



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**BUSINESS**

**SPEECH**

**Wednesday, 19 March 2003**

BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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# SPEECH

**Date** Wednesday, 19 March 2003  
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**Questioner**  
**Speaker** Abbott, Tony, MP

**Source** House  
**Proof** No  
**Responder**  
**Question No.**

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**Mr ABBOTT** (Warringah—Leader of the House) (9.01 am)—I move:

That for the sitting on Wednesday, 19 March 2003 so much of the standing and sessional orders be suspended as would prevent the routine of business being as follows, unless otherwise ordered:

- (1) Order of the day, government business, being resumption of debate on the Prime Minister's motion relating to Iraq and the commitment to the coalition in the Gulf;
- (2) Presentation and adoption of the report of the Selection Committee; and
- (3) Notices and orders of the day, government business.

The question before the House deals with the commitment of troops. This is the most serious issue that any nation can face and it should take priority over all other business in the House. In 1991 the House dealt with no other business until a motion in similar terms was decided. So what I am proposing the House do today entirely follows the precedent set in 1991 by Prime Minister Hawke, and I put it to the House that they should support it.