



**Harry Jenkins MP**

**Submission No. 2**



*House of Representatives*

**Federal Member for Scullin  
Second Deputy Speaker**

17 September 2003

Margaret May  
Chair  
Standing Committee on Procedure  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Margaret

I refer to your letter of 18 August 2003 relating to the committee's inquiry into arrangements for Second Reading speeches.

Whilst I applaud the Speaker's desire for greater interaction in debate, I am unsure that the proposed question period following speeches is superior in achieving this than the procedure of "interventions" being used in the Main Committee.

I am concerned that the proposal would interrupt the flow of debate too much.

The intervention procedure if more widely embraced has the potential to engender much greater interaction between participants in debate.

The procedure needs to be further refined by setting controls on the amount of time an intervention might take up.

I would be willing to attend a round table to discuss the proposal put to you by the Speaker and any other option that might be entertained to promote and encourage true debate and interaction in proceedings of the House.

Yours sincerely

  
HARRY JENKINS MP

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