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<i>J.R. Unger</i>
Clerk of the Senate

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PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

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Joint Standing Committee on the New and  
Permanent Parliament House

Report  
relating to the proposed erection of a  
viewing platform on Capital Hill

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**Membership of the Committee**

**(31st Parliament)**

**Joint Chairmen**

**Senator the Honourable C.L. Laucke,  
President of the Senate**

**The Right Honourable Sir Billy Snedden, K.C.M.G., Q.C., M.P.,  
Speaker of the House of Representatives**

**Members**

**The Honourable R.J. Ellicott, M.P.,  
Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for  
the Capital Territory**

**Senator G.J. Evans (1)**

**Senator C.R. Maunsell (2)  
National Country Party Whip in the Senate**

**Senator J.I. Melzer**

**Senator A.J. Missen**

**Senator J. O'Byrne**

**Senator H.W. Young**

**Mr J.W. Haslem, M.P.**

**Mr U.E. Innes, M.P.**

**Mr L.K. Johnson, M.P.**

**The Honourable P.J. Keating, M.P.**

**Mr B. Lloyd, M.P.**

**Mr B.D. Simon, M.P.**

**Clerk to the Committee  
Mr D.M. Piper**

- (1) Senator Evans was appointed to the Committee on 22 August 1978 in place of Senator McIntosh.
- (2) Senator Maunsell was appointed to the Committee on 31 May 1978 in place of Senator the Honourable T.C. Drake-Brockman, D.F.C.

## ERECTION OF A VIEWING PLATFORM ON CAPITAL HILL

Under clause 3 of its resolution of appointment, the Joint Standing Committee on the New and Permanent Parliament House is authorised to consider and report on matters coming within the terms of section 5 of the Parliament Act 1974 as may be referred to it by the Minister responsible for administering the National Capital Development Commission Act 1957, or by resolution of either House of Parliament.

Section 5 of the Parliament Act 1974 gives Parliament control over the erection of buildings or other work within the Parliamentary zone which is defined in section 3 of the Act. Sub-section 5(i) of the Act provides as follows :

No building or other work is to be erected on land within the Parliamentary zone unless the Minister has caused a proposal for the erection of the building or work to be laid before each House of the Parliament and the proposal has been approved by resolution of each House of Parliament.

On 21 November 1978 the Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for the Capital Territory, as the Minister responsible for administering the National Capital Development Commission Act 1957, referred to the committee a proposal to erect a viewing platform on Capital Hill.

The committee has considered the proposal and reports as follows :

At present the site for the new and permanent Parliament House is marked by a flagpole on Capital Hill. This proposal is for the erection of a viewing platform on the summit of Capital Hill to give visitors a better appreciation of the site and provide a broad view, above the tree line, of the surrounding city.

It is proposed that the platform be of timber framed construction, hexagonal in form, approximately 8 metres in diameter and 5 metres high. The platform will cater for up to 40 people. Display panels at ground level will provide information about the new and permanent Parliament House project. Signs at platform level will indicate the radiating avenues and major points of interest in the city.

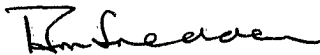
The overall design and type of construction material have been selected to achieve a satisfactory blend with the existing environment on Capital Hill. When work on the new Parliament House commences it will be possible to relocate the platform for continuing use.

The Committee is satisfied that the viewing platform will provide a needed facility for visitors to Capital Hill. It will allow a better appreciation of the site and provide information about the Parliamentary zone and the new and permanent Parliament House.

The Committee supports the proposal and recommends construction of the work referred to it.



CONDOR L. LAUCKE  
President of the Senate



B.M. SNEDDEN  
Speaker of the House of  
Representatives

Joint Chairmen

22 November 1978