



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

BUSINESS

SPEECH

Wednesday, 19 March 2003

BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPEECH

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Speaker	Abbott, Tony, MP	Question No.	

Mr ABBOTT (Warringah—Leader of the House) (9.23 am)—In closing this debate, I just want to say very briefly that the government obviously rejects the various accusations that have been made in the last 15 minutes or so across the chamber. This is a government which has held itself fully accountable to the parliament and to the Australian people. This is a Prime Minister who has made a point of allowing question time to run for an hour and a half, day after day. This is a Prime Minister who has committed himself under almost all circumstances to 20 questions a day. He stands in sharp contrast to his predecessors.

What the government is proposing for today's business is entirely in accordance with the precedent set in 1991 by former Prime Minister Hawke. But the substantive question before the House, the question of the commitment of forces to military action in the gulf, will be dealt with by the end of business today or tomorrow morning. Tomorrow we will go back to normal business, including question time, and so the matter ought to now be dealt with.

Question put:

That the amendment (**Mr Swan's**) be agreed to.