

Parliamentary Paper
No. 144/1984

The Parliament of the
Commonwealth of Australia

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

Report on possible changes to
the Standing Orders in respect
of the declaration and registration
of private interests of Members

Part I

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MEMBERS OF THE STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

Ex-officio:

The Speaker (The Hon. Dr H.A. Jenkins) - Chairman
The Chairman of Committees (Mrs J. Child)
The Leader of the House (The Hon. M.J. Young)
The Deputy Leader of the Opposition (The Hon. J.W. Howard)

Appointed:

The Hon. R.J. Groom
Mr B.C. Humphreys
Mr E.J. Lindsay
Mr P.C. Millar
Mr J.G. Mountford
Mr A.C. Rocher
The Rt Hon. I. McC. Sinclair

Clerk to the Committee:

Mr L.M. Barlin

R E P O R T

1. On 5 October 1983 the House of Representatives agreed to the following resolution:

That this House -

- (1) notes that Ministers have provided statements of their private interests, and those of their families of which they are aware, and that copies of those returns have been presented to the Parliament as a matter of public record;
- (2) is of the opinion that all Members should provide similar statements of their private interests, including those of their families of which they are aware, covering the following matters:
 - (a) shareholdings in public and private companies (including holding companies) indicating the name of the company or companies;
 - (b) family and business trusts and nominee companies-
 - (i) in which a beneficial interest is held, indicating the name of the trust, the nature of its operation and beneficial interests; and
 - (ii) in which the person or immediate family is a trustee, indicating the name of the trust, the nature of its operation and the beneficiary of the trust;
 - (c) real estate, including the location (suburb or area only) and the purpose for which it is owned;
 - (d) directorships in private companies, indicating the name of the company, its activities and the total amounts of its assets and liabilities;
 - (e) partnerships, indicating the nature of the interest, the activities of the partnership and the total amounts of its assets and liabilities;
 - (f) liabilities (excluding short-term credit arrangements) indicating the nature of the liability and the creditor concerned;
 - (g) the nature of any bonds, debentures and like investments;
 - (h) saving or investment accounts, indicating their nature and the name of the bank or other institutions concerned;
 - (i) the nature of any other assets (including collections, but excluding household and personal effects) each valued at over \$5000;
 - (j) the nature of any other substantial sources of income;
 - (k) gifts valued at more than \$250 received from official sources, or at more than \$100 where received from other than official sources;
 - (l) any sponsored travel or hospitality received; and
 - (m) any other interests, such as membership of organisations, where a conflict of interest with a Member's public duties could foreseeably arise or be seen to arise;

- (3) agrees that a public register of Members' statements of their private interests referred to in paragraph (2) should be established;
- (4) agrees that Members should provide such statements on an annual basis and that amended statements should be provided if alterations in circumstances occur;
- (5) agrees that notwithstanding the lodgement of statements by Members and their incorporation in a public register individual Members should declare any relevant interest if they participate in a debate in the House or vote in a division in the House, and
- (6) requests the Standing Orders Committee to consider and report upon-
 - (a) what changes to the standing orders may be required to give effect to the matters contained in paragraphs (2) to (5) of this resolution, and
 - (b) the desirability of adopting other provisions relating to Senators and Members contained in the report of the Committee of Inquiry into Public Duty and Private Interest (except constitutional matters, but including, in particular, a Code of Conduct).

2. It will be noted that in the resolution the House has:

- (a) **expressed the opinion** that all Members should provide similar statements of their private interests to those provided by Ministers including those of their families of which they are aware;
- (b) **agreed** that a public register of Members' statements of their private interests should be established;
- (c) **agreed** that Members should provide such statements on an annual basis and that amended statements should be provided if alterations in circumstances occur, and
- (d) **agreed** that notwithstanding the lodgement of statements by Members and their incorporation in a public register, individual Members should declare any relevant interest if they **participate** in debate in the House or **vote** in a division in the House.

Whilst the Standing Orders Committee has been asked to consider and report upon what changes to the standing orders may be required to give effect to the matters upon which the House has already agreed, it has also been asked to consider and report upon the desirability of adopting other provisions contained in the report of the Committee of Inquiry into Public Duty and Private Interest (the "Bowen Report") (except constitutional matters but including, in particular, a Code of Conduct).

3. After initial consideration of the reference, the Committee decided to consider the matters in 2 parts - firstly, those items to which the House has already agreed and, secondly, those additional matters relating to Members contained in the Bowen Report. This report deals only with those matters referred to in the first part. The committee is continuing its consideration of the remaining issues which shall be the subject of a later report to the House.

4. The Committee saw as its first task the need to satisfy itself upon the appropriateness or desirability of incorporating matters of this nature in the standing orders. In so doing it considered the options which appear to be available, namely, the enactment of legislation or the adoption of "permanent" resolutions of the House.

