I think in recent years the decisions have got more frequent, less relevant and more political. We now really have a process where, overlying a legitimate disagreement of principle, about which I wish to give my principal concern, we have a body of people making its political way by pursuing these issues here in the Senate in a very resolute and divisive way, and not accepting any reasonable alternative proposal that is put forward and continually raising these sorts of issues in the way that Senator Campbell does.

I think he entirely misrepresents Mr Walker's intention in this matter, and I want to deal with that in the main. For ministers representing other ministers it is always a difficult situation to be required to present things which are not in their possession and then to be censured for not presenting them when they do not have them. I am not seeking to distance myself one iota from Mr Walker, and I will not. I am simply saying that we have a rather bizarre element to all

this which needs to be taken into account. In the past when these matters came up they related to me in my capacity as minister directly, so that extra complication did not arise.

We have here a delicate question for the Senate to consider—not for the first time requiring a balance of judgment about conflicting worthy motives. There is no question that the issue of the Senate's and the parliament's right to receive information about the expenditure of public money is important. I have never challenged that. I think all the indications on the public record of things I have said and things I have sought to do would confirm that I regard that issue of accountability for expenditure of taxpayers' money to be an issue of great importance. But here we have a situation not where we are requiring to keep the information confidential from interested senators—the minister has said, 'If you want to come and look at this information I will make it available'—but where we are trying to keep it confidential from the competitors of these businesses.

There is no Chinese wall that says, 'We can make this information available publicly but not to the competitors of the businesses to whom it relates.' That is not possible. The public is comprised of, amongst others, the people who are the competitors of these businesses. So we cannot say, 'It is all right, we will make it available only to the Senate,' because if it is made available in the normal way it becomes public and becomes available to the competitors of these businesses.

We have a lot of talk in this place about competitive neutrality and about creating a circumstance in which there is no special advantage to public sector organisations now that we have required them to get out there and compete. I support sending them out there to compete. I have advocated it, and I have done a substantial amount about it. I accept that there is an inherent disadvantage—which Senator Campbell does not accept—on public sector enterprises because they have a greater obligation of disclosure and of accountability, and it costs them money to comply with that. It means that some of their results are published in a way that their competitors' results are not, and information about their operations

is available in a way that information about their competitors is not. I accept that. But that does not mean that everything that gives them a disadvantage, every bit of lead that we can put in their saddlebags, should be placed there. We have to exercise a balance.

I think most senators, and certainly the government, the minor parties and Senator Harradine, accept the legitimate role of public sector enterprises in our economy. I have heard them speak about it in different circumstances—not about these particular enterprises, but conceptually about the legitimate role of publicly-owned enterprises. Some senators have been passionate in their advocacy—as was implicit, for example, in the question from Senator Spindler today—and some of them at least are defending the right of public sector enterprises to exist and compete effectively.

We cannot have it both ways. If we say, 'We stand as people who, in a mixed economy, defend the legitimate right of the public sector' it does not mean that everything that is ever in public ownership has to stay there. If it did, we would still have government-owned butcher shops and hotels like we did in the 1920s, when they were needed. But there are enterprises operating in a particularly difficult context, which is within a departmental structure and not as separate corporate entities, where some of the accountability questions are still difficult—I instance the Telecoms and the statutory corporations—but where, nevertheless, the framework is more clearly established. Certainly, some of these enterprises—particularly Interiors, which is one of those in question—are very small enterprises. It is hard to envisage that the Commonwealth would spin off a public sector corporation of the size of a little outfit like Interiors, which is an interior decorating and design business. Some senators would be aware of it because one of the things it does, in competition with the private sector, is the layout of many senators' and members' offices. Such enterprises operate within a departmental framework and so have extra burdens of accountability and of disclosure.

But here we are saying, 'You have entered into a contract that is a significant part of the

cost of running your business. All the business you get you have to get by tender. You have to get it by putting in competitive bids. But everybody who is going to bid against you already knows the wage rates of your staff because that is public.' That is a disadvantage these enterprises have. The competitors already know that. They know the numbers of their staff because that is disclosed and that is a disadvantage they have compared to the others because that is all published.

Senator Spindler—A much larger one.

Senator McMULLAN—Not necessarily. Then we say, 'Now they are going to know essentially the last key element of your cost structure, which is the cost of the property in which you house yourself.' For a body like Interiors, that is essentially what it costs to run the business—the cost of employing people and the cost of renting the space for them. There really are not any other costs. There is probably a little bit of technology. If one wanted to check, one could probably find what that cost, too, but it is a tiny amount for an organisation like that. We say, 'Everybody knows your cost structure on which you are tendering, but you do not know anything about that of your competitors.' On the one hand, we say, 'We are advocates of your cause. We think the public sector enterprise has a legitimate right to participate out there competitively in a difficult, competitive environment, but you have to have this extra element of lead in your saddlebags.'

That does not mean that such enterprises are entitled to commit some sort of fraud upon the public or default on the taxpayers' money or whatever, but none of that is in question; it is not even alleged. Of course, all of these public enterprises are audited by the audit office every year. They are also entitled to have a legitimate review about how they are managing the taxpayers' money, how the people who own the property they are renting and they are managing the taxpayers' money; but that is all disclosed. The return that those companies make is reported every year; it goes to an estimates committee every year. They are asked, 'Did you make a profit? Did you make a loss?' All that is known. The

balance of all their activities is reflected in the report that Interiors or ACS or Assets might make.

I think the obligation of the executive, when it is in conflict with the legislature about the provision of information—where we say that this is not an appropriate occasion for the exercise of the legislature's powers of seeking information—is to seek to make as much of the information as possible available in an alternative way. We are not in the business of covering up.

Mr Walker has sought to do that. He wrote, effectively, to the Senate. He wrote a letter to me which, as all honourable senators know, I tabled in the Senate. That obviously was not sufficient because the Senate still carried a resolution, so he wrote another letter to Senator Campbell. It is true that he has not written any more—he has written only twice—but I think that is because those letters constitute, in effect, with the comments I made last time, the outline of the government's case. We could reiterate it as often as those opposite would prefer, but that remains the essence of our position.

We are in a difficult position. The executive is saying to interested members of the legislature, interested senators, but applying to members of the House of Representatives if they chose to exercise it, 'We will seek to make as much of this information available to you as possible, provided we can do it in a way that does not also make it available to all the competitors of these enterprises.' If those opposite want to put forward an alternative proposal about the way in which they would like this information made available so that they can have access to it and check whether some unreasonable course of action is being undertaken, but in a manner that does not make the information available to the competitors of those businesses, I am sure Mr Walker will take it up.

There has not been such a proposal and I have not discussed with Mr Walker what it might be because I cannot think of one that goes beyond that which we have already offered to Senator Campbell and which is implicitly available to all honourable senators. We made it explicitly available to Senator

Campbell because he is the one who has asked, but it is obviously equally available to others. So that is the balance. We are trying in good faith to say that we do have a dilemma; we are seeking a way to resolve that dilemma by saying we will make the information available to any interested member of the Senate or the House of Representatives.

Senator Campbell—It is not the offer that has been made.

Senator McMULLAN—I am simply saying that, if those opposite can think of an alternative form of making the information available that will not lead to disclosure to competitors, they should come forward with it, ask Mr Walker about it and see what can be done.

I think Mr Walker feels very strongly that we need to defend the legitimate interests of the people who manage and work in these enterprises. In the case of Interiors we are talking about a very small number, but in the case of the three enterprises altogether we are talking more than 1,000 Australian people out there trying to compete in a tough environment where at least one territory government refuses to allow them to tender on the grounds of sheer prejudice. It jeopardises the employment opportunities of all those workers because that government is prejudiced against them because they work for the Commonwealth government. They are fighting in a difficult environment and we are trying to defend their interests but in a way that we can go as far as we can in meeting the legitimate requests and desires of the Senate and senators. We will go as far as we can in seeking to do that.

In the course of this debate or subsequently, if somebody wishes to raise with Mr Walker alternative proposals, I cannot answer for him because they have not been put to him. I do not know his views on the particulars until we hear what they are; but I can say that I know that we would be open to a suggestion. Both of us—him directly, me indirectly through him—are being put in an extremely difficult position because we have both been involved with the political process. Mr Walker has been involved in the parliamentary process for a very long time, both in government and in

opposition. We both respect the legitimate rights of the parliament in a democracy and we do not want to be seen to be in conflict with that. But we do have the interests of 1,000 and more Commonwealth employees to protect and we intend to do that to the best of our ability.

That is the reason we have not provided the documents. It is the reason we find ourselves in a difficult position. I hope the Senate, in considering that, will not choose to pass this censure motion but will, rather, choose to defeat that and seek an alternative, more reasonable way of balancing these conflicting pressures.

Senator SPINDLER (Victoria) (4.33 p.m.)—The Australian Democrats will be supporting this censure motion. The central issue before the Senate today is that the Senate passed a motion requesting a minister to provide certain information. That motion was passed by a majority of the Senate after due deliberation and after consideration of a letter tabled by Senator McMullan representing the Minister for Administrative Services, Mr Walker. However, it is inevitable that in dealing with that, one also has to advert to some of the substantive details before the Senate. But it is basically a matter of process and procedure and the view that the Senate takes, and should take, of the refusal of a minister to comply with a resolution of the Senate.

I also received a letter from Mr Walker after the Senate motion was passed. I was, of course, aware during the debate of the letter that Senator McMullan had tabled. I looked at that letter and considered it very carefully, yet still voted for the motion that Senator Campbell put before the Senate. On balance, I came to the view that the Senate should, in this instance, receive all the details required and that public accountability overrode some of the other considerations which I acknowledged in the debate.

I did make the decision on balance. I did say that there were competing principles and that there was an element of commercial confidentiality involved. In particular, I believed it was in the area of not prejudicing the leasing of remaining vacant tenancies in

the building to other tenants, but I took the view, again on balance, that 87 per cent completely and legally let office space constituted substantial letting of the building in the current property market.

Mr Walker fastened on to those comments. He wrote me a letter saying that he thought we might be at cross-purposes and that if I considered that an element of commercial confidentiality was involved, he would like to pursue it further with me. He advised me that it was possible that further vacancies in the building would occur and that more than the 13 per cent of office space might have to be negotiated.

I do not think that that substantially detracts from the balance question and from the decision I made. I do not quite know why Mr Walker thought that it should. He was faced with a resolution of the Senate, made by a majority after consideration and I do not see how our parliamentary system can work if, once a resolution like that is passed, the responsible minister simply says, 'I don't agree with you. I'll continue to argue the point.' I do not think we can accept that.

One other matter that he raised that Senator McMullan today pursued in quite some detail is the commercial disadvantage we would saddle the three government owned businesses with if their rents became public knowledge. That is a furphy and a nonsense, and I can address that with some commercial background. In fact, to Senator McMullan's probable discomfort, I can advise him that I ran a business which included providing interior design and decoration advice and sale of furniture, as well as wall-hangings, paint et cetera.

I would not have cared a hoot if my competitors knew my rent outgoings in any business. Perhaps I should not draw the bow quite as widely as that. In a business of the type we are discussing the rent is a fairly minor cost item. I would estimate it to be between 10 per cent and 15 per cent of the total cost of the enterprise. By far the greatest cost is the personnel that one employs, and the minister acknowledges that. Anyone who is interested in working out, for competition purposes, what it costs a competitor to run a

business would have to put a figure against rent—whether one owned the building and therefore had to meet the interest payments, notionally or actually, on the capital invested in owning the building.

I believe that once we have done that, we also know what the approximate market figure is if we are paying a rental. If we guess perhaps 10 per cent or 15 per cent, our competitor has an advantage in knowing the actual figure, but it can only be a marginal advantage. It may be a one per cent, a two per cent or a three per cent differential. Translating that against the magnitude of the total expenditure, the variation in the cost of rent is extremely marginal if we consider all the other factors that go into making our decision as to the tender price that we submit. We might make a decision that in this instance we want to accept a loss because we want to gain a client. That might make a difference of five, 10 or 20 per cent in our tender price. We might be using a material that we have access to which once again has a large variation as a cost factor.

To argue that any of these businesses would be severely disadvantaged in the marketplace because the exact rental that they are paying could become known to their competitors is really a furphy. I simply cannot accept that. The requirement for the Senate to be informed in detail of the expenditure incurred on behalf of taxpayers, and of the considerations that went into using some PAP funds, far outweighs that particular consideration which I believe would be a very minimal one indeed. I believe that the minister's obligation to provide information to the Senate following a resolution of the Senate requiring him to do so far outweighs any other possible consideration. I think Mr Walker's attempt to continue to negotiate after the decision of the Senate has been made is reprehensible. The Australian Democrats support the motion moved by Senator Campbell.

Senator CHAMARETTE (Western Australia) (4.43 p.m.)—The Greens are also supporting the motion moved by Senator Campbell. We support it in principle as part of a series of incidents which illustrates this government's and this minister's disrespect of

the Senate by breaching an order of the Senate. The Greens are not necessarily aware of all the facts underlying Senator Campbell's request—though I must add that he has tried to keep us informed. It is not one where we are involved with the issue. However, we respect his right to request that information.

We are aware of the conflicting principles and that there is a difficulty between commercial confidentiality and the parliament's obligation to be accountable on the expenditure of taxpayers' money. I believe that Senator Spindler has commented adequately on that. I want to comment on Senator McMullan statements where he said that there was a time when an order of the Senate was dealt with as a weighty matter but of late—

Senator McMullan—I was talking about censure motions.

Senator CHAMARETTE—Yes. He said that they were dealt with as a weighty matter, and he said that as of late these have been so like confetti that they are in danger of being devalued. I consider that as being of very great concern. Senator McMullan's remarks implied that the withholding of cooperation by the government is an exception rather than the rule. So I am very interested to find out when and on how many occasions the government has demonstrated its compliance with an order of the Senate. I will endeavour to look at that further.

I believe that Senator McMullan is right when he says that generally in the past returns to order have received respect and that there has been only a handful of occasions on which they may have been ignored or some delay may have occurred between the request and the tabling of the documents that have been requested. The one that stands out in my mind was a letter between two ministers concerning woodchip export licences. A request was made on 16 December, the document was not tabled and the minister was censured.

I believe that this trend towards non-compliance with requests for tabling by the Senate is very damaging. I believe that the principle of censuring a minister may be also treated more lightly than in the past. On the basis that this is a matter of principle and serious-

ness, and on the basis of accountability and the need for the government to be transparent in its dealings, the Greens indicate our support for the motion.

Senator CAMPBELL (Western Australia) (4.46 p.m.)—in reply—I will not delay the Senate for too long because Senator Spindler responded to some of the issues that Senator McMullan raised. Senator Spindler successfully knocked over that argument about the value of information to competitors. Senator Spindler accurately made the point that competitors in the interior design business, the asset services business and the construction industry would not even bother pulling out the *Hansard* to try to find out this information. It is of no consequence whatsoever to competitors. It was a stupid argument, which was successfully knocked over.

I would like to respond to two points. Firstly, Senator McMullan made a point about competitive neutrality. Just before the COAG meeting Senator McMullan quoted from the Hilmer report on national competition policy. What Senator McMullan quoted from the Hilmer report on that day was as follows:

Government businesses should not enjoy any net competitive advantage by virtue of their ownership when competing with other businesses.

It is a very important principle. The principle we are dealing with here today is who is going to be the judge of whether or not there is compliance. In some circumstances it can be the Auditor-General, but usually that is long after some breach has taken place. In many circumstances it will fall to the accountability and scrutiny of the parliament to be the judge. That is why this return to order is crucial and why the enforcement of that return to order by the Senate through censure is also crucial.

The final point I want to respond to is this business of information about rents, wages and all other factors being available through the accountability procedures that we have with reporting of these Commonwealth agencies and departments. The figures for many of these things are reported on a global basis, such as rents and the number of man hours and so forth across Australia. The minister is asking us to accept that information. How-

ever, if we are looking for mismanagement, fraud, or any other contravention of good management practice in the public sector, mismanagement can be covered up in any area of any agency in any city.

We could have asset services and construction services in Melbourne, Sydney or Perth making an absolute hash of the job—and I am not suggesting that for a moment—but because of the way things are reported we do not see it. The minister is saying that we cannot ask questions about it and we cannot get the information to make those judgments. For the sake of the taxpayers of Australia, I genuinely hope that my concerns about what is happening with the management of Casselden Place and the administration of the property adjustment program are wrong. But the Senate will never know unless the executive of this government—including this minister who is personally responsible as he is the one upon whom the order was made—complies with the order.

It is sad that censure motions are being thrown around like confetti. I do not perceive that to be the case but, if it is true, it is because senators are making the decision more often than ministers are thumbing their noses at the Senate and the parliament. If it is the case that the Senate needs to censure ministers for these breaches, then so be it. It is something that should be done.

Certainly this matter should be taken seriously. In a political sense the Democrats and the Greens and a number of senators around the chamber have very different concepts from mine about the role of the federal government being in business. Ideologically they see a bigger role than I do for government in running businesses and being involved in these sorts of things. It is no easy matter for me to convince my colleagues on the cross benches of my need to get this information. They have come to that decision, which I respect, and I thank them for their support on this important principle when a minister has chosen, quite wilfully and unapologetically, flagrantly to breach an order of the Senate. I urge Senate support for this censure motion against the ministers concerned.

