



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

BUSINESS

SPEECH

Thursday, 12 December 2002

BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Questioner
Speaker Abbott, Tony, MP

Source House
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Responder
Question No.

Mr ABBOTT (Warringah—Leader of the House) (3.57 pm)—Mr Speaker, on indulgence, I will update the House on the likely sittings for this evening.

The SPEAKER—I think members would appreciate that.

Mr ABBOTT—Unfortunately, the latest news from the Senate is that we can expect a series of messages on a number of bills which will need to be bounced backwards and forwards between the House and the Senate. I fear that will mean that we will sit late. That is the bad news. I suppose the good news is that we will also, I trust, get matters dealt with this evening and perhaps into the early hours of the morning and that means that we will not have to sit tomorrow.

Opposition members interjecting—

The SPEAKER—The Leader of the House will resume his seat. The Leader of the House has the call and he will be heard in silence as standing order 55 provides.

Mr ABBOTT—Like many members on both sides of the House, I would prefer to sit tomorrow rather than to sit late into the night and perhaps into the early hours of the morning. Unfortunately, the Senate has matters to bounce to us which we need to bounce back to them—and which may need to bounce back to us again. My advice is that the Senate intends to finish tonight and therefore we have to accommodate it. I move:

That standing order 48A (adjournment and next meeting) and standing order 103 (new business) be suspended for this sitting.