



**The Parliament of the  
Commonwealth of Australia**

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE  
BROADCASTING OF  
PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS**

**Inquiry into Televising and  
Radio Broadcasting of both  
Houses of Parliament and  
their Committees**

**Special report relating  
to the broadcast of  
excerpts of proceedings**

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No. 248/1985**

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May 1985

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MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

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Mr N.J. Hicks, MP  
Mr D.F. Jull, MP  
Mr M.J. Maher, MP

Secretary to the inquiry - Mr I.C. Harris

Mr R.W. Alison, Usher of the Black Rod - President's Adviser

1. The committee is appointed at the commencement of each Parliament pursuant to section 5 of the Parliamentary Proceedings Broadcasting Act 1946 and is required to recommend the general principles under which the parliamentary broadcast shall take place and, subsequently, to exercise control over the broadcast according to the principles adopted by the Parliament.

2. Both Houses of Parliament have referred to the committee for inquiry and report:

- (a) the televising of the proceedings of the Houses of the Parliament and their committees in the present and the new Parliament House, and
- (b) the radio broadcasting of the proceedings of the Houses of the Parliament and their committees including the continuous and simultaneous broadcasting of both Houses.<sup>1</sup>

The committee is currently considering its draft report, and expects to present its final report in the near future.

3. During the course of its inquiry the committee has considered the question of the later broadcasting of excerpts of proceedings on news, news commentary and documentary programs. Given the likelihood that portion of the 1984-85 Budget proceedings in the House of Representatives would be televised, the committee resolved on 15 August 1984:

That, provided that the House of Representatives on Tuesday 21 August 1984 authorises the televising of proceedings relating to the introduction and motion for the second reading of the Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 1984-85 and the Budget Speeches by the Treasurer and the Leader of the Opposition, this Committee determines -

- (1) that the direct live broadcast by Australian commercial radio stations be authorised, provided that each station so broadcasting gives a written undertaking that it will provide approximately equal transmission time to all or part of both speeches, and
- (2) that the use be authorised of a sound record of the proceedings in subsequent news, current affairs and documentary programs by all Australian radio stations.

The committee resolved on the same day to ascertain the views of parties and groups represented in the parliament on a proposal to authorise the broadcast or re-broadcast of proceedings for a trial period on news, news commentary and documentary programs. The leaders of all parties or groups in each House were contacted; those who responded indicated general support (in some instances expressing the need for safeguards) but questioned whether the precise time was then appropriate (the replies were framed in an atmosphere of a speculated but then unannounced general election).

4. On 8 October 1984 Prime Minister Hawke informed the House of the intention to hold a general election for the House of Representatives and half the Senate on 1 December 1984, with the proposed date of dissolution of the House 11 October 1984. Section 6 of the Parliamentary Proceedings Broadcasting Act provides that members of the committee hold office as a joint committee until the House of Representatives expires by dissolution or effluxion of time. The committee in the new Parliament again endorsed seeking the views of leaders of parties or groups in each House.

5. Responses have been received from the party and group leaders, indicating support for the proposal. Copies of the Prime Minister's letter and the Leaders' responses are at Appendix 1. The Leader of the Opposition has indicated that the Coalition Parties support the facilitation of the process on a trial basis, limited to a 12 months period, with extension to other media considered in the light of experience during the trial period. Mr Peacock suggested that during the trial period the use of excerpts should be closely monitored by the committee. The Leader of the National Party of Australia replied in similar terms, adding specifically that the material used should be balanced in respect of either side of the respective chambers as well as some relationship between the Houses. In a letter outlining his party's views on matters relating to the general inquiry into radio broadcasting and televising of the proceedings of both Houses and their committees, the Leader of the Australian Democrats suggested amendment of the appropriate legislation to allow excerpts of proceedings to be replayed in news services and public affairs programs of the ABC and commercial outlets on radio and possibly television. Senator Harradine replied that he was not opposed to the proposal in principle, but would require additional information on, for example, balance of presentation for front-bench and private Members of Parliament and privilege matters. The response from the Prime Minister endorsed the proposal and made the following points:

- . There could be no formal requirement for equal time.
- . Excerpts should be sound only, but could be used on television accompanying for example, a still-frame photograph. The question of televising excerpts of proceedings could be considered separately after the radio broadcast experience was examined.

