

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates Hearing 21-24 May 2012

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1.3 Support Services for Government Operations

Topic: Member for Fisher as the then Deputy Speaker - meetings with the Leader of Government in the House

Senator: Senator Ronaldson

Question reference number: 68

Type of Question: FPA P96, 21 May 2012

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 6 July 2012

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator RONALDSON: The Sunday Mail on 27 November in an article titled "How Labor lured Peter Slipper to Speaker's chair in federal parliament", Renee Viellaris went through and detailed a number of meetings with the government leader in the Reps in relation to his discussions with the member for Fisher, who then of course was not the Speaker. She alleged in this article that Mr Albanese met with the then Deputy Speaker following question time on 31 May 2011. Did this happen? Where did it happen and what was discussed? Did Minister Albanese offer Mr Slipper the Speakership of the House in that afternoon meeting?

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Senator RONALDSON: Was the Prime Minister aware of this meeting on 31 May? What discussions did the Prime Minister have with Mr Albanese in relation to his negotiations with the member for Fisher?

Senator CHRIS EVANS: I will take the question on notice and see if there is anything the Prime Minister wants to say in response

Answer:

Please see the answer to PM67.