Question put:

That the motion (Senator Campbell's) be agreed to.

The Senate divided. [4.52 p.m.]

(The Acting Deputy President—Senator J.P. McKiernan)

Ayes	42
Noes	26
Majority	16

AYES

Abetz, E.	Alston, R. K. R.
Baume, M. E.	Bell, R. J.
Boswell, R. L. D.	Bourne, V.
Brownhill, D. G. C.	Calvert, P. H.
Campbell, I. G.	Chamarette, C.
Chapman, H. G. P.	Coulter, J. R.
Crane, W.	Crichton-Browne, N. A.
Ellison, C.	Ferguson, A. B.
Gibson, B. F.	Harradine, B.
Herron, J.	Hill, R. M.
Kemp, R.	Kernot, C.
Knowles, S. C.	Lees, M. H.
Macdonald, I.	Macdonald, S.
Margetts, D.	McGauran, J. J. J.
Minchin, N. H.	Newman, J. M.
Panizza, J. H.*	Parer, W. R.
Patterson, K. C. L.	Reid, M. E.
Spindler, S.	Tambling, G. E. J.
Teague, B. C.	Tierney, J.
Troeth, J.	Vanstone, A. E.
Woodley, J.	Woods, R. L.

NOES

Beahan, M. E.	Burns, B. R.
Carr, K.	Childs, B. K.
Coates, J.	Collins, R. L.
Colston, M. A.	Cook, P. F. S.
Cooney, B.	Denman, K. J.
Devereux, J. R.	Evans, C. V.
Evans, G. J.	Faulkner, J. P.
Foreman, D. J.*	Loosley, S.
McKiernan, J. P.	McMullan, R. F.
Murphy, S. M.	Neal, B. J.
Ray, R. F.	Reynolds, M.
Schacht, C. C.	Sherry, N.
West, S. M.	Zakharov, A. O.

PAIRS

MacGibbon, D. J.	Crowley, R. A.
O'Chee, W. G.	Bolkus, N.
Watson, J. O. W.	Jones, G. N.
Short, J. R.	Richardson, G.F.

* denotes teller

Question so resolved in the affirmative.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

The New South Africa

Senator GARETH EVANS (Victoria—Minister for Foreign Affairs)—I seek leave to make a statement relating to South Africa and to move a motion to take note of that statement.

Leave granted.

Senator GARETH EVANS—Today's inauguration of Nelson Mandela as the President of the Republic of South Africa marks nothing less than the birth of a new nation—a nation where the scourge of apartheid has been once and for all abolished; a nation where every citizen, whatever his or her race, has equal worth and an equal right to shape the country's future; a South Africa free at last.

Today is deservedly a day of triumph for Nelson Mandela himself. His election as President; the swearing-in of the wholly non-racial parliament in which the ANC is the clear majority party; and the installation of a government of national unity reflecting not only the ANC but all major streams of opinion in the parliament, are triumphant realisations of the vision and the ideas he has held, and the principles for which he has fought, for so long.

Nelson Mandela showed in his trial 30 years ago, throughout his 27 years of incarceration, and in the four years since his release, true leadership: a noble vision of justice and equality for all; single-minded determination and total commitment; toughness in negotiations, combined with constant readiness to hold out the hand of friendship; and great personal courage—all combined with an extraordinary personal dignity and an almost awesome absence of personal bitterness.

Today is also a day to honour those other South Africans who fought so long and hard for so many years to bring it about—those who in many cases, in long and lonely years in gaol or in other ways, suffered as grievously as Nelson Mandela himself; those who in many cases have not, unhappily, survived to savour the triumph. We remember on this occasion people like Steve Biko, Oliver

Tambo, Walter Sisulu, Helen Suzman, Helen Joseph, Desmond Tutu and all those others who have spent their lives, or given their lives, in working to bring dignity to oppressed and disadvantaged South Africans.

Today is also a day to particularly honour former President F W de Klerk, who had the courage to make the break with the past and who, despite virulent opposition from those who had most to lose by the destruction of apartheid, steadfastly refused to be deflected from the path to non-racial democracy. We admire the grace with which, in conceding defeat in the election, Mr de Klerk pledged not only his cooperation but his friendship to Nelson Mandela.

Mr President, today is also a day to record the satisfaction which Australians can reasonably feel at the role that our country played in bringing about the new South Africa. Of course, we were never alone in this respect in the international community. But it was the Commonwealth that provided much of the moral and political leadership for the international anti-apartheid movement for many years, and within the Commonwealth it was Australia—at least from the early 1970s on—which played a particularly prominent role, along with, especially, India, Canada, Malaysia and the front-line African states, in giving political and intellectual leadership to that movement.

Opposition to apartheid has been a bipartisan matter in Australia for many years. It is, therefore, especially appropriate, given the major role which was played by each of their governments, that both Mr Fraser and Mr Hawke should be today representing Australia at the inauguration of President Mandela.

Sanctions against South Africa have a long history, going back to India's trade ban in 1946. Australia first played a role in this respect when Gough Whitlam announced in December 1972 that sporting teams selected on the basis of race would not be allowed to enter Australia. That sports boycott, strengthened subsequently in 1977 by the Fraser government following Gleneagles and in 1983 by the Hawke government, made—it is now generally acknowledged—a crucial psychological contribution to the change process, by

driving home year after year to the sports-mad white South African community just how internationally despised and isolated their country had become as a result of apartheid.

Similarly, Australia played a leading role in instituting the trade and investment sanctions agreed at the Nassau Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in 1985. The first tranche, imposed immediately, included bans on new government loans to the South African government, on the import of krugerrands, on government funding for trade promotion, on the export of computer equipment and on the sale of oil. The second tranche, imposed following the mission to South Africa of the Eminent Persons Group in 1986 which was co-led by Malcolm Fraser, included bans on air links with South Africa, on the import of agricultural products, on new investment or the reinvestment of profits earned in South Africa, and on government procurement from South African sources.

From 1987 on, attention turned primarily to financial sanctions—the denial or limitation of credit to South African government agencies or companies by other governments and by the private banking sector internationally. It was Prime Minister Bob Hawke at the Vancouver CHOGM in 1987 who initiated the ground-breaking expert study on the impact of financial sanctions which became widely influential in international financial circles, and which subsequently influenced a wider global public still to understand the centrality of these sanctions when it was published—again at Australian initiative—in 1989 as the Penguin book, *Apartheid and International Finance*, by Keith Ovenden and Tony Cole. Ultimately it was financial sanctions, more than anything else, that drove the South African government to the negotiating table—and this has been frankly acknowledged by South African ministers and officials on many occasions over the last four years.

Since President de Klerk's historic speech on 2 February 1990 launching the reform process, Australia has continued to be active in supporting the movement to full democracy, right through until last month's elections. Working through the Commonwealth's Committee of Foreign Ministers on Southern

Africa, CFMSA, we were active in developing the strategy for phased lifting of sanctions as the reform process proceeded through its various stages.

We have also used our aid program to provide assistance in building up the skills and expertise that are needed in the country's democratic and political institutions. We have provided education and training especially in relation to the electoral process, economic planning and policy and in the development of the media. I put on record the government's appreciation for the role played by various Australian non-government organisations, including in particular APHEDA, Austcare, the World Council of Churches and its constituent members, and the UNICEF Committee of Australia, in delivering that assistance.

Australians also played an important and useful part in the election process itself, and I would like to place on record the thanks of the government to all those who contributed in this respect. I mention particularly John Cain, Philip Ruddock, Janine Haines, Professor Duncan Chappell and the Australian Electoral Commissioner, Brian Cox, who participated in the work of the Commonwealth Observer Group. Australia provided staff of the Australian Electoral Commission and the Australian Federal Police to assist the South African Independent Electoral Commission and the Goldstone Commission, and there were many other Australians who served in United Nations observer groups, sometimes in extremely difficult and chaotic circumstances. They all deserve our very warm thanks.

Mr President, the elections held in the last two weeks of April were a truly remarkable event in the all too fragile history of democratic elections. I know honourable senators will agree that watching the elections, even from thousands of miles away, was an inspiring experience. The overall impression was of an irrepressible groundswell of popular support for the election process, with millions of people queuing, often for interminable periods, to cast their votes. As the Prime Minister (Mr Keating) said in his statement last week, it was the spirit of reconciliation

and forgiveness shown by all parties, especially those who have been victims of apartheid, which made these elections so remarkable.

Certainly there were organisational problems, both in the conduct of the elections and in the counting which followed. But there can be no doubt that they were, as certified by Judge Kriegler, the head of the Independent Electoral Commission, 'substantially free and fair'; and they certainly amounted to a quite unequivocal expression of the people's will.

Transcending all the administrative difficulties was the pervading spirit of joy and freedom that accompanied the voting. The election brought with it a measure of calm and a significant reduction in the level of political violence. There was remarkable patience all round and, for perhaps cynical and election-weary Australians, this election—like the Cambodian election before it last year—was a powerful reminder of the value of, and the weight placed by ordinary people in every country upon, that basic democratic freedom, the right to vote.

Today, following those elections, the new government of national unity assumes the awesome responsibility of addressing the daunting challenges facing the new South Africa. It will be faced with the task of developing new law enforcement structures and strategies to combat the violence which has claimed, tragically, so many lives in recent years.

It will have to oversee the establishment of new national and provincial government structures; it will have to resolve the problems that still exist in KwaZulu-Natal; and it will have to deal somehow with the pressures that still exist, dwindling though they may be, for a white Volkstaat.

The government will, of course, also have to begin to tackle the massive task of redressing the economic and social inequalities of the apartheid legacy. The success of the new South Africa will to a great extent depend on whether the government can pursue sound economic policies at the same time as responding positively and constructively to the pent up expectations of disadvantaged South Africans—many of them no doubt now unre-

alistically high—for better housing, education, health services and job opportunities.

Mr President, recognising the huge task now facing South Africa as it finds its feet as a new nation, and the difficulties involved in even beginning to satisfy expectations from the country's own internal resources, the international community has to continue to provide significant assistance—so that South Africa can develop the new structures of government that are required, do something to meet the demands for social justice that are so pent up, and begin creating the conditions for long-term economic growth.

Australia welcomes the announcements that have been made over the last few days by the United States, the United Kingdom and Japan, among others, that they are to increase their economic assistance to South Africa. I am pleased to now announce that the Australian government will also be increasing its aid to South Africa. We have decided to undertake a new aid program which will involve the expenditure of \$30 million over the next three years. This represents a 35 per cent increase in aid flows to South Africa over those which have applied in previous years. This level of assistance will allow us to consolidate and continue the important nation-building assistance and skills development we have extended to date. It will also enable the development of new programs of assistance in the vitally important area of providing basic needs and infrastructure for the underprivileged majority so grossly disadvantaged for so long by apartheid. Australia will take an active part in the international coordination of the substantial resources that will need to be mobilised to achieve the economic objectives of the new government.

We will be moving quickly to arrange for discussions with the new Government of National Unity on the early implementation and detail of this new program. Our current thinking is that our new program should consist of three main components:

good governance—that is to say, building the capacity of blacks and institutional strengthening, which would include continuing support for the media and economic policy and planning, and developing public

sector management skills at the national, regional and local level;

human resource development, including training awards in Australia, short-term in-country training, and support for the programs of international organisations such as the Commonwealth; and

helping meet the basic needs of disadvantaged people, including programs to provide low cost housing, safe water and sanitation, prefabricated buildings, urban and rural settlement planning and design, and infrastructure planning, particularly in the health sector.

In providing our assistance to South Africa, I believe there will be an important role—and opportunity—for the Australian private sector in contributing its technology and expertise, particularly in areas such as low cost housing, sanitation and safe water, health care, roads and electricity. More generally, Australian companies will be looking to take advantage of the new trade opportunities that the full return of South Africa to the international community, and the expected faster growth of the country, will now bring. We clearly should not have unrealistic expectations about this, not least because the basic structure of the South African economy is more competitive than complementary to our own, but the opportunities will be there and it will be in the interests of both countries if we make the most of them.

Over the longer term, Australia will be looking to develop a new partnership not only with South Africa but with India and the other countries of south Asia, and other Indian Ocean rim countries, in developing a new sense of regional identity and regional cooperation in economic and political development.

The new South African Government of National Unity will obviously be largely pre-occupied with the country's domestic agenda in the short and medium term. However, I am confident that from today, with the burden of shame lifted, South Africa will be able to play an increasingly important international role, providing leadership not only on the African continent but in the Indian Ocean region and more generally in the global community.

Mr President, in just a few hours Nelson Mandela will become President of a newly liberated South Africa. It is a day for celebration of an immense achievement. It is a day of great hope. It is a day to mark the full return of a country to the embrace of the international community. It is a day when I am sure that all senators—indeed, all Australians—will embrace Nelson Mandela's prayer that the healing and reconciliation that is now taking place in South Africa will continue. It is a day when all of us in Australia wish the new President, and all the people of South Africa, a future of equality, peace and prosperity, for which so many of them have so desperately, and so justly, yearned for so long. I move:

That the Senate take note of the statement.

Senator HILL (South Australia—Leader of the Opposition) (5.14 p.m.)—I am pleased to respond on behalf of the coalition parties in the Senate to the statement that the Minister for Foreign Affairs (Senator Gareth Evans) has just given. The speech I am giving is one that I have wanted to give for a long time, and I am sure that that is the sentiment of all in this chamber. It is certainly the sentiment of the Liberal Party of Australia and the National Party of Australia. Also, on a personal note, as one who has visited South Africa a number of times, both before I became a senator in this place and since, and as one who has witnessed the struggle at first hand, there is something even a little more exhilarating to now recognise what has occurred.

I take the opportunity to congratulate President-elect Nelson Mandela. This evening he will become President of the Republic of South Africa. All South Africans deserve to be congratulated, however, on their new beginning.

This is a 'good news' story. Perhaps 'good news' stories are too rare in a world still of so many troubles but occasionally one does occur. It is a victory for democracy after a long and difficult struggle. Really, it is an end to an evil, racially structured system. Finally, the majority have the very basic right to participate in a new democracy—to partici-

pate through the vote and have the potential to govern.

South Africans have joined together in a democratic expression and have now started a new journey together. From the political struggle, however, they now face the social and economic struggle, and that should not be underestimated. I think it is fair to say that true equality for all South Africans is still a long way off, but a start has been made.

I might just dwell for a moment on Nelson Mandela the man. There is no doubt that he has earned his place in history as a very great man, not just because of his determination for his cause, not just because of the personal sacrifice that he made—27 years in gaol—not just because of his obviously enormous intellectual and personal capacities, but particularly because of his courage and his dignity. That he could suffer for so long and yet put all that behind him with no apparent malice at all and no apparent feelings of vengeance, that he could come out of gaol after, as I said, nearly three decades imprisonment and then pursue peacefully a political goal with the sort of dignity that he demonstrated, has in fact set him as an example and inspiration to many all over the world well beyond South Africa. So he justly deserves his place in history as a great man.

I also want to take the opportunity to congratulate F.W. de Klerk, who is still president and about to hand over the mantle to Mr Mandela. I congratulate also the more enlightened leadership of the National Party in South Africa. It, under the leadership of F.W. de Klerk, recognised that the way the minority had chosen was unfair and unjust and had to be changed.

There were many—from time to time, I think I might have been among them—who thought that the minority in South Africa would not give up power without violent conflict. There was a clear feeling that the minority—some because of concern of losing power or privilege; some because they felt that they had earned their particular wealth or opportunity; but some simply out of straight fear of the unknown—would not give up their position without further conflict. The change in attitude that occurred, as was demonstrated

in the white referendum, I think can be very much attributed to F.W. de Klerk. Through it, I think that he has also justly earned his place in history as an enlightened leader.

There are, of course, many individuals—and Senator Evans mentioned a few; people like Helen Suzman—who made a special contribution, but it seems to me, from my observation, that there is a wider group that also deserves credit. I had the privilege to visit South Africa about a year ago with a few of my colleagues from this chamber, including Senator Rod Kemp. We observed, at the time of the constitutional debate, the enormous obstacles that still appeared between that time and the achievement of a peaceful transition. Nevertheless, we returned to Australia believing that it would occur.

What gave us confidence was not only the sort of leadership which I have already mentioned, but also the fact that it was apparent to us that there was a majority of ordinary South Africans from all races and all political groups who wanted it to occur and were prepared to commit themselves to the building and the challenge of a new South Africa. In other words, they had determined not only that it should occur but also that it was just and proper and it must occur, and they wanted to be part of that challenge. It was our assessment that that quiet majority in the middle, putting aside the minority of extremists on all sides, would ensure that this peaceful transition came about. It seems to me that this is also very much their victory.

Of less importance, it seems to me, but nevertheless useful, have also been the efforts of government and individuals worldwide who have encouraged, firstly, the need for change, and, secondly, the practical aspects of change. We have had debate from time to time over the years about the best ways in which the international community could be helpful. We had the complex debate on sanctions. There is probably little purpose gained in reliving that debate. Particular individuals—such as Malcolm Fraser on our side who, I must say, was graciously mentioned by Senator Gareth Evans in his speech—played a major part in galvanising a recognition, perhaps through more conserva-

tive Australia and the likes of Malcolm Fraser in other developed countries, that we also must not be afraid of change in South Africa and must be prepared to constructively work for it.

