



DEPARTMENT of the PARLIAMENTARY
REPORTING STAFF



Senator B. Mason
Chair
Senate Standing Committee on Finance and
Public Administration
S1.35 Tele: 20-6
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Mason

At this morning's Estimates hearings for the Department of the Parliamentary Reporting Staff, Senator Faulkner said on a number of occasions that because of a network failure in the ground floor of Hansard on Budget night (Tuesday 14 May 2002), 'pinks' and 'greens' had to be distributed by hand around Parliament House.

No-one at the witness table was aware of this having happened and Ms Barrett subsequently advised the Committee at the end of the hearings that the claims had been checked with three staff members responsible for the distribution of 'pinks' and 'greens'. Ms Barrett advised that, on the basis of the responses from those three staff members, no 'pinks' or 'greens' were distributed by hand.

Since then the department has undertaken additional inquiries and I can confirm that no 'pinks' or 'greens' were distributed by hand around Parliament House on 14 May. As this event did not happen, no-one at the witness table could reasonably have been expected to have been aware of it.

For the information of the Committee, the network failure caused one 7½ minute Senate turn (involving two speakers) and two 7½ minute House of Representatives turns (involving five speakers) to be despatched late.

Given the amount of time that this took up at this morning's hearings, I would be grateful if you could draw this to this Committee's attention.

Yours sincerely

J.W. Templeton
Secretary

27 May 2002



Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600