

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

1 June – 3 June 2010

Question: BET 65

Topic: Treasury Speechwriter

Hansard Page: E82-83 (02/06/2010)

Senator JOYCE asked:

Senator JOYCE—So that is the weather for today. That is two minutes of our lives we will never get back. I have been looking at an ad that you have had in the paper. You are seeking a suitably qualified and experienced speechwriter—I would like to suggest Senator Cameron—to prepare engaging and influential speeches to be delivered by the Treasurer, other Treasury portfolio ministers and senior Treasury staff. I notice that you are paying them more than we get paid.

CHAIR—That is because they are going to be engaging.

Senator JOYCE—Can you please explain to me what an engaging speech is?

Senator CAMERON—The one you gave at the Press Club. Remember the one before you got sacked?

Senator JOYCE—Can you give me an example of an engaging and influential speech, as opposed to a boring and pointless speech?

Senator CAMERON—The one you gave at the Press Club. Remember that one?

CHAIR—Order! I think we are all interested in this question.

Senator JOYCE—\$157,505 per annum is not a bad wicket. Has that job been filled?

Mr Ray—I have a feeling it may have been.

Senator JOYCE—Who is the lucky soul who got that?

Mr Ray—That is a question I do not know the answer to.

Senator JOYCE—What speeches have they written lately?

Mr Ray—I do not know that the person has started.

Senator BRANDIS—We will know when they have started when we start hearing engaging speeches.

Senator JOYCE—Can you direct us to when you think we might be seeing the first work from this bard of the Treasury?

Mr Ray—I am happy to take on notice when we expect this person to start work.

Answer:

Speechwriter commencement date was 24 June 2010.