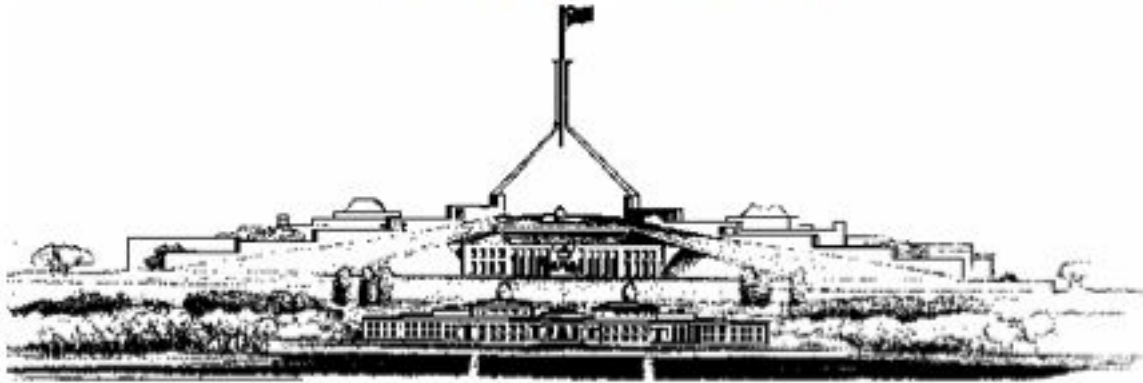




COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES



## **THE SENATE**

**APPROPRIATION (NATION BUILDING  
AND JOBS) BILL (NO. 1) 2008-2009**

**APPROPRIATION (NATION BUILDING  
AND JOBS) BILL (NO. 2) 2008-2009**

**HOUSEHOLD STIMULUS  
PACKAGE BILL 2009**

**TAX BONUS FOR WORKING  
AUSTRALIANS BILL 2009**

**TAX BONUS FOR WORKING  
AUSTRALIANS (CONSEQUENTIAL  
AMENDMENTS) BILL 2009**

**COMMONWEALTH INSCRIBED  
STOCK AMENDMENT BILL 2009**

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**In Committee**

**SPEECH**

**Thursday, 12 February 2009**

BY AUTHORITY OF THE SENATE

## SPEECH

<b>Date</b> Thursday, 12 February 2009	<b>Source</b> Senate
<b>Page</b> 850	<b>Proof</b> No
<b>Questioner</b>	<b>Responder</b>
<b>Speaker</b> Abetz, Sen Eric	<b>Question No.</b>

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**Senator ABETZ** (Tasmania) (10.07 am)—Can I just remind the minister that my terminology of ‘this late stage’ is based, of course, on the fact that your leader in this place said to the Australian people and the Senate that this package had to be passed by last Friday and every single day’s delay would be of great consequence. Here we were yesterday saying, ‘Let’s put it to the vote,’ and the Labor Party itself voted against putting it to a vote. Now, having been clothed with this legislation and all the information around it for some time, the government itself—and this is the important thing—does not even know whether it needs or wants to move amendments to its own legislation. Whether the Greens, Senator Xenophon and Senator Fielding might want to move amendments I can understand might be out of the control of the government, but whether the government itself wants to move amendments must surely be within the mind of the government at this late stage of the proceedings, this legislation having been before this chamber now for a good week.