That is what we have sought to do in our way. The fact that we have from time to time argued that the international sanction regime was not the best way to achieve that goal was not, as some have said from time to time in this place, to try to fight a rearguard action against change but to look for the most constructive way in which the international community could contribute to change. As a Liberal, I am pleased to stand here today and recognise the particular contribution that our former leader Malcolm Fraser played in that regard.

The African National Congress has won the election and it is to be congratulated. As you know, Mr Deputy President, we have not been blind supporters of the ANC. I must say that over the years some of its policies have caused me great distress, perhaps none more so than the policy of liberation before education, which resulted in a generation of young South Africans missing the opportunity for education. But I guess it is easy to be judgmental from afar and from the environment of peace and protection within which we live, and so those debates also are now behind us. There are good people in the ANC, some of whom I have met at the leadership level, that I have confidence will play a significant role in leading the new South Africa.

I must also mention the challenge ahead. I do so against the background that we all recognise that expectations have now reached an enormous high. There is this feeling of exhilaration—Senator Evans spoke of it—in terms of the long queues of people who participated in the democratic process and took the opportunity to vote in an air of great excitement. But the path ahead—particularly, as I said, the path to economic equality and social equality—is going to be incredibly difficult. I hope that when South Africa settles down to address the shortcomings in education, health, housing and jobs, the international community will offer the country and the people as much support as possible and at

least as much support as it put into endeavouring to influence political change.

There are ways that we in the more fortunate world can help. We can help directly with direct aid. Senator Evans has announced a small extra contribution from the Australian government in that regard, and we on this side of the chamber welcome that. We can also help in encouraging as quickly as possible the further development of trade and industry. I, for one, on behalf of this side of the chamber, am pleased to have been associated with the development of Australian South African business groups in both Sydney and Melbourne. The more we can now get in, free of a sanctions regime, and trade with South Africa, the more we can help it build its economy and bring wealth that can be distributed in perhaps a more equitable way than in the past. So I trust that the international community will continue to offer constructive help in the spirit that it also was determined to bring about change.

Looking further down the track, a new South Africa can provide a lead for the whole of Africa, a continent where we can find success stories but where there are also so many sad cases, particularly when one witnesses the horrifying visual account of events occurring in places such as Rwanda at the moment.

We take this opportunity to congratulate all South Africans of goodwill on their victory. We wish them well in their challenge of building a new South Africa, and we trust that Australia and other democracies throughout the world will get behind them and give them positive support in that challenge.

Senator KERNOT (Queensland—Leader of the Australian Democrats) (5.28 p.m.)—The Australian Democrats, too, are pleased today to be associated with this ministerial statement on South Africa. The struggle for democracy, justice and human rights has been a long one, but we know it has been a just one. The first democratically conducted elections and the elevation of Nelson Mandela to the presidency is one of those truly historic events to which future generations of South Africans will always be proud to refer. Today is a time to pay tribute to both Nelson

Mandela and former President de Klerk, who together showed remarkable courage and humility in the face of what many would have assumed to be overwhelming obstacles. Their example should serve to remind all politicians throughout the world of what can be achieved for the peoples we seek to represent.

Over the last few weeks I, along with many Australians, have been very moved when watching scenes on television of hundreds of South Africans standing in long queues simply to exercise their first chance to cast a vote, to exercise that basic democratic right. I felt how much we take that for granted in this country and how we complain about the queues we have on election day for a totally different reason. Like many Australians, I, too, felt the emotion of the moment as we witnessed within those queues the aged and the infirm waiting patiently for hours to have their chance to have a say in how they should be governed. It was one of those rare moments when a picture told a thousand stories, and it certainly reminded me of Steinbeck's theme of the triumph of the human spirit.

Those of us who have been politically active at some time over the last two decades will be aware of the crime that is apartheid. Many of us were personally involved in the fight to eliminate it. As a nation, I think, Australia can be proud that under both Liberal and Labor Party governments we were involved in rallying the international community to take a stand against this outrageous system of dividing people.

Today, we can deservedly join in the celebrations of the new South Africa as we mark the end of one traumatic chapter of struggle in that country's history. We join with all South Africans in wishing that country well in the new future and, as Senator Hill has said, the difficult future that lies ahead. No-one underestimates that task. The Minister for Foreign Affairs (Senator Gareth Evans), in his remarks, has made it clear that Australia is obligated to help in the task of rebuilding the South African nation. The Democrats certainly concur with this pledge.

We should be realistic, though. If we acknowledge that South Africa's recent past has been a traumatic one, we must acknow-

ledge that the journey ahead for South Africans will also be a struggle. As president-elect, Nelson Mandela is now faced with the task of forging not only a new nation, but one with a different sense of national unity. This may well be President Mandela's most difficult task.

However, as a starting point, and with the way it represents members from other political groups in a country that has been divided for so long, this is a very constructive start and one which sends an important symbolic message to all South Africans and, beyond that, to the international community. In some sections of South Africa, this new post-election phase of rebuilding is now being referred to as the 'second struggle'. In many ways, that is a very applicable and appropriate description.

One recent documentary feature on the ABC showed a number of black voters being interviewed about their expectations of the future ahead. In response to the question about how long they would give Nelson Mandela and the new government before they expected to get jobs, houses and cars, many replied 'two months' or 'six months'. That feeling of the need for action is understandable. Nevertheless, it is of great concern that very few people were prepared to concede that life is not going to change overnight. It will take years and years before the real and tangible benefits are brought to these people and before the many injustices and inequalities of the past can be rectified.

Impatience for immediate results is perhaps going to be the new government's greatest hurdle. Who can blame the people of South Africa for that impatience? After years of oppression and violence, it is understandable that expectations are now so great. I think there are parallels in Australia with people's expectations that ATSIC will be able to solve everything within a few years.

Senator Hill outlined some of the problems which the new South Africa faces. I want to touch on a couple of them. Officially, unemployment stands at 46 per cent. Official black youth unemployment stands at 57 per cent, with some urban areas recording rates of over 80 per cent. The reality of underemployment

is, of course, much worse than this. These are shocking statistics.

The tragedy of South Africa is made worse by widespread violence. South Africa now records the highest levels of violence and crime of anywhere in the world. The effects of this violence on all South Africans, black and white, are palpable. We need to address the psychology of violence. The danger is that it can give rise to unrealistic notions of entitlement as redress for past wrongs. People can, in turn, seek to use this as a justification for further violence.

The Democrats welcome the Australian government's indication that our further aid program to South Africa will include a component focusing on good governance and strengthening the various institutions of government. Poverty is widespread. The conditions in the squatter camps of South Africa in many cases represent the worst of Third World conditions. Thousands of black South Africans have absolutely no access to basic medical services, educational services or facilities such as clean water, power and sewerage.

It is understandable that the ANC election platform relied on the promise of embarking on massive public works programs to provide training and employment for about 2½ million people over the next 10 years. This will be accompanied by the building of one million homes for the homeless and the provision of clean running water and electricity to an additional 2½ million homes. As well, there is a pledge to re-work the education system so that every child in South Africa has access to at least 10 years free and compulsory education. I am sure we all understand the setting of these goals and why they have been chosen as priorities.

One thing I think we can predict is that the politics of national unity, which is the new South Africa, will mean that compromise is inevitable. It is probably a necessary thing, as acknowledged by Nelson Mandela himself, especially when it comes to the economic policies that need to be implemented.

Former Democrats leader Janine Haines was in South Africa recently during the election period, as one of a number of Australian

observers. She has made the point to us that the rebuilding of South Africa is more than purely an economic task. It will require massive changes in society and in the attitudes of many South Africans. For example, she pointed to the attitude of all South Africans, black and white, to the status of women in society.

The absence of women candidates during the elections across all the political parties is but one example which underlines this need. The absence of women from senior positions in both business and the public service certainly indicates, as we realise here in Australia, that all South African women have a struggle ahead of them to achieve equality in the workplace and in politics. In fact, for many South Africans it is probably true that, as one struggle has now finished, another one has only just begun. This is certainly true for the women of South Africa.

Under the circumstances, the Democrats believe that the government's new aid program to South Africa should have also included a component aimed at improving the status of women in society. As we already fund a women in development program in other countries, we think this would have been perfectly appropriate.

There is another overriding message of hope that must be stressed in any discussion of South Africa; that is, the combined efforts of so many individuals can make a difference and can remedy social injustice. As we look around us in despair at the tragedies of Bosnia, Rwanda and Afghanistan, we are often prompted to feel that it is all too hard or too hopeless. It is tragic that the international community often seems too unwilling to take up—or incapable of taking up and continuing—these further struggles for justice and human rights.

South Africa will always be an example to us that the efforts of individuals can make the significant difference. When the fight for democracy started all those years ago, how many people in the rest of the world gave the human rights agencies and their struggle for democracy any chance of success? It is an example of human perseverance in the face of adversity. I, too, want to congratulate and pay

tribute to the work of Desmond Tutu, Helen Suzman and Walter Sisulu. Their efforts will stand forever. When they were joined by the other nations of Africa, by trade unions from all over the world and by journalists from dozens of countries who chose not to ignore but to highlight injustice, the momentum built until the international community could no longer ignore the need to act.

We should not forget the role of the Commonwealth in all of this. Despite the attitude of some of its leaders, the Commonwealth persisted with the imposition of economic, commercial, trade and sporting contacts against the South African regime. Australia's efforts in the imposition of such sanctions, and the efforts of so many other nations, undoubtedly helped to bring about the dismantling of apartheid. It proves that sanctions can make a difference when international will is present. As the minister correctly concedes, the imposition of sanctions can often provide the crucial psychological difference to bringing about change in international politics.

It does provide us with something to reflect on in a wider global sense today because there does remain so much injustice equal in nature to the system of South African apartheid. Just as the international will was finally present to make a difference in South Africa, the Democrats believe that such will could also make a difference elsewhere in the world.

We do need to examine our actions in relation to other examples of international injustice. Just as we campaigned for so long to free Nelson Mandela, so too should we campaign to free Aung San Suu Kyi from Burma or Xanana Gusmao in East Timor. Just as we saw the injustices of South African apartheid and sought to overturn them, so too do we now have a similar obligation to work for peace and justice in such places as Burma and East Timor. And we should not forget what has happened in Palestine, Cyprus and Bosnia; South Africa proves that it can be done.

The Democrats are pleased to see that the Australian government is now increasing its level of financial and technical assistance to

the new South Africa. We welcome the government's announcement that it will be undertaking a new aid program involving the expenditure of \$30 million over the next three years. We join the government in congratulating President Nelson Mandela and the new South Africa. On behalf of the Australian Democrats, I offer our sincere best wishes to all South Africans and hope that the new government will succeed in the task of healing and reconciliation which it has identified as its first priority. We wish them well.

Senator CHAMARETTE (Western Australia) (5.41 p.m.)—I welcome this opportunity, on behalf of the Greens (WA), to make a few remarks about the historic changes which have occurred in South Africa during the last four years and which have been brought together in the joyous climax of the last few days. In recent years many countries have been given the opportunity, or have taken the opportunity, to reshape themselves or even, one could say, to reinvent themselves. Such has been the case with South Africa.

Many in the international community have longed for and worked for the events which have taken place since the early, hesitant reforms instituted by the white government during the 1980s. Many of us waited anxiously to see whether the promises would result in genuine change. To our joy, things did begin to change. The pass laws were gone. Political organisations were taken off the banned list. Individuals who had been banned were free to move about, to speak out publicly about the hateful apartheid and to meet together.

But, of course, nothing had the symbolic power and gripped the attention of the world as much as, firstly, the imprisonment and then, secondly, the release of Nelson Mandela in February 1990. There is a real sense in which our remarks today must be a tribute to the newly elected president—or about to be elected president—of South Africa. I will come back to that.

The South Africa which has emerged from last week's election is a new country. It has not merely undergone a change of government; it has fundamentally changed. It faces the future with a new and glorious flag and a

new set of relationships both within and with the world outside. I do not think anybody can fail but be inspired by the way the anthem of this country is sung. Indeed, it could be said that it now has a relationship with the outside world as a member of the community of nations, after years as an outcast.

That this change has come about through a process of negotiation with enormous obstacles, suspicion and potential for failure should give us hope for the possibility of change in many other places. The negotiations involved the resolution of some of the most intractable conflicts imaginable. The sharing of power by those used to absolute authority with those they had held in servitude is a rare and wonderful example of what can be achieved when few dared to hope for it.

It is also a tribute to the central figures involved. Some have clearly acted out of necessity, and others perhaps out of fear of being left out. But others have grasped a seeming impossibility and have set their sights on justice. That is the tribute I believe we must pay to Nelson Mandela. After nearly three decades in prison, he emerged ready to take up where he had left off: with a vision of justice and what that word meant for South Africa. The personal meaning of that for me is if, instead of entering the Senate two years ago, I had gone to prison for 27 years and then come out for five years and become president—it is that kind of dimension that this man of 75 years has lived through; and it is a truly miraculous time that we now hail.

It has been an extraordinary time during which Nelson Mandela has taken the hand of the whites and shown them the way to change. He appears to be utterly without bitterness, in spite of the treatment he has received at the hands of a system which despised him and everything he stood for. It is beyond me to conceive of the changes in South Africa without his energy, his goodwill and his commitment to justice. We must remember, too, that he is also a symbol of the many other African people who did the same in a private way that is not observable to us in Australia.

Nelson Mandela's commitment to his vision, and that of the people he represents,

demonstrates an integration of spirituality, humanity and politics which the world rarely sees. To see him dancing for joy the other day, as the results of the elections became clear, showed a man of joy in a situation which would terrify many of us.

Regrettably, the changes have not been without cost. Countless people have been killed or injured as the old order has been gradually dismantled. That tragedy should not be ignored or simply forgotten, in the joy of the last week. It reminds us that change is rarely universally welcomed and, apparently, the bigger the change the greater the reaction against it. Violence in South Africa did not come to an end with the announcement of the end of apartheid. Perhaps it will not end now. Only time will tell.

When we look at the way the system of apartheid itself was consigned to the history books, we should not only congratulate those involved but also be encouraged that the most difficult changes in past structures can be brought about by negotiation and peaceful resolution of conflict. It is a lesson for the entire world and, none the least, for Australia as we face up to a range of seemingly intractable problems, particularly in relations between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples.

The new South Africa now faces the daunting task of bringing about a new reality for the millions who have never known what it means to be free citizens. Even from this distance, it is a task which seems too big and too complex. The new government, led by Mr Mandela, has a clear mandate to bring about sweeping changes. But its power is not absolute. The election gave the ANC less than the two-thirds vote it needed if it wanted to re-write the new constitution alone. It is significant and a measure of the president-elect that he has said publicly that he is pleased his party is not in a position to do so because it will allay fears in some quarters that the ANC would become a dictatorial force in government. He is still not afraid of having to negotiate to achieve a satisfactory outcome, and may be signalling that he believes the constitution would be better as a result of bringing together as wide a range of

people and ideas as possible. It is another lesson which people in other parts of the world could well learn.

What, then, is our role as another member of the community of nations? How will Australia relate to the new South Africa? It is my hope that—as we played our part in putting pressure on the apartheid regime through boycotts, sanctions and other international measures—we will now assist in the emerging of the new South Africa. I know that our expertise has been offered, as has the opportunity to trade, to renew so many relationships which were put on hold over the last 20 years or so.

But what of our generosity? Australians are very generous people with their time, their money and their goodwill. Now is the time to commit ourselves to assist in whatever ways we can. I also urge that those whose concern is trade see the new South Africa as a community of people, and not simply as another market to be exploited. I am certain that trade will continue to grow, as it has done since the sanctions and boycotts were lifted. But I would be deeply saddened if Australians were so intent on securing a financial gain that they missed the human gains which have been made and will be made.

Senator Evans in his speech spoke about our provision of assistance to South Africa when he said:

... I believe there will be an important role—and opportunity—for the Australian private sector in contributing its technology and expertise, particularly in areas such as low cost housing, sanitation and safe water, health care, roads and electricity.

It is true. We have much to share. We also have much to learn, and we need to do these for our own Aboriginal people in Australia and to be in a relationship of learning mutually how to combat the problems that indigenous people suffer in their own land.

The three major impacts on me have been the commitment to democracy, the commitment to peaceful resolution of conflict and the commitment to consensus in a political sense. I do take comfort, as a member of the Senate, in proportional representation. In a parliamentary library talk, Dr Etherington pointed out, at the 50 per cent mark of votes being count-

ed, that had one of our major political parties had 60 per cent of the vote, the next major one 20 per cent, the next eight per cent and the next three per cent, how much would the 60 per cent party be talking to any of the others, let alone offering the one on the bottom of the list a cabinet position? I do believe there is a wisdom in wanting to share the burden of the new government of South Africa with all those who deserve a voice.

The third and final inspiration to me is that integration of spirituality with culture that is demonstrated every time the anthem is sung. What a model of reconciliation we have, based on restoration of historical justice, removal of political oppression and the beginning of addressing the problems of social justice. It is a living example and a living model for Australia.