- . All accredited media should be given access to the proceedings of either House.
- . The trial should commence from the 1985 budget sittings.
- . Coverage should not be restricted to Question Time.
- . Members should continue to enjoy absolute privilege. The media should enjoy qualified privilege only, and be advised that they broadcast at their own risk.
- . The committee should carefully monitor the use of excerpts.
- . South Australian experience suggests a need for written agreement with media organisations. [This point is discussed in greater detail in paragraph 10].

6. The Joint Select Committee on Parliamentary Privilege, whose final report<sup>2</sup> was presented on 3 October 1984, considered this matter. That committee, while exercising care not to trespass upon the province of the Joint Committee on the Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings, pointed to the anomaly between access to proceedings provided to the electronic media and the print media, and stated a belief that it was "desirable that rebroadcasts of the proceedings of either of the Houses be permitted, subject to appropriate safeguards". [The committee had] in mind the practices adopted by the [United Kingdom] House of Commons which permit the rebroadcast of material subject to conditions such as the requirements that no use can be made of rebroadcasted material in light entertainment or satire



programmes. [The committee] was of the very clear view that if the existing rules are to be changed and rebroadcasts of a selective nature are permitted that those rebroadcasts should, so far as applicable, be governed by the tenor of recommendations just made. Obviously, such matter as malicious rebroadcast would not be within that recommendation."

7. In addition to the anomaly as to access to proceedings between the print and electronic media, it is paradoxical that under arrangements with overseas parliaments, Australian broadcasters have access to the proceedings of those parliaments, but do not have access to the proceedings of the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia. Radio audiences in Australia, for example, may hear in news programs the British Prime Minister addressing the House of Commons, but cannot hear proceedings in their own parliament apart from the continuous broadcasts or the delayed broadcasts of Question Time.

8. There are certain legal considerations relating to the proposal to permit the broadcast of excerpts of proceedings. One major consideration relates to privilege. Anything said by a Member of Parliament as part of a proceeding in Parliament is privileged in the widest sense of that term; '... freedom of speech, and debates or proceedings in Parliament, ought not to be impeached or questioned in any court or place out of Parliament' (Article 9, Bill of Rights, 1688). However, as May<sup>3</sup> points out, the interpretation of the expression 'proceedings in Parliament' has raised difficulties in the past and has been the subject of decisions both by the courts and in Parliament. Members are covered by absolute privilege in respect of statements made as part of the actual proceedings in the House. Absolute privilege also attaches to those persons authorised to broadcast or rebroadcast the proceedings. The Act provides that no action or proceeding, civil or criminal, shall lie against any person for broadcasting or rebroadcasting

any portion of the proceedings of either House of the Parliament or of a joint sitting. Similarly, Hansard and those who publish it are absolutely protected under the Parliamentary Papers Act. Hansard is, however, absolutely privileged only in its entirety; the circulation of a single speech, even complete in itself, is not protected by absolute privilege in the same way, but attracts qualified privilege only. Such qualified privilege only exists where there is absence of malice. The question of privilege relating to this extended use requires consideration. Should any organisation be required to broadcast regularly a part of the day's proceedings (eg. Question Time), absolute protection should be provided in respect of any action for defamation arising from the broadcasts. However, should a discretion be available to organisations to broadcast or rebroadcast segments of the proceedings, the protection of qualified privilege would be sufficient and would provide a safeguard against irresponsible use of the signal.

9. The use of the audio signal on television accompanying a still-frame photograph requires consideration. Televising of proceedings authorised under the Parliamentary Proceedings Broadcasting Act are the proceedings of a joint sitting convened under section 57 of the Constitution. The only regular occasion on which televising of proceedings occurs is in respect of some of the procedures associated with the opening of a new session of parliament. Portions of the proceedings relating to the 1984-85 Budget were televised, following an authorising resolution by the House. It is proposed that, should authorisation proceed of the sound record being used on television, specific authorisation by the Houses would be required.

