



**The Parliament of the
Commonwealth of Australia**

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE
BROADCASTING OF
PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS**

Report

**Being a report that the Committee
has been unable to complete its
inquiry into televising and
radio broadcasting both
Houses of Parliament**

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MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Hon. Dr H.A. Jenkins, MP, Speaker of the House of
Representatives

Chairman

Senator the Hon. Douglas McClelland, President of the Senate
Vice-Chairman

Senator Coleman

Senator Watson

Mr Burr, MP

Mr Charles, MP

Mr Ronald Edwards, MP

Mr Hicks, MP

Mr Maher, MP

COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT

Mr I.C. Harris, Secretary

Mrs E. Konti

PRESIDENT'S ADVISER

Mr R.W. Alison, Usher of the Black Rod

APPOINTMENT

1. The committee is appointed at the commencement of each Parliament pursuant to section 5 of the Parliamentary Proceedings Broadcasting Act 1946 and is required to recommend the general principles under which the parliamentary broadcast shall take place and, subsequently, to exercise control over the broadcast according to the principles adopted by the Parliament.

2. Section 6 of the Parliamentary Proceedings Broadcasting Act provides that the members of the committee shall hold office as a joint committee until the House of Representatives expires by dissolution or effluxion of time.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

3. Following a recommendation by the Senate Standing Orders Committee both Houses agreed, in December 1982, to refer the following matters to the committee for inquiry and report:

- (a) the televising of the proceedings of the Houses of the Parliament and their committees in the new Parliament House, and
- (b) the continuous and simultaneous radio broadcasting of both Houses of Parliament.

4. No progress was made with this inquiry before the simultaneous dissolution of the Senate and the House of Representatives on 4 February 1983.

5. In the new Parliament the subject referred to in paragraph 3 was again considered by both Houses. The opportunity was taken to expand the terms of reference to allow for a more extensive inquiry to cover the televising of proceedings in the existing Parliament House and the broadcasting of proceedings of committees.

6. The revised terms of reference, agreed to by the House of Representatives and the Senate on 26 May 1983, required the committee to inquire and report on:

- (a) the televising of the proceedings of the Houses of Parliament and their committees in the present and the new Parliament House, and
- (b) the radio broadcasting of the proceedings of the Houses of the Parliament and their committees including the continuous and simultaneous broadcasting of both Houses.

7. On 10 May 1984 and 7 June 1984 the committee was granted the power to move from place to place and to form a sub-committee by resolutions of the House of Representatives and the Senate respectively.

CONDUCT OF INQUIRY

8. Advertisements inviting submissions appeared in major newspapers in all States and Territories in September 1983. The committee received 41 submissions.

9. The committee or its sub-committee met on 11 occasions including public hearings in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne. A visit to the South Australian House of Assembly was undertaken by the committee on 16 August 1984.

10. In November 1983 the committee Chairman visited Canada, the European Parliament, the Federal Republic of Germany and the United States of America to observe the arrangements for the televising of parliamentary proceedings in those countries.

11. The committee regrets that it cannot consider adequately the many major issues revealed during its inquiry before the projected dissolution of the House of Representatives.

12. The committee therefore recommends that the matter be referred again to it early in the first session of the 34th Parliament and that the committee be given power to consider and make use of the records of the committee in this Parliament.

LIST OF EXHIBITS

13. The following exhibits were received by the committee:

1. Australian Broadcasting Corporation

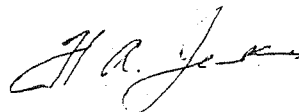
5 cassette tape recordings of proceedings in the House of Representatives and the United Kingdom House of Commons.

2. Mr Richard John Rowe, Communications Consultant

C-SPAN document.

3. Mr Robert French, Australian Society of Archivists

Document 'The development of a Parliament Sound Archive at Westminster'.



H.A. JENKINS
Chairman

Joint Committee on the Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings—Report

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