With other honourable senators present here, I congratulate the people of South Africa on the changes they have made and on the way they have made them. I want to congratulate, if that is the word, Nelson Mandela for his courage and commitment, and I want to wish the new South Africa well for its future. It has taken hold of a rare opportunity and has refused to let go until a new society is brought to life.

Senator HARRADINE (Tasmania) (5.52 p.m.)—It is not my intention to speak for long in this debate—indeed, we do not have a great deal of time so to do. I do want to say something to mark this very important occasion: the inauguration of Nelson Mandela as President of the Republic of South Africa, as a result of the election decision of the people of South Africa in the first multi-racial vote that has taken place in that country. It is my belief that this has inspired many people throughout the world, and I hope it continues to do so. I hope that the efforts of those who have been elected are fruitful and result in justice, economic development, and the material wellbeing and spiritual welfare of that country and the people thereof.

Much has been said in the debate thus far about those individuals and groups who have contributed to the overthrow of that despicable policy, apartheid. I must also pay tribute

to those who have been instrumental in overthrowing that apartheid policy.

There were great pressures put on people within Australia to go on free visits to South Africa to be shown off, as it were, and paraded around that country lauding the apartheid system. Those people who refused to take part in that are to be commended. Those people, both within business and within the trade union movement, who shunned and spurned those offers are to be commended, because the offers were in fact inducements. I am glad to say that many people saw them for what they were—an attempt to bolster a policy which was anti-human and degrading, a violation of the basic human rights of individuals.

Many of us would understand how the people feel, how those who are of a different race or religion feel, and how the burning breath of blind prejudice sears into their very being. I have felt for the Africans in South Africa who have faced up to and borne that dreadful burden over those many years. I have supported strongly their stand. Indeed, I was very proud to have a South African, Colin Sacco, as my running mate in the election two years ago. His family was a white South African family. They were descendants of the Boers. They found it so objectionable that they were making their statements. I am talking about some years ago when it was very dangerous for people like that to say things against the regime and the apartheid policy.

The family eventually decided that it was time to leave the country. Those people who have done that now have the opportunity, I suppose, of returning to the country. Certainly those people are very overjoyed at the results thus far achieved. We should also congratulate those many hundreds of thousands of people in that situation who have stood on principle and refused the blandishments offered by the perpetrators of that dreadful, inhuman policy of apartheid.

Mention has been made of the churches. Certainly a majority of the churches in South Africa have been very strong in upholding the human rights of the African people. The Catholic Church is included in this. Its aid

agency, ACR, the Australian Catholic Relief, has, of course, been prominent in its strong opposition to apartheid and support for the African people.

It is a long row to hoe. There is a long road for the people of South Africa. It is for us to assist those people in their aspirations. I welcome the statement made today by the minister about the provision of aid. Thirty million dollars over three years, I suggest, is not a great deal. Although it represents a 35 per cent increase in aid flow to South Africa over previous years, that does not amount to a great deal, I am afraid. I have been one of those who have been critical of the way that Africa as a whole has been treated in the aid budget, but this is not the time, perhaps, to talk about those particular matters. I welcome the fact that the government has at least made this contribution. I hope that the government may see its way clear to improve upon that and to realise that Africans love their children. It is a young country; it is a very vigorous country; and we hope that it achieves the objectives that I mentioned before.

Finally, I am very taken with the national anthem. Senator Chamarette was very eloquent; I could not match what she has said—nor do I try—about the spiritual element that was obviously coming to the fore in the celebrations. That is coming from the hearts and minds of the people. I would like to read a very brief verse of the South African national anthem:

Lord Bless Africa
Let its Horn be Raised
Listen also to our Prayers
Lord Bless
Lord Bless
Come Spirit
Come Spirit
Holy Spirit
Lord Bless Us
We, thy Children

**Sitting suspended from 6.01 p.m. to
7.30 p.m.**

BUDGET STATEMENT AND DOCUMENTS 1994-95

Senator COOK (Western Australia—
Minister for Industry, Science and Technology
and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for

Science) (7.30 p.m.)—I table the following documents:

1994-95 Budget Documents—

Budget Speech 1994-95

Budget statements 1994-95

The Commonwealth public account 1994-95

Commonwealth financial relations with other levels of Government 1994-95

1994-95 Budget Related Documents—

Social justice statement 1994-95

Australia's Development Cooperation Program 1994-95

Women's budget statement 1994-95

I seek leave to make a statement relating to the 1994-95 budget.

Leave granted.

Senator COOK—Tonight the Treasurer (Mr Willis) is delivering in another place his Budget Speech for 1994-95. It is my privilege to outline to the Senate the budget proposals of the Government.

Mr President, this Budget will:

maximise economic growth;

reduce unemployment;

promote social justice; and

reduce the budget deficit, without increasing taxes.

It is a budget that seeks to consolidate and improve our economic performance whilst ensuring that all Australians share in the benefits of that progress.

Indeed, this is a highly distinctive budget.

It is the first budget in the history of the nation that has been introduced prior to the commencement of the financial year to which it relates.

This brings Australia into line with the major industrial countries and with normal private sector practice.

It is also the first budget which provides estimates of the budget outcome for the next four years.

This represents a new benchmark for budget reporting and government accountability.

The economic forecasts on which this Budget is built reflect the fact that we are now firmly in recovery and experiencing economic

growth faster than almost any other industrial country.

Furthermore, our economic fundamentals for continued growth are the best for 30 years.

This gives us the real prospect of maintaining strong economic and employment growth for the rest of the century.

This Budget also maintains, indeed accelerates, the Government's commitment to its deficit reduction program, which requires the deficit to be reduced to around one per cent of GDP by 1996-97.

Our forecast deficit for 1996-97 is now less than one per cent of GDP, and we expect the budget to be in surplus soon thereafter.

In achieving this outcome, we have not increased general taxation.

This Budget contains no new taxes and no increases in tax rates.

The only measures which add to revenue are those which improve tax compliance, or are directly related to cost recovery for government services.

Australia will remain one of the lowest taxed countries in the industrial world.

Nevertheless, this Budget maintains Labor's commitment to improve social justice in our society.

In addition to major initiatives to address the serious issue of long-term unemployment, announced last week in *Working Nation*, this Budget contains further measures to assist the disadvantaged.

This reflects Labor's determination not only to maximise growth of our economy, employment and real incomes, but to ensure as well that all sections of our society share in that increased prosperity.

THE ECONOMIC CONTEXT

Mr President, in last year's Budget Speech, the then Treasurer stressed that the primary objective of that Budget was jobs.

I am pleased to be able to say tonight that the period of jobless growth that marked the first year and three-quarters of recovery from the recession is now well and truly behind us.

Australia is now experiencing strong employment growth with over 230,000 extra jobs since April last year.

Unemployment has fallen from a peak of just over 11 per cent to 10.3 per cent.

And there is every reason to expect these favourable developments to continue.

Our economic settings are now highly conducive to growth.

Inflation remains at its lowest level for three decades and is less than that of our major trading partners.

Inflationary expectations are also low, which means we have excellent prospects for continuing to be a low inflation nation.

Interest rates on bank lending are at their lowest levels since the 1970s.

Business confidence is high.

In manufacturing industry it is at the highest level for 30 years.

Consumer confidence is at its highest level for ten years, and is near record levels.

Wages are increasingly being determined on an enterprise basis and with regard to productivity improvement.

Productivity is increasing markedly and in some cases quite spectacularly.

Real unit labour costs are declining.

Profit share is near its all time high.

Australia's international competitiveness continues to improve and is now 30 per cent greater than it was a decade ago.

Time lost in industrial disputes in 1993 was the lowest level for 30 years.

In short, the widespread program of micro-economic reform instituted by this Government over the last decade has transformed the Australian economy so that it is now much more competitive, efficient and export oriented.

Rather than relying on our good fortune to be a relatively small nation with vast natural resources, the so-called "lucky country" syndrome, we are now demonstrating to the world that we are determined to work hard and intelligently to maximise our economic welfare.

We can now see the results beginning to come through.

Australia's economic growth of 4 per cent in 1993 was far better than most industrial countries which collectively grew by just over one per cent.

Many of them, including such major economies as Germany, France and Italy, suffered economic contraction, and our single largest trading partner, Japan, had virtually no growth.

Our employment growth of 3 per cent over the last year is also high.

For the industrial countries as a whole, employment growth in 1993 was zero.

Australian manufacturing industry increased its production by 9 per cent in 1993, the largest increase for two decades.

And our export performance in recent years has been nothing less than outstanding.

The volume of manufacturing exports grew by 15 per cent in 1993, and has grown by an average of 13 per cent a year since the mid-80s.

Similarly exports of services grew by 11 per cent last year and have increased by 9 per cent per annum since the mid-80s.

As a consequence of these developments, commodities now represent around 65 per cent of our total volume of exports, compared to almost 80 per cent a decade ago.

With commodity prices now being at very low levels, that diversification of our exports is standing us in very good stead.

The fact that our exporters have done so well is due to Australia's improved competitiveness, and two further major factors.

First, the fast growing countries of East Asia (excluding Japan) have become increasingly important markets.

These countries have been growing at twice the pace of our major trading partners as a whole since 1990-91, and now account for 33 per cent of our merchandise exports compared to only 19 per cent ten years ago.

And second—less tangible but no less important—is the attitudinal change among Australian firms—an increasingly outward orienta-

tion, which recognises the enormous potential benefits of selling into world markets, particularly in the fast growing Asian region.

This attitudinal change reflects, in part, the benefit of this Government's policy to open up markets to competition, especially through reduced protection, and its success in developing trade relations in the Asian region.

ECONOMIC PROSPECTS

Mr President, with these very substantial improvements to our economic structure, Australians can look forward to the future with considerable confidence.

Our immediate prospects are for even faster growth.

Real GDP is forecast to grow by $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent in 1994-95, compared to 4 per cent in 1993-94.

Employment is expected to increase by 3 per cent, or almost another quarter of a million jobs.

The unemployment rate is forecast to fall to around $9\frac{1}{2}$ per cent by June 1995.

Inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index is forecast to remain low next year at $2\frac{1}{4}$ per cent, or about the level of our major trading partners.

Real wages and real household disposable income continued to grow in 1993-94 and are forecast to grow more strongly in 1994-95.

Crucial to the achievement of these outcomes will be a substantial upturn in business investment.

So far, business investment has made little contribution to economic recovery, but this is expected to change quite markedly in the coming year.

Continued strong economic growth, near record high profit levels, high business confidence, low interest rates and inflation, sharply rising capacity utilisation, and the completion of the process of corporate balance sheet repair following the excesses of the 1980s, are all conducive factors for increased business investment.

In addition, this Government has created a very favourable tax regime for business over recent years.

This includes the provision of accelerated depreciation allowances, a development allowance for large projects, the general investment allowance, a 150 per cent write-off for research and development expenditure, and reduction of company tax to an internationally competitive rate of 33 per cent.

These tax incentives will reduce the Government's tax revenue for 1994-95 by around \$3 billion—a substantial benefit to business which will grow in later years.

All this represents a powerful set of inducements for increased business investment which is forecast to grow by $14\frac{1}{2}$ per cent in 1994-95.

While import growth will pick up next year as business investment increases, the current account deficit should increase only slightly.

Australia's export performance should remain robust over the next year, with strong growth in exports of elaborately transformed manufactures and of services continuing from recent years.

The terms of trade is forecast to lift for the first time since 1988-89, although only slightly, due to the gradual improvement in the world economy.

Economic activity in the major industrial countries is forecast to increase to around $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent in 1994-95.

That is clearly a bull point for our economy.

The much faster growth rates of the dynamic economies of our region mean our major trading partners' growth will be $3\frac{3}{4}$ per cent, up half a percentage point on 1993-94.

That overall improvement in world economic growth will help to sustain the higher level of economic growth now evident in the Australian economy.

Sustained growth through the decade will also require the maintenance of a low rate of inflation.

Monetary policy over the medium term will be directed to keeping inflation and inflationary expectations at low levels.

BUDGET STRATEGY

Mr President, the Government said during the election campaign that its election commit-

ments would be delivered in the context of a declining budget deficit.

This it will do.

In last year's Budget the Government set out a budget deficit reduction strategy geared to securing a deficit of around one per cent of GDP in 1996-97.

When an economy is in recession, it is entirely appropriate that budgetary policy be deployed to support the economy and the community.

That involves a rising deficit.

But as the pace of economic growth quickens, and recovery starts to become self-sustaining, it is important that budgetary support to domestic demand be pared back.

By winding back the deficit, the public sector reduces its call on national saving.

This increases our capacity to finance further private sector investment without the need for greater recourse to other nations' savings through increased overseas borrowings and foreign equity investment in Australia.

The Government fully recognises this and has implemented one of the most rigorous fiscal consolidation programs of all industrial countries.

Details are contained in the Budget Papers.

Furthermore, the outcomes contained in this Budget are for lower deficits as a percentage of GDP than those forecast last year.

Those lower deficits will ensure that Australia's government debt, as a proportion of GDP, remains among the lowest for industrial countries.

Last year the Government legislated major steps to implement its deficit reduction strategy, and ensure that the 1996-97 outcome would accord with its commitment.

This involved a package of measures which improved the projected outcome for 1996-97 by almost $1\frac{3}{4}$ per cent of GDP.

Included amongst those measures was postponement of the second leg of the foreshadowed tax cuts worth over \$3½ billion.

This year we have again constrained all but the highest priority expenditure measures.

In light of this action, and the Government's capacity to improve its fiscal consolidation program without further tax increases, we have decided not to introduce a jobs levy as proposed in last December's Green Paper as a means of paying for the initiatives in *Working Nation*.

Such a levy would have substantially counteracted the tax cuts brought in only last November.

Mr President, I now turn to the Budget outcome and forecasts.

The budget deficit for the current financial year, 1993-94, is now expected to be \$13.6 billion—\$2.4 billion lower than forecast at budget time last year.

The budget deficit for 1994-95 will be \$11.7 billion.

The deficit will therefore fall from an expected 3.2 per cent of GDP this year to 2.5 per cent next year.

This clearly meets the requirement set by this Government in its Fiscal Framework for a credible decline in the deficit towards the objective of around one per cent of GDP by 1996-97.

And the budget deficit for 1996-97 is now projected to be 0.9 per cent of GDP, or 0.3 of a percentage point lower than projected after last year's Budget.

By 1997-98 the budget will be approaching balance.

The major initiatives announced in *Working Nation* mean there has been little room for other new spending while maintaining the deficit reduction program.

Nevertheless, over half a billion dollars of new spending in 1994-95 is contained in tonight's Budget, but it is more than offset by other measures announced tonight.

There will therefore be no expenditure blowout.

Outlays as a percentage of GDP are forecast to fall from 26.6 this year to 26.2 in 1994-95 and will fall by a further two percentage points over the subsequent three years.

Although the only revenue enhancements in this Budget relate to improved tax compliance

and cost recovery in government services, total revenue will increase slightly as a percentage of GDP.

That is due to the impact of economic recovery—especially increased employment—and measures introduced in last year's Budget.

Revenue growth will however be slower than in previous recoveries due to low inflation, continuing tariff reductions, reduced dividends from government enterprises, and reductions in interest receipts resulting from the repayment of State debt.

Accordingly, revenue as a share of GDP will remain well below the levels of the 1980s.

MEASURES IN THE BUDGET

Mr President, I now move on to the main measures contained in this Budget—full details are provided in supporting documents.

Tonight's Budget reaffirms this Government's commitment to social justice.

Last week in *Working Nation* the Prime Minister announced a range of new policies and programs costing \$6.5 billion over the next four years.

These programs are primarily aimed at reducing unemployment.

The key initiative in the package—the Job Compact—will help long-term unemployed people to get the skills and experience they need to get back into jobs.

Working Nation includes extensive reforms to labour market assistance including case management and improvements to the delivery of labour market programs.

The social security system will be restructured to reflect changes in our society and to remove disincentives to work.

A Parenting Allowance will be introduced for eligible unemployed people and low-income earners.

Working Nation also includes training and education reforms.

Entry-level training places will be increased and a new Youth Training Allowance will be introduced.

The package also includes a regional development strategy, important microeconomic reforms and an industry policy aimed at

improving enterprise competitiveness and developing international markets for Australian goods and services.

Mr President, this Government has a firm commitment to improving the position of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Tonight's Budget commits almost \$1½ billion over the next ten years to build up a self-sustaining National Land Fund.

The Land Fund is a major element of the Government's response to the Mabo decision.

It recognises that many indigenous people have been dispossessed of their land and will not directly benefit from Native Title Legislation.

But besides land, the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples remains of continuing concern to the Government.

The standard of health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is still well below that of other Australians.

Current health services, across all levels of government, are not meeting their needs.

To redress this situation, a further \$500 million will be provided over five years to expand and extend Aboriginal health programs.

Mr President, a number of other significant health measures are included in this Budget.

To accelerate the process of mental health reform and to address areas of concern identified by the Report of the National Inquiry into the Human Rights of People with Mental Illness, \$169 million will be spent over four years.

This builds on funds already provided through the National Mental Health Strategy.

These new funds also support the continuation of vocational rehabilitation services for people with a psychiatric disability.

Mr President, the Government is very concerned about the tragic loss and trauma to Australian women occasioned by breast cancer.