10. Reference was made in paragraph 5 to written conditions for granting the privilege of recording and broadcasting the proceedings of the South Australian House of Assembly. Televising and radio broadcasting of parliamentary proceedings in South

Australia has been permitted for approximately 2 years. Until recently the broadcasters were allowed full access to proceedings on the basis that:

- . qualified privilege only applied.
- . there was to be no ridicule.
- . a fair and equal coverage was to be provided (although not necessarily in the same debate).

The understanding was on an oral basis. On one recent occasion certain television stations rebroadcast a disruptive incident in the public gallery despite the Speaker's express instructions and as a result their privileges were withdrawn. Following meetings with the network heads, written conditions were agreed and signed concerning the basis of access. A copy of the guidelines is attached at Appendix 2. These guidelines apply to radio and television organisations. While it should be noted that in South Australia the radio organisations permitted access were not a party to the flouting of the directions of the Speaker of the Assembly, the South Australian experience of permitting access on the basis of an understanding emphasises the need to have written guidelines accepted by media organisations as a condition of being granted the privilege of access.

11. The party leaders have pointed to the need to have the use of excerpts monitored, especially during any trial period. As any broadcasting organisation wishing to make use of excerpts would record from the 'feed' of the audio signal of proceedings made available by means of the house monitoring system throughout the provisional Parliament House, the guidelines should stress that access to this signal for the purpose of recording excerpts of proceedings is conditional upon a fortnightly return being provided to the committee indicating the use made of excerpts by each organisation.

12. Balance of presentation must be an essential component of the guidelines. The term 'balance' encompasses both appropriate presentation of the various elements in the political sphere, and a presentation reflecting the participation in proceedings of private Senators and Members as well as office holders. The guidelines should recognise that it may not always be possible to achieve a mathematically precise balance in a single item of the proceedings; rather they should stress the need for an overall balance of presentation.

13. For the purposes of a trial period, it is not proposed that access be granted to the proceedings of parliamentary committees.

14. Pursuant to general principles endorsed by both Houses, debates on the motion or question for the adjournment of the House (Adjournment Debates) or proceedings after 11.30pm, whichever is the earlier, are not broadcast. The broadcasting of Adjournment Debates will be considered in the committee's full report on the inquiry into televising and radio broadcasting of proceedings. For the purposes of the trial period the committee has adopted the approach that the types of proceedings available for excerpting should be those which may currently be broadcast and has excluded Adjournment Debates from proceedings from which excerpts may be taken. Should either House agree to the broadcasting of Adjournment Debates, then excerpting will be extended to cover those proceedings.

15. The committee therefore recommends that each House authorise the broadcast of recorded excerpts of proceedings on news, news commentary and documentary programs for a trial period from the commencement of the Budget Sittings on 20 August 1985 until December 1985. A copy of guidelines governing access to proceedings for this purpose is at Appendix 3.

ENDNOTES

1. Votes and Proceedings of the House of Representatives, No.5, 27 February 1985, pages 67 and 8.  
Journals of the Senate No.6, 28 February 1985, pages 76 and 77.
2. Parliamentary Paper No.219 of 1984.
3. Erskine May's Treatise on The Law, Privileges Proceedings and Usage of Parliament, 20th edition, London, 1983, page 81.



APPENDIX 1

HON DR H A JENKINS MP  
PARLIAMENT HOUSE  
CANBERRA 2600 (TEL 4111)

26 MAR 1985

The Hon. R.J.L. Hawke, AC, MP  
Prime Minister  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

*H.A.J.*  
Dear Prime Minister

Last year, as part of its inquiry into the radio broadcasting and televising of proceedings of each House and their committees, the Joint Committee on the Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings examined the matter of the use of radio excerpts in news, news commentary and documentary programs. The view was advanced to the committee that it was paradoxical that Australian listeners can hear a sound excerpt from the United Kingdom House of Commons, but not from their own Parliament. The committee requested me to seek the views of the Leaders of all Parties represented in the Parliament on this matter. Depending on Party Leaders' views, the committee had in mind facilitating this process on a trial basis on radio only for the remainder of the Parliament.

