



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRIVILEGE

SPEECH

Thursday, 28 June 2001

BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPEECH

Date Thursday, 28 June 2001
Page 28926
Questioner
Speaker Pyne, Chris, MP

Source House
Proof No
Responder
Question No.

Mr PYNE (Sturt) (8.51 pm)—I rise on a matter of privilege. On Tuesday, 19 June the Speaker asked the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters to consider an alleged unauthorised disclosure of details of the committee's report entitled *User friendly, not abuser friendly: report of the inquiry into the integrity of the electoral roll*. That report was tabled in the House on Monday, 18 June this year. The allegation related to material in a number of articles: one in the *Adelaide Advertiser* on Saturday, 16 June; another in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on Monday, 18 June; and a third in the *Daily Telegraph* on Monday, 18 June. Further allegations were outlined to the committee by one of the members of the committee in a private meeting that have not been made public, so I will not refer to them here, but the members of the committee have considered them as part of their inquiry into the allegations that these unauthorised disclosures occurred before tabling.

The alleged disclosure was raised in the House as a matter of privilege on Tuesday, 19 June by the honourable member for Reid. The committee considered this matter and made inquiries, both written and verbal, with staff, members and senators. The committee also considered whether the disclosure constituted a substantial interference with its work, with the committee system or with the functioning of the House. The committee resolved that the evidence was inconclusive as to whether an unauthorised disclosure had occurred. The committee was unable to ascertain the source of the alleged disclosure and resolved that the alleged disclosure did not constitute a substantial interference to its work with the committee system or with the functioning of the House. The committee recommended to the Speaker that it not refer this matter to the Standing Committee of Privileges for further investigation.