

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Budget Estimates Hearing 25-29 May 2009

Question: PM44a-b

Topic: Incident on a VIP flight

Type of Question: Hansard F&PA 26 May pp11, 20

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 10 July 2009

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PM44a:

Senator Faulkner-Senator, as I have said to you before, the Prime Minister's staff member in question, Mr Harris, has not accepted the journalist's, who is Mr Lewis I believe, interpretation of that conversation. I have been advised that he has put that to Mr Lewis.

...

Senator RONALDSON-Will you take it on notice as to what Mr Harris's version of these events is and come back to the committee?

PM44b:

Senator RONALDSON-Can I just finish on this note. I referred to an article before by Mr Lewis, about which you took a range of questions on notice. That article was co-authored by Ian McPhedran. I presume that you will take on notice any discussions that Mr Harris might have had with Mr McPhedran as well as any discussions with Mr Lewis, given that the article was co-authored?

Answer:

PM44a: The Department is advised Mr Harris does not endorse Mr Lewis' recollection of the conversation and does not wish to provide further comment.

PM44b: The Department is not aware of the details of any conversation involving Mr Harris and Mr McPhedran.