To improve our understanding and treatment of their problem, the Government is providing \$209 million over four years in funding for a National Breast Cancer Program.

This includes \$187 million for the continuation and expansion of the national screening program, and \$22 million for a national breast cancer centre and a breast cancer fundraising foundation.

As a step towards the Prime Minister's election commitment of lifting health and medical research funding to two per cent of total health expenditure by the year 2000, an additional \$93 million is being made available for research over the next four years.

Increased funding for breast cancer research projects is expected to result, with decisions being based firmly on the quality of research applications.

Mr President, vaccine-preventable diseases in children have been rising.

This, in a wealthy nation, is simply not acceptable.

To address this, an additional \$9½ million will be spent in 1994-95 on promoting childhood immunisation.

In aggregate this Budget allocates almost one billion dollars over four years for new and expanded health programs—without increasing the Medicare levy.

A package of measures worth \$62.7 million over four years will assist homeless people through the enhancement of accommodation assistance, the extension of rent assistance to young homeless students and improved community support services.

Our aim in extending rent assistance to young homeless students on the Austudy Student Homeless Rate is to encourage them to stay in education or training.

After aligning the Personal Income Test for these students with that for the Youth Training Allowance, the net cost of this assistance will be \$37.5 million over four years.

Following the \$2000 rise in the Austudy Supplementary Loan Scheme limit announced last year, the limit will be further increased from \$6000 to \$7000 from 1995.

Access to Justice will be enhanced by a number of measures, including expanded community and Family Court mediation services, and increased funding for legal aid and disability discrimination programs.

A number of new and specially-tailored programs for Veterans are contained in the 1994-95 Budget, addressing the needs of younger and older Veterans and including initiatives which will be welcomed by war widows and widowers, and merchant mariners.

Younger Veterans will benefit from a greater focus on rehabilitation, early intervention and health promotion programs as well as assistance for those with psychiatric difficulties.

The Budget also contains measures which respond to concerns raised over recent years about inconsistencies in the determination of disability pension claims.

Maintaining our strong commitment to the environment, the Commonwealth is offering to fund a Daintree Rescue Package on a joint basis with the Queensland Government.

This will ensure protection of this unique area.

The Sydney 2000 Olympics will be a tremendous event for Australia.

To support Australia's athletes in these historic games, the Government will provide \$135 million over the next six years for athlete preparation.

Mr President, Australia's Development Co-operation program is an important means of promoting sustainable economic and social advancement in developing countries.

By improving the standard of living of people in these countries, Australia is helping give those worse off than ourselves a fair go.

The Government is providing an additional \$68.4 million to the Development Co-operation program in 1994-95, primarily for initiatives in the Asia-Pacific region including Indochina.

This is a significant real increase in aid funding, continuing the trend set in 1990-91, and keeps Australia's aid contribution above the average for industrial countries.

The Government will fund a national Asian languages and studies program for Australian schools at a net cost of \$48 million over the next four years.

This will improve language and cultural skills and provide a solid platform for strengthening

our cultural and business links with Asia well into the next century.

Mr President, a number of savings measures are also contained in this Budget.

The Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS) will be aligned with income tax arrangements.

Repayments will now reflect the proportion of the year during which those with HECS obligations earn above the repayments threshold.

The Government has also decided on a further program of asset sales.

As announced in *Working Nation*, it is the Government's view that airports now owned by the Federal Airports Corporation would perform better for the community if they were privately owned.

Towards this end, to promote competition and allow clear comparisons of performance between airports, the Government will work through a process to prepare these airports for sale.

The Government has also announced its intention to sell its full equity in the Australian Industry Development Corporation Limited.

While there are no general taxation increases in this Budget, there are some measures to improve tax compliance.

The ATO has identified a range of areas under existing laws where compliance can be improved—either directly through better procedures for the collection of outstanding taxes, or indirectly through measures which can be expected to boost voluntary compliance.

Some of these areas have been the subject of recommendations by the Parliamentary Joint Committee of Public Accounts and the Auditor General.

This measure is expected to increase tax revenues by \$300 million in 1994-95.

There are also measures to improve cost recovery for government services.

The Australian Securities Commission fee structure will be simplified and rationalised.

This will ensure that more of the costs of company regulation are borne by the companies and market participants who benefit, rather than taxpayers.

These changes will generate about \$40 million a year and restore the fees in real terms.

From 1 January 1995 the departure tax will be replaced by a \$27 charge for international passengers to recover the cost of customs, immigration and quarantine services and short-term visa processing.

In the 1992-93 Budget the Government announced the phased introduction of full recovery of the costs incurred in implementing safety standards and 50 per cent of the costs of safety standards setting and compliance services.

As a further step in this process, this Budget increases cost recovery by \$25.3 million, via an increase in the excise on avgas and avtur, and a special charge on Australian international operators.

The Government is also announcing several taxation initiatives in this Budget.

Following the review announced in last year's Budget of the operation of Employee Share Acquisition Schemes, the Government will substantially improve incentives for schemes that will best foster workplace productivity growth and encourage employees to take an ownership stake in their company.

At the same time it will institute measures to prevent Employee Share Acquisition Schemes being misused.

From tonight, employees participating in schemes that offer shares in their employer's company will be able either to receive \$500 per year in the form of tax exempt discounts on shares, or to defer tax for up to ten years on up to \$1500 worth of shares.

In both cases, the shares must be held for at least five years.

And the schemes will be subject to a range of conditions to ensure they are equitable to all employees and encourage improvements in workplace productivity.

I will be releasing further details of the arrangements tonight.

The Government will be undertaking a review of Fringe Benefits Tax compliance costs, in light of concerns that have been expressed about the costs borne by business in complying with the FBT.

The aim of the review will be to minimise FBT compliance costs whilst protecting the tax base.

I will announce details of the review shortly.

Excise on fuel oil, heating oil and kerosene will be reduced by almost two cents per litre from tonight.

The reduction in fuel oil excise will provide significant benefits to coastal shipping and export-oriented minerals projects.

The superannuation matters outstanding from the FitzGerald Report, and the protection of small amounts, will be addressed in a separate statement I shall make during this Budget session.

We are currently undertaking extensive consultations with the superannuation industry and other interested parties.

CONCLUDING COMMENTS

Mr President, the major policy challenge facing Australia is to achieve strong sustainable growth during the 1990s, in order to reduce unemployment.

The Government believes that an unemployment rate of 5 per cent should be within our grasp by the turn of the century, and that even lower levels of unemployment are possible in subsequent years.

Australia has probably never been better placed to achieve a prolonged period of high economic and employment growth.

In our first seven years in Office—from 1983 to 1990—we increased employment by 1.7 million.

Emulating this performance should be within our capabilities between now and the end of the decade.

To do so will require:

- maintenance of a low rate of inflation;
- a continuing program of microeconomic reform;
- a better trained and job ready workforce;

an improved national saving performance with fiscal policy playing an appropriate role.

All these are areas which the Government has previously recognised and taken steps to address.

The *Working Nation* statement confirms the Government's determination to develop appropriate policies for sustained long-term growth of output and jobs.

This Budget, by confirming and improving the Government's deficit reduction program, takes further steps to enable the realisation of sustained high growth.

We can be a prosperous, equitable, and fully employed nation.

Let us all work to that end!

I commend the Budget to the House.

I seek leave to move a motion in relation to the statement and documents.

Leave granted.

Senator COOK—I move:

That the Senate take note of the statement and document.

Debate (on motion by **Senator Hill**) adjourned.

WOMEN'S BUDGET STATEMENT

Senator CROWLEY (South Australia—Minister for Family Services) (8.05 p.m.)—I table budget related document No. 3 entitled *Women's Budget Statement 1994-95* and seek leave to move a motion relating to the document.

Leave granted.

Senator CROWLEY—I move:

That the Senate take note of the document.

Debate (on motion by **Senator Panizza**) adjourned.

DOCUMENTS

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act

Declaration

Senator ELLISON (Western Australia) (8.06 p.m.)—by leave—I move:

That the Senate take note of the document.

The Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs (Mr Tickner) made a declaration pursuant to section 10 of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act whereby development on what is now known as the Broome crocodile farm was halted. There has been a good deal of publicity about this matter. Indeed, there is a challenge to the minister's decision pending in the Federal Court.

In fact, the minister made two other decisions, which were temporary ones, imposing 30-day bans on the development of the crocodile farm. As reported recently in the press, on 5 May 1994 the Federal Court rejected the minister's application to have those first two applications dismissed. The situation now is that all three decisions by the minister are subject to judicial review by the Federal Court of Australia. Those actions have been brought by the Western Australian government and Mr Malcolm Douglas, the proprietor of the crocodile farm. I am conscious that there are court proceedings pending, and I will carefully address my remarks to the Senate accordingly. I say at the outset that Mr Douglas is no stranger to the courts, having obtained three decisions in his favour, hitherto, in relation to the development of that crocodile farm. I can tell the Senate that recently I was in the Kimberleys. I visited Mr Douglas at his crocodile farm and saw there the predicament that he faced.

The crocodile farm is not simply a tourist attraction. It provides a number of community services. It provides a home for what are known as rogue crocodiles. Recently, one Aboriginal community that had a large crocodile which was menacing local inhabitants requested Mr Douglas to retrieve the crocodile and to retain it on his premises, which he did. As well as that, the crocodile farm has been involved in research into crocodile breeding. CALM works in close liaison with Mr Douglas. Apart from that, Mr Douglas has an export business in relation to the meat and hides of crocodiles. As such, he employs nine people in the township of Broome. He purchases crocodiles from an Aboriginal community in the Northern Territory. He has also employed Aboriginals in part-time work and would provide training to them.

Mr President, we are not just dealing with a property which is rather quaintly referred to as a crocodile farm; it is a lot more than just that. The minister's decision to ban any development in relation to that business has virtually crippled Mr Douglas's operation. Mr Douglas had an enforceable lease. He ran his business accordingly, with a view to developing it, quite sensibly thinking that he had a lease which was enforceable at law.

So he obtained further crocodiles, he developed the farm, he took on more people and then he found that he was challenged in the courts. That was okay—he went to the courts and he won, three times. It seems that that was not enough for the minister. The minister was not satisfied with the due process of law. He imposed an arbitrary decision to close down the development of that business. Quite frankly, it is an abysmal state of affairs where a small business expends a great deal of money in the courts, wins, and then finds itself facing executive action by the government of the day and is virtually closed down.

The minister commissioned a report by Mr Fred Chaney. It is the circumstances surrounding the commissioning of that report, the circumstances under which the report was obtained and the evidence upon which it was based that is the subject of judicial review. My comment is that it should never have even got to this. It should never have got this far. Australian citizens are entitled to think that once they have gone to the courts and obtained relief, once they have gone to the courts and obtained a decision, that is it.

There has been no appeal from the Federal Court decision or the Supreme Court decision. There is no appeal at all. What the Kimberley Land Council did was go to the minister and ask him to exercise his power under section 10 of this act. Under that section the minister has quite wide-sweeping powers—draconian, in fact. These powers are so forceful that a decision in the Federal Court or the Supreme Court can be overturned. As I say, this will be determined by the Federal Court in due course.

It is interesting to note that the minister thought that he could dismiss Mr Douglas's

two applications and the initial application of the state government of Western Australia, saying that the 30-day bans on the development of the farm would be a waste of taxpayers' money and of no purpose. But it meant a great deal to Mr Douglas, because he was being held up. He could not develop his business, and he had a great deal of investment in that business.

I do not have to remind fellow senators that in the running of business one needs certainty. One cannot run any business on the basis that a minister—of whatever persuasion—might come along like this. Believe you me, if the minister had been a Liberal minister I would still be saying this, because business cannot function this way. It cannot function where a minister is able to wield such autocratic power, especially after the courts have decided. Unfortunately, Mr Douglas finds himself back in the courts again and it seems that he has a long way to go. I find it an absolute travesty that this man is having to engage in court action.

What is more, the situation in Broome is not that clear. I spoke to Aboriginal people who do not want this ban to continue. I have spoken to people of Aboriginal descent who would like to see that business developed. They would like to enjoy the fruits of that business by way of employment, by way of the peripheral business it brings to the community of Broome. If anyone thinks that this is an Aboriginal question and that all Aboriginals are united, I can tell them that that is not the case. In fact, there is a competing interest in relation to the land in question between two tribes, namely, the Djugun tribe and the Yawuru tribe. That really is a question that needs to be determined.

That is one of the challenges facing the committee of which I am privileged to be a member, which is going to oversee the Native Title Act. We will find an Aboriginal population which moved due to climatic circumstances and circumstances brought about by the European settlement—and I do not shy away from that. The Djugun people claim that they had to move from the Broome peninsula because of resettlement by European settlers

but, nonetheless, they maintain they have a claim.

The Yawuru people say that they have a claim. But first we have to sort out who are the legitimate Aboriginal people who are the custodians of the land or who have a traditional usage of the land before we go making any court decision as to whether businesses should be stopped in their tracks. I put it to the Senate that this is not a clear-cut matter; it is very complex if we look at it in the traditional usage sense of the land.

In any event, one would think the law of Australia applies to everybody, yet a citizen has gone to the courts, got a decision in his favour three times and then faced a minister overturning that decision. I find this declaration completely contrary to the way citizens of Australia, be they black, yellow, white or brindle, have been used to this country functioning. The laws of Australia should apply to everyone equally. I believe that in this case Mr Douglas has not been treated in an equal sense or with any equity by the exercise of this declaration.

As to the ins and outs of the process that the minister adopted, that will be decided by the Federal Court. As to the report itself and the content thereof, that will be decided by the court in due course. Recently, calls by the opposition for the minister to state reasons for the exercise of his discretion under section 10 have been met only with the report itself. One would think that if we had a look at the report it would be all there. Of course it is not. That is not satisfactory. The process should be more transparent. This involves wider questions—questions which we face daily in this chamber, that is, the decision-making process of government and how citizens can see how the government arrives at a decision. We have seen it in the media print inquiry, for instance, as to how the Foreign Investment Review Board might determine whether foreign investments fail or succeed.

In any democracy the processes should be transparent. If the minister were dinkum about this, he would show Malcolm Douglas and the citizens of this country the process of arriving at that decision, the process of banning the development of his business for five

years, and he would tell the people of Australia the basis upon which he came to that decision. The report itself is not enough. The report itself is not comprehensive. In a political sense some natural justice should be done to the extent that when people have an adverse decision made against them they should be fully informed as to why that decision was made against them. To this date, I believe that Mr Douglas has not had that civility afforded to him by the government.

Therefore, I think this is a very sad state of affairs. On the face of it people might not think it is much. They might think it is only a crocodile farm. They might even think it is rather quaint and rather unusual, but the principles of this run deep. They are serious principles indeed and ones which reflect a wider problem. I believe that, during the course of this year, this will not be the only time that this chamber will need to look at this situation and the situation of executive power overriding the judiciary or the executive power even overriding the exercise of decisions or debate in this chamber.

Senator McKIERNAN (Western Australia) (8.18 p.m.)—I was a bit surprised when I heard Senator Ellison rise to speak on this question. I did not know it was going to come up. I had not heard it flagged anywhere that we were going to be entering into a debate on this matter.

Senator Campbell—It is on the red.

Senator McKIERNAN—Perhaps Senator Campbell might help me and tell me where it is on the red.

Senator Campbell—Documents tabled by the clerk.

Senator McKIERNAN—Tabling of documents by the clerk is at point 11(c) on page 3 of the red, but it does not tell me what it is, unfortunately.

Senator Campbell—The list was circulated at question time.

Senator McKIERNAN—I did not know. I probably should have known yesterday in order to get the papers that I have collected on this matter brought over from my electorate office in Perth. The matter has been previously raised in the chamber. It is a

matter of importance for Western Australia and for the people of Western Australia, irrespective of the colour of their skins. So I would have liked to have been better prepared to take part in the debate.

Whilst listening to Senator Ellison, my mind went back to some of the more recent events in the matter that is the subject of this debate. Probably one of the reasons why I was not prepared for an ongoing debate on this matter is that my recall—I think it was a front page story in the *West Australian* newspaper—was that Mr Douglas was featured saying that he was going to close the crocodile farm and was locking the gates. I recall also that on one of the television channels—I cannot remember which one it was—Mr Douglas repeated the same story. I may be corrected on this because I am relying on my memory and I am not as young as I used to be, but I recall that this event happened possibly a day or two before the presentation of the report by Mr Fred Chaney who had been commissioned by the minister to investigate the sacredness of the sites that the Aboriginal people had claimed were in the area and could be infringed upon by the expansion of Mr Douglas's enterprise in Broome. I thought that the timing was somewhat unusual. If I am correct and it was only a matter of 24 hours before the closure and the presentation of Mr Chaney's report, then there is something rather odd about the matter and there was quite a deal of foresight in it.

I remember part of the content of Mr Chaney's report. As I recall it—and please do forgive me because I am only dealing from memory—Mr Chaney's investigations had recognised that there were some sites that were very significant to the Aboriginal people in the area. If that is the case, the comments that have been made in this debate about the laws of this country applying to each and every one of us apply here.

If Mr Chaney's report is correct and there are sites of great significance to local Aboriginal people in that area that could be impinged upon by development, I think the courts of Australia, if that is where this matter is going to be finally decided, will have to take that

into consideration. I would hope that the Federal Court—

Senator Ellison—Which court?

