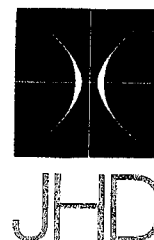


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Parliament of Australia
Joint House Department



27 May 2002

Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Senator B Mason
Chairperson
Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

Fax: 5809

Dear Senator Mason

An officer in the Treasurer's office has asked me to correct a matter of detail in relation to evidence I gave at the committee hearing on the morning of 27 May.

In my evidence I stated that the envelope containing the 'white powder' substance was transported by a member of the Treasurer's staff to a lunchroom in the ministerial wing. This information was advised to the committee based on advice forwarded to me by Parliamentary Security.

The Treasurer's staff member advises that while the room to which the suspect substance was transferred by a member of the Treasurer's staff was formerly a lunchroom, it has been for some time occupied as a staff space by the Taxation Unit in the Treasurer's office and was at the time of the movement of the substance unoccupied.

The essential issue remains, however, that because the suspect item was moved from one office down a corridor to another office, that staff and other Ministers' offices, adjacent to the corridor, were potentially affected and quarantined for their own safety.

Yours sincerely

M BOLTON
Secretary

cc Mr Max Blenkin, Australian Associated Press
- You may care to correct your story on this matter. Fax: 6273-3685

Mr P Gaetjens
Chief of Staff, Treasurer's Office.

Fax: 6273-3420