5. Standing Orders are seen by this Committee as being essentially rules adopted by the House for the conduct of its business and proceedings in the Chamber and in its committees for the proper control of debate. They are applied and interpreted by the Speaker in respect of House proceedings, by the Chairman of Committees in committee of the whole House and to a much lesser extent in committees of the House (or of the House and the Senate) by committee chairmen. Requirements for the declaration of Members' interests are clearly related

to House or committee proceedings. However, they can and should be more directly identified with the "conduct" or "eligibility" of Members rather than with matters of procedural order. For this reason, the Committee is of the view that, apart from the establishment of a Committee of Members' Interests, the incorporation of other requirements for the declaration of interests in the standing orders would be inappropriate. In addition, it could place an unreasonable burden on the Speaker (particularly) and other occupants of the Chair if they were called upon to give rulings in respect of individual Member's interest. For these reasons the Committee thinks it inappropriate and undesirable to include these requirements in the standing orders.

6. There appeared to the Committee to be little attraction in the enactment of legislation - a course which has been followed in a number of other Parliaments. The advantages of legislation seemed to be -

- (a) it could provide specific, binding, requirements which would be legally enforceable (if this was thought necessary);
- (b) it would "de-politicise" matters of application and interpretation removing them from the responsibility of the Presiding Officers or the Houses;
- (c) it would provide convenient and ready public access to the requirements through their availability in a statute which would be published as a pamphlet and readily reproduced if required, and
- (d) it would obviate the necessity for the requirements to be incorporated in the standing orders or resolutions of the House.

Disadvantages of the proposal appeared to the Committee to include:

- (a) "codification" of the requirements in legislation would necessarily result in an inflexible approach to the requirements;
- (b) newly arising and previously unforeseen situations may not be covered in the enacted legislation;
- (c) it would remove control from the parliamentary sphere to the Courts;
- (d) any legislation would almost certainly have to include provisions containing non-compliance penalties by way of fines or imprisonment although enforcement provisions of this nature may not be thought appropriate;
- (e) it would force strictly legal interpretations of the declaration requirements which may not be appropriate in a "political" sense, and
- (f) it may result in vexatious litigants pursuing political vendettas against particular Members.

The Committee considered that the advantages of enacting legislation were clearly outweighed by the disadvantages. In abandoning this as a possible option, the Committee noted the comment contained in the Bowen Report that it "would not wish to see the ordinary courts brought into a regulatory role in the conflict of interest field".¹

1 PP 353 (1979), para 4.11

7. The other option considered by the Committee was the adoption by the House of specific resolutions - a course followed by the United Kingdom House of Commons, other than in respect of the setting up by standing order of a Committee of Members' Interests. **This Committee is particularly attracted to the Commons' arrangement.** It is seen as suffering from none of the disadvantages which could flow from the incorporation of the requirements in the standing orders or in the enactment of legislation.

8. The Commons' Committee on Members' Interests is given responsibility

"to examine the arrangements made for the compilation, maintenance and accessibility of the Register of Members' Interests; to consider any proposals made by Members or others as to the form and contents of the Register; to consider any specific complaints made in relation to the registering or declaring of interests; to consider what classes of person (if any) other than Members ought to be required to register; and to make recommendations upon these and other matters which are relevant".

Procedures followed by the Committee are designed to ensure that, so far as possible, the House is not faced with the need to consider what may be inadvertent or minor breaches of the rules relating to registration and disclosure of interests. As was pointed out by the Commons Select Committee on Members' Interests (Declaration)² which endorsed the evidence of the Clerk of that House, "the ultimate sanction behind the obligation upon Members to register would be the fact that it was imposed by resolution of the House ... There can be no doubt that the House might consider either a refusal to register

2 HC 102 (1974-75), p xii.

as required by its resolutions or the wilful furnishing of misleading or false information to be a contempt. The sanction of possible penal jurisdiction by the House should be sufficient".

9. The Committee has concluded that it is inappropriate and undesirable for the House to proceed to incorporate in its standing orders requirements for the declaration and registration of Members' Interests. Instead it recommends that these requirements should be given effect by the adoption of specific resolutions; such resolutions to have continuing force unless or until abandoned or replaced by other resolutions in this or a future Parliament. However, the Committee does favour the establishment by standing order of a Committee of Members' Interests and is firmly of the opinion that the appointment of that committee to supervise the declaration and registration arrangements is the most appropriate way to proceed in this matter. It would be a function of the proposed Committee to draw up procedures for, and the actual form of, declarations to be made by Members.

10. In proposing the establishment of a Committee of Members' Interests, this Committee recommends that such a Committee should be given limited powers of investigation. Whilst there is no reason to believe that the proposed Committee would not act with complete impartiality, this Committee feels that a limitation on the proposed Committee's powers should be incorporated in the standing order by which it is to be established.

11. Attached draft standing order 28A takes account of limitations placed on the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct established by the United States House of Representatives. While that Committee is given the usual powers to send for persons and papers, there is a requirement that no resolution, report or recommendation may be made, no advisory opinion given and no investigation

of conduct undertaken unless approved by not less than 7 of the 12 members so that in practice no action can be taken unless at least one member of the majority or minority is willing to vote with those of the opposite political party. It is proposed that the Australian House of Representatives Committee of Members' Interests should consist of 7 Members and that while it should have power to send for persons, papers and records, it shall not be able to exercise that power, nor undertake an investigation of the private interests of any person, unless approved by not less than 4 members of the Committee other than the Chairman. Effectively, this will necessitate a bi-partisan approach to any inquiry.

