



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

SPEECH

Thursday, 9 November 2000

BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPEECH

Date Thursday, 9 November 2000
Page 22640
Questioner
Speaker Fitzgibbon, Joel, MP

Source House
Proof No
Responder
Question No.

Mr FITZGIBBON (Hunter) (3.53 pm)—Mr Speaker, I wish to make a personal explanation.

Mr SPEAKER—Does the honourable member claim to have been misrepresented?

Mr FITZGIBBON—Yes.

Mr SPEAKER—Please proceed.

Mr FITZGIBBON—In an article on page 22 of today's *Australian*, the journalist wrote:

Labor's small business spokesman, Joel Fitzgibbon, says the Government is oblivious to the plight of small business and its concerns over the BAS.

The article then goes on to quote me:

'The ATO needs to acknowledge the extent of the confusion and reduce the impact wherever possible,' he said.

I certainly concede I said all of that.

Mr SPEAKER—So where have you been misrepresented?

Mr FITZGIBBON—The article then goes on to say:

He says small business needs a two-year amnesty from penalties and fines to get on top of the BAS.

Mr Ronaldson—Mr Speaker, I rise on a point of order. The member is required to show where he has been misrepresented.

Mr SPEAKER—The Chief Government Whip, of course, makes an entirely valid point of order. The member for Hunter, while he has managed in a manner I did not approve of to get away with a preamble, now needs to indicate instantly where he was misrepresented.

Mr FITZGIBBON—It was not intentional, of course, Mr Speaker. I appreciated the phone call I received this morning from the journalist responsible, indicating that there had been an error made by the subeditor. The quote should have been attributed to one of the nation's accountants.