Senator McKiernan—I think Senator Ellison said the Federal Court. It is a very serious issue not only for Mr Douglas, the Aboriginal people in Broome, the other residents of Broome, and the people of Western Australia, but it is a very significant event for all Australian people at this time in our historical development. It is less than six months ago that we passed the native title bill in this place in the early hours of 23 December. In this evening's budget there are some very significant measures that will redress in some way some of the wrongs that have been done to the native people of this land.

I hope that when the matter reaches the Federal Court it will be widely debated there and the court will give a judgment that will not be influenced by the comments made in this chamber or any other place but on the points of law. I hope that the court will also take into consideration the laws of the Aboriginal people. I apologise to the chamber that I was not better prepared for this debate. As I said, I did not know the debate was coming on. An investigation has shown where it appears on the red, and I thank the Senate Table Office for sending over the document which fully informs the Senate where this matter is being debated. There is no mention of the town of Broome, a crocodile farm or Mr Douglas. One would have to be really looking for it to pick it up. I apologise for the fact that I did not pick it up earlier.

Senator CAMPBELL (Western Australia) (8.25 p.m.)—When I perused the document list, I did notice the matter. As the Senate would be aware, Senator Ellison and I have been concerned about this issue, as I know Senator McKiernan has been. When I saw the determination appear on the document list, I asked an attendant to get me a copy of the document. It was no surprise to me that it related to the Broome crocodile farm.

I do not want to reiterate what Senator Ellison has said about the background to this case. I think that has already been canvassed in a previous debate in the chamber. But there are a couple of important matters that need to

be raised. The first relates to the process by which this determination by the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs (Mr Tickner) was made. The second relates to the longer term consequences, which Senator Ellison has referred to in part.

I wish to deal particularly with subsections 42(2) and (4) of the Native Title Act. Under the Native Title Bill that was passed through this chamber in the dying days of December last year, we have a very similar provision whereby the minister can intervene and overrule all of the decisions of the courts of Australia and also of the Native Title Tribunal which is established under the Native Title Act.

I refer, firstly, to the timing of Malcolm Douglas's announcement of the closure of the crocodile farm. For those who are not aware of it, for a number of years Malcolm Douglas has had a farm located at Broome just a few hundred yards from the Cable Beach Resort in a very good tourist area. Although it is virtually a tourist farm, it is a smaller operation where he has been propagating crocodiles. He makes all of his revenue from the tourist trade which is attracted there.

The crocodile farm is a very important tourist development for Broome. Broome has some classic features: it has its architecture, the magnificent Cable Beach, the cinema, and a range of activities. It also has a lot of activities related to the Aboriginal culture in the area—the pearl farming and so forth. But the crocodile farm is a unique and interesting attraction, which I also had the pleasure of visiting, only a day before the closure took place.

I discussed this matter with Malcolm Douglas on a number of occasions leading up to my recent trip to Broome. Just to inform Senator McKiernan and the Senate, the problem that Malcolm Douglas had was the uncertainty surrounding the title to the land he had obtained where he was hoping to establish the commercial operation. It is at some distance from the crocodile farm itself—it is about a 15-minute drive across to Roebuck Bay—and the whole operation relied on propagating thousands of crocodile eggs. The space that he had available at his Cable Beach

development was just not enough to allow these crocodiles to be farmed. It is a fairly risky business. Pretty secure fences and good ponds are needed.

The management of a crocodile farm is something that astounds me. The gentleman who showed me through the development at the Broome crocodile farm at Cable Beach amazed me when he told me that the way they get the crocodile eggs out of the nests is to go in there with a long prod. Of course, the mother of the average of 42 crocodile eggs sitting in a nest at any one time is extremely protective. I would not recommend it to any senator to approach a crocodile nest with a nesting female crocodile on it and try to take the crocodiles out of the nest. It is a very hazardous operation. Apparently, that is what they do: these very skilled and brave people go in there with a long prod, try to get the eggs out of the crocodile's nest and then stick them into the hatchery.

So I guess that would be enough to discourage a lot of people from seeking employment on a crocodile farm. The problem is that the whole long-term operation of the crocodile farm as a tourist attraction and as an undertaking for creating skins and meat for export depends on space.

That is all fairly fascinating but there is an important consideration not only for Malcolm Douglas's development in Broome but also for all developments anywhere in Australia. I am reminded that people in Victoria often do not think of the consequences of native title because they do not think there is any native title in Victoria. I remember the contribution made by Senator Troeth from Victoria—who is in the chamber tonight—during the first debate about the crocodile farm. She revealed, for the first time in Australia, that the Victorian government's titles records show that 34 per cent—and Senator Troeth will correct me if I am wrong—of Victoria is available for claim. So Victorians should be very concerned about the native title issue as well. Native title will be an issue in Victoria because 34 per cent of the land in Victoria is available for claim.

But certainty of title is the crucial issue that we are addressing here tonight. I remind

honourable senators that Mr Douglas was given title over the land, as Senator Ellison explained, and was forced no less than three times in the Supreme Court of Western Australia to defend his rights to develop that title. On each occasion the Supreme Court took into consideration a range of views. It took into consideration the views of those who contested an area containing an Aboriginal initiation trail. Basically, a group of Aboriginals have walked across this 40-acre patch of land well described in the records of the Supreme Court and recognised by Malcolm Douglas. There have been a number of investigations by experts from the Western Australia museum—and I point out to Senator McKiernan that they certainly could not be described as lackeys of the WA government. Following an investigation over seven years, these experts in their field agreed with the Aboriginal people on where this initiation trail ran—that is, at the back of the block, away from the Great Northern Highway running up to Derby.

Mr Douglas excised an enormous tract of land off the back of the 40 acres in total respect of that initiation trail. Taking that into account, the Supreme Court said that it recognised the existence of the initiation track. However, it also said it was fair that development should go ahead near the highway. I remind honourable senators that the Great Northern Highway between Broome and Derby is a major road going up to places like Karratha and Kununurra. Massive road trains run up and down it virtually every half an hour every single day. Of course, that means there is an enormous amount of disruption to that area. The relative disruption to the initiation track caused by a few ponds being placed near that road with a few crocodiles lazing around in the sun would not be anything like the disruption that could possibly be caused by traffic. I would not seek to judge that because I am not competent to judge the importance of Aboriginal culture and the importance of that initiation trail to those who use it.

However, the Supreme Court made a judgment quite recently that the development should proceed. Effectively, we are talking

about excavating some very shallow ponds in a mudflat type country, putting in some cyclone wire fences and putting a couple of small shed-like buildings in place to provide hatcheries and so forth for the crocodiles—a very low impact development compared with putting a major north-south highway through and allowing road trains to run up and down it.

The crucial issue is certainty of title. Turning to the gazettal notice tabled by the clerk today, we note that in schedule 2 the prohibited acts as prescribed by the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs (Mr Tickner) are:

1. Bulldozing, grading, drilling or excavating, or any other act that will, or is likely to injure or desecrate the area or part of the area described in Schedule 1.

2. The deliberate killing, cutting down, damaging or removing any vegetation within the area—

Having been there recently, I have to say to the Senate that there is virtually no vegetation in the area. It is a mudflat. There are a few trees along the road, but I suspect that a lot of those trees blew in from passing trucks and have propagated themselves. Certainly, they are not part of the natural vegetation. It really is a mudflat-type situation.

The important issue here is that Malcolm Douglas has not been told he will have his land compulsorily resumed or have some compensation paid because he is not allowed to develop. He is left with this piece of land and with his liabilities in relation to this land. However, he has been told by a federal minister that for the next five years he is not allowed to do anything with the land—not a thing. I presume that he would have to pay council rates on the land and land taxes. If there were any capital gains, he would probably have to pay capital gains tax to the Commonwealth revenue if he disposed of the land. The land is not being resumed. All we have is a declaration from the federal minister that Mr Douglas, or anyone else, is not allowed to bulldoze the land or remove any vegetation.

The important part of this is that in Australia, or in any country, if we do not have certainty of title or private property rights

protected, then development, which in the end gives hope for jobs for all Australians, will not take place. We cannot hope to increase the number of jobs in Australia unless there is private investment. I think everyone on both sides of the parliament recognises that if we do not have investment—be it public or private—we will not have an increase in the number of real jobs. Here we have a man who has made a significant investment in time and money in a good development project, who has fought through the processes of the law in Western Australia right up to the Supreme Court, and who has won on each occasion. Having done that, he has had this notice placed upon him by Mr Tickner.

Something that angers me more than that is that effectively a one-man tribunal went to Broome to advise the minister. Fred Chaney certainly has experience in Aboriginal affairs, has a deep and active interest in Aboriginal affairs and has an enormous affinity with the Aboriginal people. However, Mr Chaney has gone there and mediated. The parliament does not know whom he has mediated with or spoken with. I am sure that the minister does, but we are not sure whom he spoke to, what discussions took place or whether or not those discussions were recorded. We are none the wiser. He has gone up there as a one-man tribunal and effectively—even though it was not Fred who did it—taken evidence without a record that we know of and without representation, as far as we know. We are not sure what rules of evidence he used, but he has made a decision which has gone to the minister.

The minister has effectively acted on the advice of a one-man tribunal to overrule the Supreme Court of Western Australia, which made the decisions on three occasions—not only the Supreme Court of Western Australia but also all of the other bodies under the former Labor government which approved this development. So that undermines certainty of title in the eyes of all in the north of that great state of Western Australia.

I move on to something that is even more important in the longer term. Section 42, subsections (2) to (4), of the Native Title Act, which we passed here last year and which

was proclaimed on about 31 December or 1 January, refers to the tribunal processes that have to be gone through to achieve a result—a recommendation that a development either go ahead or not, or that native title be granted or not—that complex native title tribunal process that we debated for something like 58 hours last December. We are advised that that process will take between 12 or 14 months, if there are no hiccups.

If people want to develop or if they are native title claimants, they go to the tribunal. They then go through all of the processes and all of the determinations of the tribunal, which processes take between 12 and 14 months. At the end of that entire process, which the Senate ultimately agreed was fair only five months ago, section 42 contains an absolute, undisputed power for the federal minister to intervene and overrule the decision of the tribunal.

Although the determination that we are debating tonight is different—it is under the Heritage Act—the power is very similar, if not worse, under the Native Title Act. For example, if a mining company were successful in the tribunal process and were allowed to go ahead with its development of a mine, of a tourist operation or whatever, not even the aggrieved Aboriginal group—the native title party, as it is called under the Native Title Act—but some other Aboriginal group not even a party to the tribunal process can go to the federal minister and put its case to the minister, and the minister can overrule the decision of the tribunal.

This is very much in parallel with what has taken place under the section 10 determination which we are debating tonight in relation to the Broome crocodile farm. We can go through all the processes under the Native Title Act, but an aggrieved party can go to the minister and the minister has a two month period whereby he can veto the decision of the native title tribunal. That is a totally unfettered power. So, whether it is an Aboriginal group, a developer or any other group that is disaffected by the decision of the tribunal it makes little difference. Under the Native Title Act it is effectively the person or group of people who have the best leverage

over the minister or the government of the day who will have ultimate power. Regardless of the 12 or 14 month process of going through the native title tribunal and associated procedures, the minister will make the ultimate decision. This indicates the importance of what Mr Tickner and his so-called mediator, Mr Chaney, have done in the case of the Broome crocodile farm.

I will close with one other reflection on the sad and disgraceful process that took place in relation to the Broome crocodile farm. When I spoke to Malcolm Douglas a couple of weeks before the decision was made I told him that I was going to Broome; I wanted to have a look around; I wanted to get a feel for the issue on the ground; I wanted to understand the layout of the farm and talk to the local community; and, having been there, I wanted to raise some issues publicly. Mr Douglas informed me that, in the interests of mediation, Mr Chaney—I will be corrected if I am wrong—requested that there be no comment made to the media. In effect, there was a sort of formal media ban on discussion of issues relating to the crocodile farm.

I have not met Malcolm Douglas, but I have spoken to him on the phone on a number of occasions. I have found him to be an ultimately fair man in the dealings I have had with him. He is a very reasonable man; a man who has very good reason to be angry about what has happened to him. He decided to respect Mr Chaney's wishes that there be no discussion in the media about this issue.

It may have been Mr Tickner's idea, but Mr Chaney certainly was the messenger on behalf of Mr Tickner. The very sad thing is that this is a crucial issue in Australia, and a vitally crucial issue in the town of Broome. It is not a big town, and people should have had the right to discuss this matter. Indeed, the public of Australia should have had the right to discuss the sort of things we are talking about tonight. The fact that some sort of mediation process taking place is no reason why the public should not have a right to discuss this matter. Discussion was curtailed by a sort of gentleman's agreement, and that was imposed by either Mr Tickner, Mr Chaney or both.

I am quite angry about that. In the last few months in Perth and in the rest of Australia the trial of Laurie Connell has been discussed day and night. How one can possibly say that it is OK to discuss Laurie Connell's trial, but not to discuss the important national issues associated with the banning of development of a piece of private property—a ban imposed by a federal minister who had no previous jurisdiction over land management—is beyond me. In a democracy it is a disgrace for anyone, either at the request of the minister or off his own bat—and I refer to Mr Chaney if he made that decision himself—to suggest that there should be some ban on discussing the very important issues that are encapsulated in the decision to ban development of the Broome crocodile farm. It is a travesty of democracy and a travesty of people's rights to discuss these most important crucial issues.

We are discussing a crucial federal-state relations issue. We now have a junior minister in the federal government being able to ban development on a piece of land in Western Australia on the advice of an unelected mediator. It is a disgraceful decision. It is a disgrace that the federation has come to the point where we have this maniacal power of a centralist federal Labor government being able to overrule all of the due processes taking place in Western Australia. To then ban public discussion and media comment on the Broome crocodile farm is a further travesty of our democracy.

I hope that this Labor government will regret the massive centralisation of power that has occurred in the last 10 years and will live to regret the massive centralisation of power included in the provisions of the heritage act, which we are dealing with tonight, and of course the unconstitutional, unworkable, impractical Native Title Act, which we passed through this parliament in December last year.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Australia France Foundation

Annual Report 1992-93

Senator TEAGUE (South Australia)—I move:

That the Senate take note of the document.

I seek leave to continue my remarks later.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Report on Investment in South-East Asia

Senator TEAGUE (South Australia) (8.47 p.m.)—I move:

That the Senate take note of the document.

The East Asia Analytical Unit has produced some very good work. Two of its reports are tabled in the Senate today, one with regard to South-East Asia and one with regard to India. The East Asia Analytical Unit within the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade was first created for the study which we all know as the Garnaut report. Professor Ross Garnaut, having been an Australian economist advising the Australian government, then Ambassador to China and now of course Professor of Economics at the Australian National University, was asked to write a report on the north-east Asian ascendancy in Australia's economic perspective. It is an absolutely fundamental report that gives focus to Australia's continuing opportunities in Japan, China, Korea, Taiwan and Hong Kong.

The success of that study has built up a secretariat which is now known as the East Asia Analytical Unit. In 1992 this unit produced a report entitled *Australia's business challenge: South-East Asia in the 1990s*, which was another useful study of South-East Asia. In 1994 the same unit has produced a study, adding to that 1992 report, about Australian investment in South-East Asia. It looks at the relationship between investment and trade and the chicken and egg elements of those two important economic factors. It chooses its subtitle from the analogy of sailing. It says that there are new winds of growth blowing in Asia, not least in South-East Asia, so we should let Australia change tack and take advantage of the prevailing wind in our neighbourhood. The report is called *Changing tack*.

I congratulate Pamela Fayle and those other members of the unit who carried out this study. All who are interested in our economic relations with Asia will want to read the report thoroughly. At the moment Australia's direct investment abroad finds only 4.6 per

cent of the total in the ASEAN countries. This figure is growing, and particularly in the later 1980s following a period of relative decline. I am sure that when we look at Australian trade prospects, we will make sure that not only will we focus on our major target area—China, Japan, Korea, Taiwan and Hong Kong, which are sometimes called the East Asian tigers—but will continue to have as a target South-East Asia.

There are some patterns of investment now—indeed increasing investment—from the tigers into South-East Asia. Last month I visited China, Korea, Hong Kong and Taiwan and had considered discussions with economic ministers in all those areas. I noted in particular that investment to South-East Asia, and to some extent investment here, is not only linked with the new opportunities that are emerging in Indo-China, such as Vietnam, but that the prospects of good returns from investment are being seen by our big neighbours in the far north in terms of our South-East Asian neighbours.

This is a timely report which I and others who are interested in our economic relations in this region will want to study carefully.

Debate (on motion by Senator Ellison) adjourned.

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Report on India

Senator TEAGUE (South Australia) (8.53 p.m.)—I move:

That the Senate take note of the document.

As I foreshadowed earlier, this is another major report of the East Asia Analytical Unit from within the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. It is essential reading for those of us who want to see Australia take up the opportunities that exist in the Indian subcontinent. Indeed, although this study relates to India, there are some ways in which parallel observations can be made about Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal. It is essential in Australia that our priority focus on north east Asia—Japan, China and the others—and not be so focused that we

ignore our opportunities in South-East Asia, especially in India.

