

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 23-27 February 2015

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet
Topic: Ms Credlin's comments

Senator: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Question reference number: 48

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Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 10 April 2015

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Question:

Senator WONG: I am going to ask a question about the relationship with the US, and obviously there is a strong bipartisan commitment to the alliance and a strong relationship with the US. Can you explain to me, Senator Abetz. Ms Credlin is reported as telling a group of journalists that the President of the United States is 'the lamest of lame ducks'. Could you explain to me how that is consistent with a position that recognises the importance of maintaining a strong relationship with the United States?

Senator Abetz: I do not know whether she said that or not. I will take that on notice. It is an assertion that is made.

Answer:

The Department is not aware of conversations that may or may not have been had by staff in the Prime Minister's Office with external stakeholders including the media.