

## APPENDICES



**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE:  
PROJECT PARAKEET**

**Matter of Privilege**

The **PRESIDENT**—Pursuant to the procedures laid down by the resolutions of the Senate of 25 February 1988, Senator MacGibbon has raised with me a matter of privilege. The matter in question was set out in considerable detail by Senator MacGibbon during the debate on Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 1988-1989 on 29 November 1988, and involves an allegation that misleading evidence was given to Estimates committees in relation to a Defence procurement program known as Project Parakeet.

The resolutions of the Senate declare that the intentional giving of any evidence which is false or misleading in any material particular is a contempt. Under the resolutions I am required to determine whether a motion relating to the matter should have precedence, having regard to the criteria set out in the resolutions. In previous statements on matters of privilege I have indicated the way in which I applied the criteria contained in the resolutions.

I consider that the matter raised by Senator MacGibbon is capable of being regarded by the Senate, if the facts are found as alleged by Senator MacGibbon, as meeting the criteria provided in the resolutions, namely that the Senate's powers should be used only where it is necessary to provide reasonable protection against improper acts tending substantially to obstruct the Senate, its committees or senators. It is certainly not a trivial matter within the terms of the criteria, and there does not appear to be any readily available other remedy. I have therefore determined that a motion relating to the matter should have precedence in accordance with the procedures contained in the resolutions.