It can be truly said that 1986 was a year of renaissance in the relationship between Australia and India. Indeed, it was largely driven at first by prime ministers Rajiv Gandhi and Bob Hawke. They understood each other and moved to ensure that our economies were related and our businessmen increasingly got to know each other. Therefore, in 1986 a start was made in Australia to look towards India, after a gap of some 15 years from 1971 to 1986.

In due course this led to interest in the parliament, and other senators—including the current Minister for Trade, Senator McMullan—joined with me in suggesting that the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade write a study on Australia's economic relations with India and the opportunities there. This was a major report of the Senate which was taken up by the government of Australia, was much read in India and was a consolidation of where we had moved from 1986 to 1989. Things languished a little after that, however, and this report is a response by the Australian government through the East Asia Analytical Unit to a Garnaut-type report—the kind of report that we saw as so valuable for east Asia—being applied to south Asia.

The Senate report actually called for this report to be written. Subsequently, when it was not immediately activated, I wrote to the then Minister for Trade, Senator Cook, last year and urged that this report be undertaken. He was very kind to write back to me in June of last year to say that my letter had added to the burden of urgings which was leading him to make the decision that he in fact announced in last year's budget.

I wish to commend Meredith Borthwick and the other members of the unit and also those from the Australian National University, WD Scott International, Coopers & Lybrand and Curtin University. I also commend a wide range of Australian business people, some members of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, my friends Marika Vicziany, Robin Jeffrey and other academics directly involved in south Asia studies and, indeed,

some major departments of this government. They are all acknowledged on page xi of the prefatory pages for their contribution to this report.

This study focuses upon a new 'epochal change', as they put it, in 1991 when India fell into a hole with some international debt. The economic answer for this within India was to become internationally competitive and to have economic liberalisation. This built on the perspectives that we had analysed in the Senate report of 1989. I commend chapter five which talks about that change and the concluding chapter, 'Seizing the moment: Australia's India strategy', which is full of paragraphs which I have ticked. I will study the full body of this report thoroughly, and I commend it to the Senate.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Attorney-General's Department

Report of the Investigations of War Criminals in Australia

Senator MINCHIN (South Australia) (8.58 p.m.)—This 618-page report frankly documents an extraordinary waste of taxpayers' money. In this age of political correctness that is probably not a sensible thing to say, so I hasten to add that I am not here to defend Nazi war criminals. Indeed, my father spent six years—from 1939 to 1945—risking his life every day from a cockpit to shoot down Nazi pilots. I certainly do not seek to defend them. But I do speak as someone who is very concerned about what I regard as a deplorable waste of taxpayers' money through this process.

I particularly raise this matter as a South Australian senator, given that all three ultimate prosecutions were of South Australians whom I represent. In terms of the cost of this exercise, which is really the pertinent point of my comments, this report itself notes that from 1987 to 1992—the years covered by the report—salaries were of the order of \$6 million and administrative expenses were of the order of \$9.3 million. So for this special investigations unit we are talking about an expenditure of \$15.3 million.

Of course, this report does not go into the actual legal costs incurred in the prosecutions

themselves. I gather the advice we have from the AG's department is that we are talking about a total expenditure of \$30 million on this exercise. As a representative of the taxpayers in this place I want to point to the significant lack of achievement as a result of this expenditure.

A total of four cases were referred to the Director of Public Prosecutions from this five-year exercise; only three prosecutions were commenced after all this effort, and the three prosecutions involved three old men living in South Australia. All three prosecutions ultimately failed. In the first case the Supreme Court of South Australia acquitted the defendant, in the second case the charges were dismissed by a magistrate and, in the third case, the charges were dropped by the DPP.

As I said, South Australians, more than anybody else in Australia, were the people most exposed to this federal government fiasco. Every day we had one and a half million South Australians watching this fiasco. And South Australians across all walks of life were very angry when they saw, daily, this waste of their money.

It staggers me that anyone could think that, after nearly 50 years, justice could be done in this area or that successful prosecutions could ever hope to be completed. We all wish that World War II criminals had been dealt with at the time, and dealt with satisfactorily, but the fact is that we were talking about bringing these prosecutions nearly 50 years after the event. It is no wonder that ordinary Australian taxpayers thought that this was the craziest waste of money they had ever seen.

From the ordinary taxpayers' point of view, Canberra comes up with some amazing ways to waste money, but this really took the cake. Ordinary South Australians in particular who were going about their business were seeing old men dragged before the courts and prosecuted for things done 50 years ago. There was never any hope of getting satisfactory evidence or of satisfactory justice being done. And of course those South Australians concerned about the waste of money were ultimately proved right in that every prosecution brought failed. As the report itself notes on page 5:

Many investigations were finally abandoned even though the allegations appeared to have substance. This was either because the suspect had died, before or during investigation, or because important witnesses had disappeared or died.

Frankly, what on earth did the government expect? We could have told it this would be the case before this was ever launched and before we wasted \$30 million of taxpayers' money. The community has every right to be very angry about the waste of this money which this report documents. I hope that it will never be repeated.

Senator TEAGUE (South Australia) (9.03 p.m.)—I wish to speak to this motion put by Senator Minchin. I agree with every word he said about the *Report of the investigations of war criminals in Australia*. Not only could this have been foreseen; it was foreseen. Along with colleagues in the Liberal and National parties, I remember saying in this chamber that this would be the likely outcome if we were to adopt the war crimes legislation that was then being debated. Not only those of us from South Australia and from the Liberal Party but also the opposition generally had the view—

Senator Crowley—Peter Baume did not have that view.

Senator TEAGUE—I agree with Senator Crowley that former senator Peter Baume, my very good friend, had enormous tussles of conscience about this matter. He did not see it as a perfect piece of legislation. He shared the kinds of criticisms which I am about to touch on for half a minute. Because of his personal associations with so many in the Australian community who had directly suffered through the Nazi holocaust, we all understood the personal position he adopted towards this legislation. But we said then that not only was the bill 50 years out of date in terms of any action to be taken in a court—and how could that be tested properly—but also we said it was retrospective and discriminatory because it specified particular years in one theatre of war, that is, Europe.

We said, 'Bring us a bill with similar principles which is only prospective, which is universal in its reach and we will consider

amending the particular clauses to make war crimes unlawful for any theatre in any country for anyone who resides in Australia from this day forth.' I can remember sitting in the chair behind me and putting that speech about this bill and predicting that we would have this kind of end result.

So Senator Minchin's speech tonight on this report is entirely apt and accurate. There have been no prosecutions, and there has been enormous expense to the taxpayer. We ought not to be ever swayed by our own sensitivity to those in our community who suffered directly as a result of such terrible events in the Second World War. Our sympathy is always with them. The holocaust was terrible, but we will not allow just that thought to convince us to go ahead with something which is otherwise not able to be supported, even on the grounds of retrospectivity alone. I support the remarks of my colleague from South Australia.

Debate (on motion by Senator Ellison) adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

The ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Senator Herron)—Under the order agreed to today, I propose the question:

That the Senate do now adjourn.

Bougainville

Senator CALVERT (Tasmania) (9.07 p.m.)—The reason I rise tonight is that some news came to my attention today that disturbed me somewhat. I was a member of a recent delegation to Bougainville that was led by Senator Loosley and included the Hon. Ian Sinclair, Senator Vicki Bourne and the honourable member for Gilmore, Peter Knott. I remember very well the first day we arrived on Buka Island. We were welcomed by a normal sing-sing and friendly greeting by the locals. We then proceeded to have public hearings in the guesthouse where we were staying. While we were having the sing-sing and a midday lunch of smoked fish in banana leaves—I believe that is the local food—I was approached by an elderly man who seemed quite sprightly for his age. He introduced himself as Sir Paul Lapun.

It turns out that Sir Paul Lapun was a member of Somare's government. He was a member for 10 years and was a minister for mines. He was largely responsible for looking after the mineral wealth of Papua New Guinea and retaining mineral rights for the local landholders. I was told that Sir Paul Lapun is a very well-respected former member for South Bougainville. He may have been one of those people who thought that secession was the way to go in Bougainville in the early days.

In evidence he gave us when he addressed our hearing he commented that when the Papua New Guinea defence forces withdrew from Bougainville in 1990 the BRA rebels had the opportunity to show the rest of the world just what they were about. In fact, they chose to rape, pillage, burn and destroy the beautiful paradise of which he was so proud. He made the point that they had had their chance and they blew it.

I was very disturbed today to see a radio report from the ABC reporter Sean Dorney, who I had the pleasure of meeting when we were in PNG, that Sir Paul, his wife and daughter were bashed by 15 BRA rebels who ransacked his house in the belief that our delegation had given Sir Paul 30,000 kina, which amounts to \$45,000. Why those rebels would believe this, I do not know. But, at any rate, 15 rebels raided Sir Paul's house, bashed his wife, bashed him—a man in his late 70s, I suspect—and burnt his house to the ground. Sir Paul has now had to take refuge in one of the care centres in the west of Bougainville.

It may have been an unintended consequence of our delegation's visit there. On the other hand, it draws attention to the confidence we came back with, and the hope for the future that we have as a delegation and which those people who have contacted me since have. I have had a lot of correspondence. In fact, just today I received a very good briefing paper from the Catholic bishops on Bougainville who largely supported the views that I have. No doubt our committee report will come to the parliament in the near future through the Minister for Foreign Affairs (Senator Gareth Evans).

What happened a few days ago with these supposed BRA rebels—I suspect that they may have been terrorists who were acting under the umbrella of the BRA but, nevertheless, it certainly was not the PNG defence forces who perpetrated this atrocity—has not only highlighted the fragility of any peace moves that may be made in Bougainville but it also highlights the fact that it is not going to be easy to broker peace in that particular place. I put on record that I feel very sad about what has happened to Sir Paul. I found him to be a delightful character. I just hope that he recovers from his injuries quickly and that he and his family can restore their life and home as quickly as possible.

Senate adjourned at 9.11 p.m.

DOCUMENTS

The following documents were tabled pursuant to sessional order agreed to on 18 August 1993.

1. Australia France Foundation—Annual Report 1992-93.
2. Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade—Changing Tack: Australian Investment in South-East Asia—Report by the East Asia Analytical Unit.
3. Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade—India's Economy at the Midnight Hour—Australia's India Strategy—Report by the East Asia Analytical Unit.
4. Attorney-General's Department—Report of the Investigations of War Criminals in Australia.
5. Northern Territory Fisheries Joint Authority—Annual Report—Year ended 31 December 1992—12G(2) of the Fisheries Act 1952.
6. Northern Territory Fisheries Joint Authority—Annual Report—Year ended 31 December 1991—12G(2) of the Fisheries Act 1952.

The following documents were tabled by the Clerk:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act—Declaration under section 10—1994 No. 5.

Australian National Railways Commission Act—By-law—1994—General Amendment No. 11.

Census and Statistics Act—Australian Bureau of Statistics—Statement of disclosure of information—1994 No. 3.

Currency Act—Determination—1994 No. 2.

Education Services for Overseas Students (Registration of Providers and Financial Regulation)

**Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules—1994
No. 101.**

**Fisheries Act—Fisheries Notices—1994 NPF 33-
NPF 36.**

**National Health Act—Determination—1994
HIT 4.**

**Public Service Act—Determinations—1994 Nos
21, 25-29, 41-44.**

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

The following answers to questions were circulated:

Economy**(Question No. 788)**

Senator Parer asked the Minister representing the Treasurer, upon notice, on 18 November 1993:

(1) How many simulations of the Australian macroeconomy has Treasury run since 17 August 1993?

(2) What models were used?

(3) How many of those simulations examined the macroeconomic effects of changes in the Government's income and company tax policies?

(4) On what dates were each of the simulations in (1), (2) and (3) run?

Senator Cook—The Treasurer has provided the following answer to the honourable senator's question:

(1) Numerous simulations of the Australian macroeconomy, of varying complexity, have been run by Treasury since 17 August 1993. Individual Treasury officers with access to the relevant models on their computer terminals can run simulations independently and do so. The results of many of these simulations and viewed only on a computer screen with no permanent record kept. It is therefore not possible to indicate the number of simulations performed since 17 August 1993.

(2) The Treasury Macroeconomic (TRYM) model and the Access Economics Murphy Model were used to perform these simulations of the Australian macroeconomy. Treasury's Price, Revenue, Incidence Simulation Model (PRISMOD) is not used for this purpose.

(3) As explained in (1) above, it is not possible to know the number of simulations that may have been run involving hypothetical changes to aggregate rates of taxation.

(4) Not available for the reason given in (1) above.

ABC: Co-Production Projects**(Question No. 1003)**

Senator Alston asked the Minister representing the Minister for Communications and the Arts, upon notice, on 1 February 1994:

(1) With reference to the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) Annual Report for 1992-93, which indicates that contributions for co-production amounted to \$14.4 million, what are the details of each such project, including the names and activities of each participant and the amount contributed for each project.

(2) Is Qantas providing airfares or free travel for ABC free-to-air journalists for Australian Television International; if so, how many journalists, over what period of time and to what extent, have travelled in this manner.

Senator McMullan—The Minister for Communications and the Arts has provided the following answer to the honourable senator's question, based on information provided by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation:

(1) Details of the breakdown for ABC television's co-productions projects as listed in the ABC Annual Report for 1992-93 follows:

Program	Amount (\$)
Arts and Entertainment	72,130
Children and Education	2,973,940
Documentaries	941,183
Drama	3,822,434
Features	2,328,565
General Programs	367,999
Sport	2,484,116
Miscellaneous co-production revenue including minor Radio and Radio Australia co-productions, revenue from tape sales, proceeds from info-line numbers and royalties from Gardening Magazine.	1,410,633
Total co-production contributions	14,401,000

The ABC regards financial information concerning funding for co-productions as a matter between the ABC and its co-producers. This information is deemed to be "commercial in confidence".

For the purpose of providing further information the ABC has defined a co-production as, any production project where the ABC input is more than straight cash, for example use of ABC resources and or facilities.

A list of co-productions for 1992-93 by ABC output area which fit into the above category are as follows:

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Sutherland Gala

Seven Deadly Sins Dance

East Coast Jazz and Blues

CHILDREN AND EDUCATION

Playschool Concerts

Adult Literacy

Liftoff

Unique Continent

Research & Development

Kideo

Out of Empire (Open University)

Aboriginal Studies (Open University)

Accounting (Open University)

Psychology (Open University)

DOCUMENTARIES

Research & Development

The Family

Vietnam Now

World of Worship

Aboriginality

Indigenous Peoples Launch

Antarctica

Wolves of the Sea

The Big Wet

Wanderers

DRAMA

Sins

GP 4

Rescue 2

Joh's Jury

GP 5

Dallas Doll

Rescue 3

Embassy 3

FEATURES

Research & Development

Home Show 3

Holiday 2

SETI

Quantum

John Hinde

Outlook '93

Living Better

Quantum Interviews

Holiday 3

All in a Days Work

Gardening Australia

Consuming Passions

Homeshow 4

Everybody 3

GENERAL PROGRAMS

Search for Success

Clowning Around Encore

Ship to Shore

SPORT

A Dog's Life

S.A.R.L Final

Lacrosse

NFL Superbowl

Cross Country Skiing

Tenpin Bowling—Asian Zone

Aust. Squash Championships

Freestyle Skiing

Cycle Classic

Malaysian Masters Golf

Aust. Hockey League

Baseball Aust. League

Under 21's Snooker

City to Surf

Netball Goal Attack

Barcelona Olympics

Malaysian Open Golf

SPORT

Asian Baseball Championships

Swinging Through Ireland

Sailing Australia Cup

Gold Coast Marathon

Pacing Inter-dominion

Motocross

1992 Paralympics

OZ Day 1 OK

Pentathlon Aust. Open

Baseball Asian Championships

School Sport

Volleyball

Tennis—Oz Charity Day

Tennis—Kooyong Classic

W.N.B.L

Qantas Jetabout Bowls
 Golf—World Cup
 Golf—SA Open (Eagle Blue)
 Golf—Coolom Classic
 Soccer—NSL
 Golf—TPC
 Soccer—World Youth Cup
 Gymnastic—Aust Champs
 Weightlifting Barcelona
 Equestrian Melbourne F.E.S
 Tennis—Junior Masters
 WA Football League
 NT Football League
 Malaysian Rugby Union 10s

(2) There is no free or concessional travel provided to any ABC staff by Qantas. The Corporation has a travel contract with Qantas that was entered into after a formal tender process. The answer to House of Representatives Question on Notice No. 791, printed on 3 May 1994, page 120, also refers.

Royal Australian Mint

(Question No. 1049)

Senator Watson asked the Minister representing the Treasurer, upon notice, on 14 February 1994:

(1) Why was the person responsible for managing the Royal Australian Mint not mentioned in the Annual Report.

(2) Was the Mint's Annual Report actually complete and with the printers prior to 31 October 1993 when the permanent Controller was appointed.

(3) Was the organisational structure shown in the report implemented at any time during the 1992-93 financial year.

(4) Did the Mint spend approximately \$3 000 to withdraw the Annual Report from the printers in order to change the report.

(5) Does this change falsify the report and, in effect, mislead the Parliament.