Responses received from Party Leaders, while indicating general support in principle, expressed some reservation about endorsing the practice in a likely election year. In considering the responses, the committee requested that the matter be taken up again with the Party Leaders early in the 34th Parliament.

Would it be possible for you to inform me of your Party's views to assist the committee in its deliberations?

Yours sincerely

SPEAKER



PRIME MINISTER  
CANBERRA

22 MAY 1985

Hon Dr H.A. Jenkins, MP  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Speaker

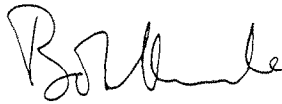
You wrote to me on 26 March 1985 asking for the Government party's views on the question of broadcasting excerpts from parliamentary proceedings on news and documentary programs.

This proposal has now been discussed in Caucus. We wish to endorse the proposal, emphasising the following points:

- . There can be no formal requirement for equal time, although the media will obviously want to cover both sides of newsworthy stories.
- . The excerpts should be taken from radio broadcasts or tapes only, although they could be used on television (with, say, still photographs as background) as well as on radio. We may need to consider the question of televising excerpts from Parliament, but should do so separately, after having a chance to examine how broadcasting of radio excerpts is handled.
- . The excerpts should not be taken simply from the Chamber which is being broadcast on ABC radio on the day concerned. All the media formally accredited should be given the opportunity to tape record proceedings in the other Chamber in case they wish to broadcast excerpts from there.
- . The broadcasting should be introduced for the Budget sitting period, on a trial basis.
- . Coverage should not be restricted to Question Time.
- . The parliamentarians whose speeches, statements, questions and comments are used should continue to enjoy absolute privilege.

- . Media using the excerpts should enjoy only limited privilege, leaving open the option of legal action by third parties (if the excerpts were, for example, used in an unduly selective way or with malicious intent) or redress by Parliament itself (if the excerpts were used in a misleading or prejudicial way, or in a manner which constituted a breach of privilege). In effect, the media would be advised that they were broadcasting at their own risk.
- . The Joint Committee on Broadcasting should monitor carefully the actual use of the excerpts. Much of the monitoring will - and should - be done by the parties themselves.
- . South Australian experience suggests the need for a written agreement with the media covering use to be made of the excerpts. The Speaker of the South Australian Parliament is presently considering such an agreement, and I will provide details of what is envisaged when they are sent to me.

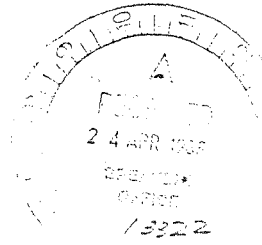
Yours sincerely



R.J.L. Hawke



Leader of the Opposition



17 April 1985

Hon Dr H.A. Jenkins MP,  
Speaker,  
Parliament House,  
CANBERRA ... ACT 2600

Dear Dr Jenkins,

Thank you for your letter of 26 March 1985 concerning the use of radio excerpts of Parliamentary proceedings in news, news commentary and documentary programmes.

I am pleased to be able to advise that the Coalition Parties support the proposed facilitation of this process on a trial basis. The Coalition Parties believe, however, that the trial period should be limited to 12 months and there should be close monitoring of the use of such excerpts by the Joint Committee. Any extension beyond the 12 month period, or to media other than radio could be considered having regard to the experience during the initial trial period.

Yours sincerely,



(Andrew Peacock)

Parliament House, Canberra, A.C.T. 2600

Phone 72 6994

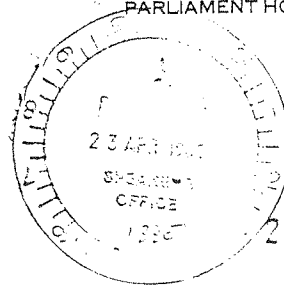


LEADER OF THE NATIONAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENT HOUSE, CANBERRA, A.C.T. 2600

TEL. (062) 73 1717

RT HON. IAN SINCLAIR, M.P.



