



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES



THE SENATE

WORKPLACE RELATIONS AMENDMENT (PROHIBITION OF COMPULSORY UNION FEES) BILL 2002 [NO. 2]

In Committee

SPEECH

Monday, 24 March 2003

BY AUTHORITY OF THE SENATE

SPEECH

Date Monday, 24 March 2003
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Questioner
Speaker Abetz, Sen Eric

Source Senate
Proof No
Responder
Question No.

Senator ABETZ (Tasmania—Special Minister of State) (7.59 pm)—I will resist the temptation, in the face of that gross provocation by the opposition, to delay the chamber. I will accept Senator Murray's invitation to deal with these amendments as briefly as possible. I do not know if the brevity has been occasioned by Senator Murray accidentally injuring himself; if that is the reason for it, could I invite him to do so on a more regular basis but wish him a speedy recovery.

The government, of course, are opposed to this amendment. I indicate, for the purposes of this debate and future amendments, that we will be seeking a division on this amendment but will be opposing the other amendments simply on the voices so as not to waste too much time. But we should indicate to the chamber that the fact that we will not be calling divisions on the other amendments does not indicate any softening of our approach, just a realistic assessment of the numbers in this place. Despite the great weight of our arguments and the logic on our side, we accept that the numbers are agin us.