Senator Cook—The Treasurer has provided the following answer to the honourable senator's question:

(1) Both the present and previous chief executives are mentioned in the Annual Report. The financial statements are in fact signed by Mr C Mills, the Acting Controller until 27 October 1993. However, as Mr Mills had left the Mint before the Annual Report was finalised and printed, it was only appropriate that the report be signed and

forwarded to the Treasurer by the newly incumbent Controller.

(2) A version of the report was in the final stages of preparation for printing (ie formatting and filming of the text) but had not been sent to the printers as at 31 October 1993. With modern technology, the printers are only involved at the final production stage. However, the report was not complete as it had not received the required Treasury clearance. (The Mint is part of the Department of the Treasury and is responsible to the Secretary of the Department through the Financial Institutions Division.) Treasury clearance of the report was provided on 8 November 1993, subject to a number of amendments to the draft, including the need to give recognition to the new Controller.

(3) No. The simplified structure set out on page 10 of the report was designed to give up to date information about key areas of responsibility and lines of accountability in the Mint. This approach was adopted because the annual report is used as a reference document after publication. The structure depicted at page 10, which represented a rationalisation of the old senior management structure, was recommended following a review of the administrative structure of the Mint undertaken by a joint Treasury/Mint staff working party during 1992/93. The new structure was endorsed, in principle, by the Secretary to the Treasury on 14 October 1993.

(4) As noted in response to question (2), the earlier version of the report had progressed to the final proof stage by 31 October 1993. To take account of Treasury's amendments, some changes to layout and text were required, as well as the preparation of some new film. This increased total printing cost by \$3,120 (ie from \$27,225 to \$30,345).

(5) The changes made were designed to remove ambiguities and inaccuracies in the original draft report and to provide an up to date and accurate picture of the Mint at a time of quite fundamental change. As well as providing the Parliament with a more relevant and informative view of the Mint, this was considered particularly important as the Annual Report is used extensively by the Mint as a marketing and reference document after publication.

Treasurer: Credit Card

(Question No. 1114)

Senator Newman asked the Minister representing the Treasurer, upon notice, on 1 March 1994:

(1) What amount was debited by the Minister to his/her taxpayer-funded credit card from the

election in March 1993 to 30 June 1993 and also from 1 July 1993 to 28 February 1994.

(2) Please provide a breakdown by month and by category of expenditure, for example meals, accommodation, flowers and gifts, for the amount referred to in (1).

Senator Cook—The Treasurer has provided the following answer to the honourable senator's question:

(1) & (2) The following figures relate only to Mr Dawkins' tenure as Treasurer. Mr Willis did not spend anything on his credit card from commencement of his tenure till 28 February 1994.

Date/Category	Official Entertainment	Freight & Cartage
March 1993—30 June 1993		
Apr '93	155.75	8.50
Jun '93	34.50	
Total	190.25	8.50
1 July 1993—28 February 1994		
Sep '93	28.80	
Nov '93	35.00	
Dec '93	719.90	
Total	783.70	

Attorney-General: Credit Card

(Question No. 1126)

Senator Newman asked the Minister representing the Attorney-General, upon notice, on 2 March 1994:

(1) What amount was debited by the Minister to his/her taxpayer-funded credit from the election in March 1993 to 30 June 1993 and also from 1 July 1993 to 28 February 1994.

(2) Please provide a breakdown by month and by category of expenditure, for example, meals, accommodation, flowers and gifts, for the amount referred to in (1).

Senator Bolkus—The Attorney-General has provided the following answer to the honourable senator's question:

(1) & (2) I do not possess a taxpayer-funded credit card other than those issued by the Department of Administrative Services for fuel, airline travel and telephones.

Attorney-General: Assertiveness Training Courses

(Question No. 1147)

Senator Newman asked the Minister representing the Attorney-General, upon notice, on 2 March 1994:

With reference to the 1992-93 and 1993-94 financial years:

(1) What did the Department spend on assertiveness training courses.

(2) How many: (a) men; and (b) women, attended those courses.

Senator Bolkus—The Attorney-General has provided the following answer to the honourable senator's question.

I am advised that:

(1) The Department spent \$2,295 in the 1992-93 financial year and \$9,100 to date in the 1993-1994 financial year on staff attending assertiveness training courses.

(2) A total of 5 females and 44 males attended assertiveness training courses in the 1992-93 financial year and 42 females and 47 males have attended assertiveness training to date in the 1993-1994 financial year.

(3) In addition to attending specific assertiveness training, staff of the Department participated in management and communication skills training which included assertiveness skills training as a component. In the 1992-93 financial year approximately 51 women and 12 men attended such training and in the 1993-1994 financial year approximately 18 women and 5 men have to date undertaken such training. Due to the varying time spent on an assertiveness skills during these management and communication skills training courses, it has not been possible to cost the assertiveness training components.

Departmental Motor Vehicles

(Question No. 1165-1185)

Senator Watson asked all portfolio Ministers, upon notice, on 8 March 1994:

What proportion of the department's motor vehicle fleet, both owned and leased, are deemed to be Australian made.

Senator McMullan—The Minister for Administrative Services has provided the following answer on behalf of all Ministers:

All departments are tied to DASFLEET for provision of their vehicles. Of the vehicles owned by DASFLEET 82.3% are deemed to be Australian made.

Queensland Industry Development Corporation

(Question No. 1193)

Senator Ian Macdonald asked the Minister representing the Treasurer, upon notice, on 8 March 1994:

(1) Has the Minister, the Reserve Bank or any other relevant body received an application from the Queensland Government, the Queensland Treasury or the Queensland Industry Development Corporation (QIDC), for a banking licence for the QIDC or any other Queensland State Government instrumentality or body.

(2) Given that the QIDC has publicly released its corporatisation charter and that it is a corporatised body wholly owned by the Queensland Government, will such a body require a banking licence or in any other way will it be subject to Reserve Bank supervision.

Senator Cook—The Treasurer has provided the following answer to the honourable senator's question:

(1) Neither the Treasurer nor the Reserve Bank (the relevant body), has received an application from the Queensland Government, the Queensland Treasury or QIDC for a banking authority for QIDC or any other Queensland State Government instrumentality or body. Preliminary discussions have, however, been held between Reserve Bank, Queensland Treasury, and QIDC to explore what would be involved in bringing QIDC under Reserve Bank supervision as recommended by the Queensland Government's Working Party on Corporatisation of QIDC. The Reserve Bank is responsible for the supervision of banks under the Banking Act and the protection of their depositors.

(2) All corporations, other than State owned institutions, wishing to carry on banking business in Australia, must be authorised under the Banking Act 1959, or receive an exemption under section 11 of that Act. In the context of the Australian Constitution, State-owned institutions which carry on banking business are exempt from the main provisions of the Banking Act 1959. Nevertheless, there is scope for State Governments to subject these

institutions to the provisions of the Act, and therefore Reserve Bank supervision, by referring their legislative powers over State Banking to the Commonwealth.

Electoral Profiles

(Question No. 1204)

Senator Patterson asked the Minister for Employment, Education and Training, upon notice, on 8 March 1994:

(1) Does the department, or any of its agencies, produce electoral profiles (or other like documents) outlining relevant programs, services or other forms of assistance provided in individual federal electorates; if so, when were these electoral profiles (or other like documents) first produced and how frequently are they produced.

(2) Is a copy of these electoral profiles (or other like documents) provided to the Parliamentary Library; if not, why not.

(3) Please provide a copy of the most up-to-date edition of each of these electoral profiles (or other like documents) for all federal electorates to the Parliamentary Library.

Senator Schacht—The Minister for Employment, Education and Training has provided the following answer to the honourable senator's question:

(1) The Department produces a range of information and briefing material on the programs and services it administers. Some of this material is collated on an electoral basis. Some briefs of this nature were first produced after the Department was established in 1987. A series of briefs covering all electorates has been developed. The briefings are updated as the need for a current briefing arises. A complete revision is made once a year to maintain the currency of all briefs.

(2) and (3) These briefs are internal Departmental documents that are provided as factual briefing to Ministers and to the Parliamentary Secretary in the Portfolio when they visit electorates. They include company details for firms assisted under some OLMA programs that have been provided on a confidential basis. Such material should not be available through the Parliamentary Library.

Communications and the Arts: Electoral Profiles

(Question No. 1211)

Senator Patterson asked the Minister representing the Minister for Communications and the Arts, upon notice, on 8 March 1994:

(1) Does the department, or any of its agencies, produce electoral profiles (or other like documents) outlining relevant programs, services or other forms of assistance provided in individual federal electorates; if so, when were these electoral profiles (or other like documents) first produced and how frequently are they produced.

(2) Is a copy of these electoral profiles (or other like documents) provided to the Parliamentary Library; if not, why not.

(3) Please provide a copy of the most up-to-date edition of each of these electoral profiles (or other like documents) for all federal electorates to the Parliamentary Library.

Senator McMullan—The Minister for Communications and the Arts has provided the following answer to the honourable senator's question:

(1) No.

(2) and (3) Not applicable.

Employment, Education and Training: Corporate Uniform (Question No. 1228)

Senator Calvert asked the Minister for Employment, Education and Training, upon notice, on 8 March 1994:

(1) Has the department ever considered plans for a corporate uniform for its officers; if so, when was this.

(2) How far did these plans progress.

(3) To what stage had drawings, catalogues, etcetera, been assembled.

(4) What was the cost of these plans.

(5) What would the cost of the corporate uniform have been to officers of the department.

(6) What would the cost of transport and advertising have been.

(7) What was the reason that the plans were put on hold.

(8) Has the department any indication whether a corporate uniform is planned for the future; if so, when, and at what cost.

Senator Schacht—The Minister for Employment, Education and Training has provided the following answer to the honourable senator's question:

(1) A non-compulsory corporate wardrobe for the Commonwealth Employment Service Network was introduced in 1987 in response to staff interest in providing a stronger corporate identification for staff and clients.

(2) In June 1987 the Department signed an agreement with Henry Harris Uniforms for the

provision of a corporate wardrobe to staff. Henry Harris Uniforms was responsible for promotional brochures and order forms, receiving payments and orders for corporate wardrobe items direct from staff members and filling and shipping those orders.

Henry Harris Uniforms went into liquidation in December 1991. In September 1992 the Department entered into an agreement with Maggie May Designs in which that company assumed the liabilities and obligations for the DEET corporate wardrobe from Henry Harris Uniforms.

(3) Illustrated brochures/catalogues and order forms were produced and distributed to staff in the normal course of marketing following implementation of the contracts. For instance, Maggie May Designs produced and issued in October 1992 an illustrated "DEET Corporate Wardrobe Catalogue, Summer of 1992-93", with accompanying order form.

(4) The costs associated with the production, marketing and supply of the corporate wardrobe was borne primarily by the contractors.

The Department, as well as absorbing the costs associated with arranging and managing the contracts, assisted the contractor in marketing the clothing range by channelling staff inquiries to the contractor and distributing marketing material through normal distribution arrangements within the Department. This included the Department paying \$3,935 in October 1989 to Henry Harris Uniforms as a contribution to the printing of corporate wardrobe brochures for distribution to staff.

After Maggie May Designs failed to supply ordered garments to staff within the specified timeframe at the end of 1992, the Department terminated the contract with the company on 23 March 1993. The Public Service Commissioner subsequently authorised the Department to reimburse staff \$17,703 for moneys they had paid for outstanding orders.

(5) Staff members could select from a number of items such as belts, ties, coats, shirts/blouses, and wear any or all of them in the combinations of their choice. The Maggie May summer catalogue prices, for example, ranged from \$18 for a women's leather belt to \$185 for a men's double breasted jacket.

(6) Transport and advertising costs were the responsibility of the contractors.

(7) Arrangements for the ordering and supply of the DEET corporate wardrobe ceased with the non-performance of Maggie May Designs and the termination of its contract in March 1993.

(8) The Department has no plans at present to introduce another corporate wardrobe.

Overseas Students**(Question No. 1248)**

Senator Bell asked the Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, upon notice, on 22 March 1994:

(1) Following the Government's announcement in August 1989 of new arrangements for private students wishing to study in Australia, what 'new' steps were taken to speed up processing of a backlog of visa applications from students of the People's Republic of China.

(2) What was the extent of the backlog and what was its cause.

(3) How many additional staff were sent to the Government's Beijing Embassy to assist processing.

(4) How many student visa applications were processed, rejected and approved, during each month from August 1989 to August 1991, by the Beijing Embassy.

Senator Bolkus—I am advised that the answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

(1) Questionnaires were mailed to all applicants in the People's Republic of China (PRC) backlog wishing to undertake ELICOS or other short non-formal courses to obtain additional information. From the returned questionnaires it was possible to assess the applications quickly.

(2) There was an initial backlog of some 25,000 applications received before visa processing was suspended on 4 June 1989. An additional backlog of some 12,000 applications was made up of applications mainly received while processing was suspended.

The causes of the backlog included:

an upsurge of interest in study in Australia, which increased when Japan closed its language program to PRC students in November 1988; this resulted in some 10,000 applications, by Chinese who would otherwise have gone to Japan;

the requirement that applicants must pre-pay Overseas Students Health Cover which came into effect in March 1989 resulting in processing delays as existing applications were held up while applicants organised payment;

the build up of applications immediately prior to and after the Tiananmen Square incident on 4 June 1989, the consequent brief evacuation of the Embassy, and the suspension of visa processing from 4 June 1989 until the end of August 1989.

(3) The Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs added one A-based officer on 9 October 1989. Over the period July 1989 to June 1990 funds were also allocated for an additional 14 locally engaged staff.

(4) A table of visa applications processed by the Immigration Section at the Australian Embassy in Beijing follows. The figures represent only visa applications processed by the Immigration Section in the Embassy. Initial processing, including rejections, of the backlog of applications was done by the Education Section, which is why there are no rejections recorded from August 1989 to February 1990. Figures for refusals which appear from March 1990 do not relate to applications included in the pipelines, but to applications lodged after January 1990 under the new global entry criteria.

Table: Student visa applications processed, rejected and approved from August 1989 to August 1991 by the Australian Embassy in Beijing

1989	Applications processed	Refused	Visaed
August	48		48
September	107		107
October	479		479
November	10562		10562
December	3303		3303
1990	Applications received	Refused	Visaed
January	649		649
February	386		386
March	4874	233	4641
April	2400	585	1815
May	1265	974	291
June	1272	1082	190

1990 (cont.)	Applications received	Refused	Visa'ed
July	1499	1374	125
August	776	595	181
September	359	137	222
October	608	480	128
November	368	255	113
December	296	83	213
1991	Applications processed	Refused	Visa'ed
January	541	281	260
February	216	141	75
March	183	75	108
April	80	71	9
May	126	96	30
June	227	126	101
July	273	143	130
August	346	166	180

Source: M839 Monthly Returns, Overseas Operations Branch, DIEA

Queensland Industry Development Corporation

(Question Nos 1295 and 1296)

Senator Ian Macdonald asked the Minister representing the Treasurer, upon notice, on 30 March 1994:

With reference to the task force investigating the proposed corporatisation of the Queensland Industry Development Corporation (QIDC), which has indicated that it is seeking Federal Reserve Bank scrutiny over the corporatised QIDC and which also maintains that it may be necessary for the QIDC to gain a banking licence to be able to have this Reserve Bank scrutiny:

(1) Has the Queensland Treasury or an associated body been in contact with the Reserve Bank or other appropriate federal bodies for the purpose of inquiring towards Reserve Bank scrutiny of the QIDC.

(2) Will it be necessary for the QIDC to have a banking licence to gain the level of scrutiny that it is requiring from the Reserve Bank.

(3) Has the Queensland State Government applied, or indicated that they are about to apply, for a banking licence for the QIDC or associated bodies.

(4) If the Reserve Bank were to give the QIDC the banking licence or if it has, what are the conditions upon which this licence would be extended.

Senator Cook—The Treasurer has provided the following answer to the honourable senator's question:

(1) Yes, as noted in the answer to the Senator's Question No. 1193, the Reserve Bank has held preliminary discussions with the Queensland Treasury and QIDC, to explore what would be involved in bringing QIDC under Reserve Bank supervision as recommended by the Queensland Government's Working Party on Corporatisation of QIDC.

(2) The Reserve Bank would not be prepared to supervise QIDC unless it was subject to the Banking Act of the Commonwealth. This would not necessarily entail the granting of a banking authority under Section 9 of that Act; a company could be brought within the provisions of the Act by listing in Section 5. It would be necessary for a State Government to refer its powers over State banking to the Commonwealth before a State-owned institution could be made subject to the Banking Act.

(3) No. The Queensland Government has, however, indicated that following corporatisation it wishes QIDC to be subject to supervision by the Reserve Bank or the Australian Financial Institutions Commission (AFIC).

(4) It is not sensible to speculate on what conditions might be imposed on a body which, to date, has not submitted an application for recognition under the Banking Act. Banking authorities granted in recent years have contained two standard conditions, viz:

(i) the body corporate shall, upon request made at any time by the Reserve Bank of Australia, consult with the Reserve Bank in relation to the making or variation of arrangements for the prudential supervision by the Reserve Bank of the banking business carried on by the body corporate;

(ii) the body corporate shall conform with such arrangements for the prudential supervision by the Reserve Bank of the banking business carried on by

the body corporate as are notified to the body corporate by the Reserve Bank, whether following such consultation or otherwise.