23 APR 1985

Hon Dr H.A. Jenkins, MP  
Speaker  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

*My dear Speaker*

My thanks for your letter of 26 March with respect to the radio broadcasting of proceedings of each House and written on behalf of the Joint Committee on the Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings.

The Coalition Parties have discussed the proposition you submitted and would not oppose the use of radio excerpts in news, news commentary and documentary programs on the basis suggested.

However, we believe the Joint Committee should monitor the extent to which use is made of such excerpts and maintain at least during an initial period a record of broadcasts made.

We are of course concerned that there should be some balance in the use of material from either side of the respective Chambers as well as some relationship between the two Houses.

We would suggest initially the Sessional Orders be introduced to apply to the Budget Session 1985 and Autumn Session 1986 on a trial basis.

Subject to this trial, we would then be prepared to facilitate the proposal on a continuing basis through the remainder of the 34th Parliament.

The matter, we believe, should again be before the Committee at the commencement of the 35th Parliament.

Yours sincerely

*Ian Sinclair*

IAN SINCLAIR

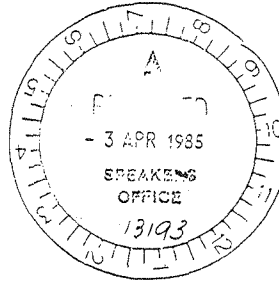
*To you  
Committee  
23/4/85*



MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY,  
TECHNOLOGY AND COMMERCE  
PARLIAMENT HOUSE  
CANBERRA, A.C.T. 2600

2 April 1985

The Hon Dr H A Jenkins, MP  
Speaker  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Harry

I refer to your letter of 26 March concerning the question of the use of radio excerpts from Parliament in news, news commentary and documentary programs. Personally, I have no objection to this practice being implemented and I see no reason why it should not be facilitated on a trial basis.

With regard to the nervousness expressed about endorsing the practice in a likely election year, I must say that I do not have much sympathy with this view. Either you have the system and it is accepted because it works fairly to all or you do not have the system. It seems to me to look very silly if you have a half-baked system which is disconnected when politicians get nervous about their own conduct.

These are my personal views and I have not put them to a meeting of Senators. I will do so if you would like this.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely

*John*

(John N. Button)

*To John H...*



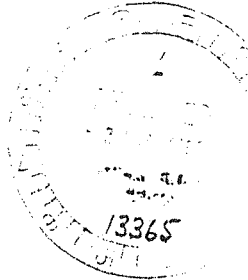
*to Harris*

PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA · THE SENATE

SENATOR FRED CHANEY  
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION IN THE SENATE  
SHADOW MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY,  
TECHNOLOGY AND COMMERCE

44 ST. GEORGE'S TERRACE  
POSTAL ADDRESS: G.P.O. BOX 858  
PERTH W.A. 6001  
PH: (09) 3254882 TELEX: AA93221  
FACSIMILE (09) 3258181

30 APR 1985



Dear *Harris*

I refer to your letter of 26 March in which you ask me to let you have my Party's views on the use of radio excerpts in news, news commentaries, etc.

I understand that Andrew has replied to you on this matter and he, of course, expresses the view which is that adopted by our Party.

I apologise for my delayed response.

Yours sincerely,

(Fred Chaney)

Hon. Dr. H.A. Jenkins, M.P.,  
Speaker,  
Parliament House,  
CANBERRA. A.C.T. 2600.



AUSTRALIAN SENATE  
CANBERRA, A.C.T.

SENATOR THE HON. DOUGLAS SCOTT

LEADER OF THE NATIONAL PARTY IN THE SENATE

18272  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

17 April 1985

The Hon Dr H.A. Jenkins,  
Speaker  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT

Dear Mr Speaker,

I received recently your letter requesting the National Party's views on the question of broadcasting and televising proceedings of each House and their committees.

