

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Supplementary Budget Estimates

21 – 22 October 2009

**Question: sbt 58**

**Topic: China as a Market Economy**

**Hansard Page: E70 (22/10/09)**

**Senator CAMERON asked:**

**Senator CAMERON**—Minister, I am new to this process, so I apologise that this is not the area in which to ask the question. But, given that this issue of our relationship with China has been raised, could you enlighten me: wasn't it the previous Prime Minister, John Howard, who signed off on market recognition for China back in 2005? I did not see any comments from Senator Joyce at the time that decision was made.

**Senator JOYCE**—What month was that?

**Senator CAMERON**—It was back in April 2005.

**Senator JOYCE**—There is a good reason for that.

**Senator CAMERON**—But you did not—

**Senator JOYCE**—It is because I was not actually in parliament. That is the reason you did not hear from me: I was not in parliament.

**Senator CAMERON**—But you were an aspiring politician.

**CHAIR**—Senator Cameron and Senator Joyce, I do not want this discussion between senators across the table. Are there questions for the witnesses? Senator Joyce, do you have a question?

**Senator JOYCE**—The question to you is: when I was not in parliament, what didn't I say? You have to answer—

**Senator CAMERON**—No. You do not have to ask my questions.

**CHAIR**—No—and I will ask you not to be responsible for—

**Senator JOYCE**—You could be here for quite a while.

**Senator Sherry**—Senator Cameron, we believe that you are referring to the World Trade Organisation's recognition of China as a market economy, which was signed off by the former Howard government. But we will take it on notice and get some further detail for you.

**Senator CAMERON**—Thank you.

**Answer:**

Australia accorded China World Trade Organization (WTO) market economy status on 18 April 2005. This was done on the same day that Australia and China agreed to commence free trade agreement negotiations