



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES



THE SENATE

TELECOMMUNICATIONS
(INTERCEPTION) AMENDMENT BILL 2006

In Committee

SPEECH

Thursday, 30 March 2006

BY AUTHORITY OF THE SENATE

SPEECH

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Speaker	Stott Despoja, Sen Natasha	Question No.	

Senator STOTT DESPOJA (South Australia) (12.49 pm)—I am not going to prolong this debate; and I know that I brought this issue up during the Senate committee. The minister has referred to the term ‘forthwith’ and I am just wondering what, in his mind, constitutes ‘forthwith’. Is there a time line associated with that? What does the minister associate the word ‘forthwith’ with in his mind? Does it mean tomorrow, immediately, 10 days or a week? I am not suggesting that law enforcement agencies are going to be hanging on to this information in an inappropriate way, but I would not mind a stipulation of what the minister’s understanding of that terminology is. Given that I have asked that of others, I may as well ask it of the minister.