

# Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee —Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing—October 2010

## Answers to Questions on Notice

### Parliamentary Portfolio, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: HMC portraits

Question: P 3

Hansard reference F&PA p.19, 18 October 2010

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 3 December 2010**

**Senator FAULKNER**—Kerr was dead by the time his portrait went up, wasn't he?

**Ms Scroope**—I think so, yes.

**Senator FAULKNER**—So obviously he did not object.

**Ms Scroope**—No, actually I could not say for certain. I would have to check that. I think the first portrait was finished while he was still alive and he did not have any objections to it.

**Senator FAULKNER**—But someone else did?

**Ms Scroope**—Yes.

**Senator FAULKNER**—Do we know who?

**Ms Scroope**—I believe it was the committee, but I would have to check that.

### Answer

1 The first portrait of Sir John Kerr, by Sam Fullbrook, was rejected by a majority of members of the Historic Memorials Committee, as well as the Visual Arts Board in 1978, without Sir John having seen it (noting he was by then living in England).

2 Sir John Kerr was provided with a photographic image of the painting when he was advised that it had been rejected by the Historic Memorials Committee, but otherwise it appears he never viewed the completed Fullbrook portrait. In a letter written late in 1979, he stated that he 'understood' the committee's decision.

3 The second portrait of Sir John Kerr, by artist Charles Bush, was completed in 1980 and hung in Kings Hall (Provisional Parliament House) during Sir John's lifetime.