

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

THE SENATE

COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES

PERSON REFERRED TO IN THE SENATE

(MR C.H. CANNON)

(28TH REPORT)

DECEMBER 1990

## MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Senator Patricia Giles (Western Australia), **Chair**

Senator Vicki Bourne (New South Wales)

Senator Bruce Childs (New South Wales)

Senator John Coates (Tasmania)

Senator Barney Cooney (Victoria)

Senator Austin Lewis (Victoria) (from 18 December 1990)

Senator David MacGibbon (Queensland) (to 18 December 1990)

Senator Baden Teague (South Australia)

The Senate

Parliament House

CANBERRA ACT 2600

## REPORT

1. On 7 December 1990 Mr C.H. Cannon wrote to the President of the Senate, Senator the Honourable Kerry W. Sibraa, seeking redress under the resolution of the Senate of 25 February 1988 relating to the protection of persons referred to in the Senate (Privilege Resolution 5). The letter referred to remarks made by Senator McLean in the Senate during the adjournment debate on 12 November 1990. The President, having accepted Mr Cannon's letter as a submission for the purposes of the resolution, referred the letter to the Committee of Privileges on 11 December 1990.
2. The Committee met in private session on 17 December 1990 and decided, pursuant to paragraph (3) of Privilege Resolution 5, to consider the submission from Mr Cannon. In considering the submission, the Committee did not find it necessary to confer with either Mr Cannon or Senator McLean. After deciding to recommend to the Senate that an agreed statement be incorporated in Hansard, the Committee contacted Mr Cannon and the statement at appendix 1 has been agreed to by Mr Cannon and the Committee in accordance with Resolution 5(7)(b).
3. The Committee recommends:

**That a response by Mr C.H. Cannon, in the terms specified at appendix 1, and agreed to by Mr Cannon and the Committee, be incorporated in Hansard.**

Patricia Giles  
Chair

RESPONSE BY MR C.H. CANNON  
AGREED TO BY MR CANNON  
AND THE COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES  
PURSUANT TO RESOLUTION 5(7)(B) OF THE SENATE OF  
25 FEBRUARY 1988

In the Senate on Monday 12th of November last I was the subject of an attack on my character which I believe was unfounded and extremely damaging to my wife and family and myself.

During an address by Senator McLean (New South Wales) on the Banking Industry, I was accused of fraud and deceptive conduct amongst other things. I found all of his remarks to be totally without substance and most offensive and since Star Television in Toowoomba used the article as the lead item in their news on Thursday 22nd November and the Toowoomba Chronicle printed articles on Friday 23rd and Tuesday 27th November my name has been blackened all over the Darling Downs, which is most disturbing since I was Manager of The National Australia Bank at 441 Ruthven Street, Toowoomba for 5 years.

The findings of the Federal Court of Australia No. G65 of 1986 and subsequent appeal G355 of 1988 show that the court totally exonerated me and my employer The National Australia Bank Ltd.

I believe that as a result of the Senator's comments my reputation, which has been faultless all my life, has suffered irreparable damage, and I request that the matter be referred to the Committee of Privileges which I understand deals with such matters. I will be happy to supply a copy of the offensive articles as well as a copy of the judgement (some 80 pages) and the appeal (some 40 pages) should this be required.

I make the submission in an endeavour to clear my name and my reputation and trust that appropriate action can be taken.

C.H. CANNON