



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

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**Mr ABBOTT** (Warringah—Leader of the House) (6.25 am)—Mr Speaker, I seek your indulgence. I again apologise to members who are being detained far beyond any reasonable time span and, indeed, to all the parliamentary staff and others who are still here. After being on the job for almost 24 hours, I hate to think what occupational health and safety provisions we might be at risk of infringing. The latest advice I have is that the paperwork necessary to deal with the Senate's message on the ASIO bill is between 10 and 25 minutes away. I am told that we should be able to deal with it in this place reasonably quickly and get it back up to the Senate to be looked at again. I am told that should be a reasonably expeditious process. So there is still some hope that we might get out by about 8.30 a.m. but I would not want people to bank on it. That is the latest information that I have.