

DISSENTING REPORT

We agree with the recommendations and report of the committee, save for recommendations 1 and 2.

We are concerned that the abolition of the committees proposed with their functions being dispersed among the remaining committees, is likely to lead to those functions not being really carried out and certainly not being given the same focus that they presently enjoy.

From our own experiences, the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Corporations and Securities does very valuable work which we would wish to see continue. We are also told, for example, that the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters provides a neutral forum for political parties to discuss matters which might otherwise be too contentious to be canvassed. In addition, the Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories provides a useful vehicle for parliamentary scrutiny of what might otherwise be unfettered ministerial power in the Parliamentary Triangle, or Administrator power in the External Territories.

We therefore support the re-appointment of these committees in the 39th Parliament.

Kelvin Thomson MP
25 May 1998

Stephen Martin MP
25 May 1998

Frank Mossfield MP
25 May 1998