I believe the Leader of the Parliamentary National Party, the Rt Hon Ian Sinclair, has written, or intends to so do, on this matter putting forward the views of the whole Parliamentary Party.

In those circumstances I do not feel it is necessary for me to also outline them.

Yours sincerely,

*Douglas Scott*

SENATOR THE HON. D.B. SCOTT  
Leader of the National Party in the Senate

*To Dennis  
Joint Committee*



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA · THE SENATE

OFFICE OF SENATOR THE HON. DONALD L. CHIPP  
LEADER OF THE AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS

October 21, 1983

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENT OFFICES  
400 FLINDERS STREET  
MELBOURNE, VICTORIA 3000  
TEL (03) 622521

Mr. I. C. Harris  
Secretary  
Televising and Radio Broadcasting  
of Proceedings Inquiry  
Joint Committee on the Broadcasting  
of Parliamentary Proceedings  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr. Harris

Thank you for your letter of October 5 drawing to my attention your inquiry and ascertaining if my Party would wish to make a submission.

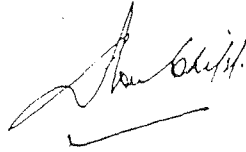
I consulted my Senate colleagues on the matter and we decided not to make a personal submission but instead submit the following matters for the Committee's consideration.

We do not oppose the televising of Parliament's proceedings. If the Committee decides to recommend the televising of Parliament, we believe:

- 1) It should wait on the new Parliament House where the necessary equipment can be installed without intruding on the operations of the respective Houses.
- 2) The telecasting of the proceedings should not be mandatory for either the A.B.C. or the other television media.
- 3) Those proceedings should be available to all television media who request permission to broadcast at their initiative.

- 4) We believe that the appropriate legislation should be amended to allow excerpts of the radio (and maybe television) broadcasts of Parliament to be replayed in news services and public affairs programmes of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation and the commercially owned outlets.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Don Chipp", with a horizontal line underneath it.

DON CHIPP  
Parliamentary Leader  
of the Australian Democrats.



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA · THE SENATE

OFFICE OF SENATOR THE HON. DONALD L. CHIPP  
LEADER OF THE AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENT OFFICES  
400 FLINDERS STREET  
MELBOURNE, VICTORIA 3000  
TEL (03) 622521

21st October 1983

Dr H.A. Jenkins, MP,  
Speaker,  
Joint Committee on the Broadcasting  
of Parliamentary Proceedings,  
Parliament House,  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Dr. Jenkins,

Thank you for your letter of October 17th 1983 concerning  
the Joint Committee on the Broadcasting of Parliamentary  
Proceedings.

My Party has decided not to make a submission in person  
before the Committee. Our views concerning the televising  
of parliamentary proceedings have been sent to the Committee's  
Secretary, a copy of which is enclosed for your information.

Yours sincerely,

DON CHIPP  
Leader of the Australian Democrats

*To Sen  
Joint Committee  
on Broadcasting*

10438





AUSTRALIAN SENATE  
CANBERRA ACT

23 August 1984

The Hon. Dr H.A. Jenkins  
Speaker  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

12040

Dear Mr Speaker,

Thank you for your letter of 20th August concerning the proposal by the Joint Committee on the Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings for the broadcast of radio excerpts from Parliament House on a trial basis.

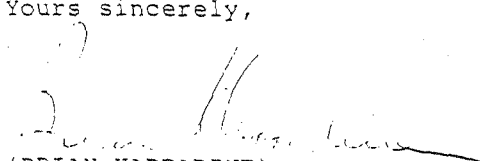
In principle, I am not opposed to the proposal. I would, however, require additional information before lending my support to it.

I have heard some of the excerpts broadcast from the U.K. House of Commons. My observation is that they are usually confined to an excerpt from statements by the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition. If the same happens in Australia, I would view it as a further unfortunate entrenchment of the major parties and the major Parliamentary leaders, at the expense of the diversity of viewpoints represented in both Chambers.

