

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

THE SENATE

COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES

PERSON REFERRED TO IN THE SENATE

MR JOHN HYDE PAGE

108TH REPORT

OCTOBER 2002

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REPORT

1.1 On 30 August 2002 the President of the Senate, Senator the Honourable Paul Calvert, received a submission from Mr John Hyde Page, seeking redress under the resolution of the Senate of 25 February 1988 relating to the protection of persons referred to in the Senate (Privilege Resolution 5).

1.2 The submission referred to remarks made by Senator Hutchins during committee of the whole debate in the Senate on 22 August 2002. On 16 September 2002, the President, having accepted Mr Hyde Page's submission for the purposes of the resolution, referred the submission to the Committee of Privileges.

1.3 The committee met in private session on 26 September 2002 and, pursuant to paragraph (3) of Privilege Resolution 5, decided to consider the submission. The response, which the committee now recommends for incorporation in *Hansard*, has been agreed to by Mr Hyde Page and the committee in accordance with Resolution 5(7)(b). In considering the submission, the committee did not find it necessary to consult Senator Hutchins on the matter.

1.4 The committee draws attention to paragraph 5(6) of the resolution which requires that, in considering a submission under this resolution and reporting to the Senate, the committee shall not consider or judge the truth of any statements made in the Senate or of the submission.

1.5 The committee **recommends**:

That a response by Mr John Hyde Page, in the terms specified at Appendix One, and agreed to by Mr Hyde Page and the committee, be incorporated in *Hansard*.

Robert Ray
Chair

APPENDIX ONE

RESPONSE BY MR JOHN HYDE PAGE AGREED TO BY MR HYDE PAGE AND THE COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES PURSUANT TO RESOLUTION 5(7)(B) OF THE SENATE OF 25 FEBRUARY 1988

My attention has been drawn to a speech made in the Senate on 22 August, 2002 at about 9.35am by Senator Hutchins during which adverse references were made to me.

In accordance with resolution five of the Senate I submit a response to those remarks and I request publication of this letter.

In his contribution, Senator Hutchins read into the Senate an anonymous email he claimed to have received, including the transcript of a purported telephone conversation between two people. The inference of that email and transcript was that I had offered a bribe to a member of the Young Liberal Movement to attend a meeting of the Movement.

I categorically refute that suggestion. I would also note that when the anonymous email quoted by Senator Hutchins was first circulated within various political circles, the alleged beneficiary of the bribe wrote to the NSW State Director of the Liberal Party also denying any bribe had been offered to him.

To be referred to in this way has the potential to seriously damage my reputation and it is therefore appropriate that, in accordance with Senate procedures, this submission is included in the parliamentary record.

(signed)

John Hyde Page