No doubt your Committee has given consideration to certain questions of Privilege which may arise in connection with the proposal. For example, will Privilege attach to such excerpts? There is also the general question of "right of reply" by Parliamentarians. As well as the specific rights of those whose views might have been misinterpreted or misquoted in the broadcast excerpt.

The proposal represents a significant departure from previous practice. From all accounts, it appears that there will be an early Federal Election at the conclusion of this Session. I wonder if now is the appropriate time to embark on this experimental trial.

Yours sincerely,

  
(BRIAN HARRADINE)  
Senator for Tasmania

*To Sec of Joint  
Committee on  
Broadcasting*

Conditions for granting the privilege of recording and broadcasting the proceedings of the House of Assembly:

---

1. Cameras to focus on the Member on his feet speaking, with some scope for wide angle shots.
2. Fairness of reporting, with reasonable balance between both sides of the House and avoidance of undue concentration on any one Member.
3. Parliament not to be held up to ridicule.
4. No filming or photographing of any other events\* outside the Chamber without specific approval.
5. Journalists and cameramen to obey any instruction given by Mr. Speaker or through him by the Clerk of the House of Assembly, the Sergeant-At-Arms, or the Head Attendant.
6. In the case of an unusual or important event occurring within the Chamber (outside the above guidelines) any Channel may through its authorized officer consult with the Speaker to determine whether in the circumstances approval to show the film of that event might be granted.
7. It is a fundamental term of these conditions that any breach of any of them may result in the immediate suspension of the privilege by Mr. Speaker.

(\* This does not preclude the long standing approval for specific recording of Press Conferences but does preclude any other recording anywhere in the building without specific approval.)

30 April 1985.

GUIDELINES FOR GRANTING ACCESS  
TO PROCEEDINGS OF THE SENATE AND THE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE  
PURPOSE OF RECORDING AND BROADCASTING  
EXCERPTS

1. Excerpts may be taken from the proceedings of each House (whether or not the proceedings are being continuously broadcast) commencing at the time fixed for the meeting of the House until the motion is moved, or the question is proposed (and is not put forthwith and negatived), for the adjournment of the House, or until 11.30pm, whichever is the earlier.

Should either House agree to the broadcasting of the Adjournment Debates, then the authorisation for excerpting shall be extended to cover those proceedings.

2. Excerpts shall be recorded from the audio signal of proceedings transmitted by the house monitoring system throughout Parliament House, Canberra.
3. Excerpts shall be used in news, news commentary, documentary or educational/historical programs only, or such other programs as determined by the Joint Committee on the Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings (hereinafter referred to as 'the committee').

They are not to be used for the purposes of light entertainment, satire or ridicule.

4. Fairness and accuracy shall be observed.
5. An overall balance of presentation must be maintained as between government and non-government Senators and Members, and between private Senators and Members and parliamentary party executive office holders. While a precise mathematical balance may not always be possible in the same debate or proceedings, overall the balance should reflect proceedings as Senators and Members are called by the Chair.
6. Excerpts must be placed in context. Commentators should identify Senators and Members by identifying name, a description of any office held eg. 'Minister for .....,', political affiliation and electoral division and/or State.
7. Unusual events shall not be given undue emphasis.
8. No additional editing shall be performed by local stations receiving the excerpts on relay.
9. The instructions of the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives or their delegated representative, shall be observed at all times.
10. Where the excerpts are used on commercial networks, advertising before and after excerpts shall be of an appropriate nature.
11. Where the audio excerpts of proceedings are used on television, their use shall be restricted to audio over still frames, or overlay material.

12. A fortnightly return shall be provided to the committee by media organisations as to the excerpts of proceedings broadcast, indicating the House from which the excerpts were taken, the subject matter of proceedings, names of Senators and Members whose participation was broadcast, length of time in respect of each, type of program, and the person responsible for authorising the excerpt.
  
13. Access to proceedings for the purpose of recording excerpts shall be on the basis of an undertaking to observe these guidelines. Actions in breach of these guidelines may result in immediate withdrawal of access.