12. In recommending the establishment of a Committee of Members' Interests, the Committee sees great merit in following the United Kingdom House of Commons' practice whereby the particular senior officer of the Clerk's Department who is nominated by Mr Speaker as the Registrar of Members' Interests is also Clerk to the Committee of Members' Interests. **The Committee recommends the adoption of a similar arrangement in the House of Representatives.**

13. The Committee believes that, notwithstanding the public availability of the Register of Members' Interests within conditions to be drawn up by the proposed Committee of Members' Interests, there should be a requirement for the chairman of that committee to table in the House as soon as possible after the commencement of each Parliament and in each subsequent calendar year during the life of that Parliament, a copy of the completed Register and that any notification by a Member of alteration of interests should also be tabled. **The Committee recommends accordingly.**

14. The terms of the resolution of the House of 5 October 1983 provide that, notwithstanding the lodgement of statements of their interests by Members, they should also declare any relevant interest if they participate in a debate in the House or vote in a division in the House. The Committee can see no reason why the disclosure requirement should apply in the House alone, and believes that it should also be a requirement that such declarations be made when participating in the proceedings of, or voting in, committee of the whole House or in committees of the House (or of the House and the Senate). It also believes that such declarations should be made as soon as practicable in such proceedings. However, it sees no need for a Member to declare an interest when directing a question seeking information. Accordingly, the draft resolutions prepared by the Committee reflect the requirement for a Member to make a declaration as soon as practicable in proceedings in the House, in committee of the whole House or in committee but specifically exempt the Member from the need to make such a declaration when directing a question to a Minister seeking information.

15. In recommending the adoption of the resolution referred to in the previous paragraph, the Committee had regard to existing standing orders 196 and 326 which provide as follows:

196. No Member shall be entitled to vote in any division upon a question (not being a matter of public policy) in which he has a direct pecuniary interest not held in common with the rest of the subjects of the Crown. The vote of a Member may not be challenged except on a substantive motion moved immediately after the division is completed, and the vote of a Member determined to be so interested shall be disallowed.

326. No Member may sit on a committee if he is personally interested in the inquiry before such committee.

The Committee sees no conflict between these standing orders and the proposed resolution. Standing order 196 will continue to provide the mechanism by which the vote of a Member may be challenged. Standing order 326 will preclude a Member from sitting on a committee if the Member is personally interested in its inquiry whereas the proposed resolution requiring declaration of an interest may possibly involve a matter only incidentally arising during the course of a committee's inquiry.

16. The Committee felt some concern at the requirement in the resolution of the House of 5 October 1983 for the declaration by Members not only of their private interests but also of "those of their families of which they are aware". It seems to the Committee that this requirement is too widely drawn. It appears unreasonable to require Members to disclose details of the interests of family members who may no longer be dependent on them and who may have proceeded to their chosen positions in life. The Committee noted that in South Australia and Victoria the disclosure is limited to a spouse and children under 18 years who normally reside with the Member and in the Northern Territory to a spouse and children who are wholly or mainly dependent on the Member for support. The Committee is attracted to these provisions and considers them preferable to the provision contained in the resolution of the House of 5 October 1983. It believes that if there is to be a requirement for the disclosure of the interests of a Member's spouse and family, the House should give further consideration to this aspect of its resolution of 5 October 1983 and, in particular, should consider the possible adoption of provisions requiring the disclosure only of the private interests of a spouse and children under the age of 18 years who have some financial dependence on the Member whether or not they reside with the Member.

Findings and Recommendations

17. In summary, the Committee's findings and recommendations are as follows:

- (a) That it is inappropriate and undesirable to incorporate in the standing orders requirements for declaration and registration of Members' Interests (para 9);
- (b) That a Committee of Members' Interests should be established by standing order to supervise the requirements for declaration and registration of Members' Interests (para 9);
- (c) That the proposed Committee of Members' Interests should be given limited powers of investigation similar to the United States House of Representatives Committee on Standards of Official Conduct (paras 10 and 11);
- (d) That the Registrar of Members' Interests should also be Clerk to the Committee of Members' Interests (para 12);
- (e) That a copy of the Register of Members' Interests should be tabled in the House by the Chairman of the Committee of Members' Interests as soon as possible after the commencement of each Parliament and in each subsequent calendar year during the life of that Parliament and that any notification by a Member of alteration of interests should also be tabled (para. 13);
- (f) That Members should be required to declare any relevant interest as soon as practicable in proceedings not only if they participate

12.

in the proceedings of, or vote in a division in, the House but also in committee of the whole House or in a committee of the House (or of the House and the Senate) (para 14);

(g) That the requirement to declare an interest should not apply to the directing of a question to a Minister seeking information (para 14), and

(h) That the House give further consideration to the requirement for the disclosure by Members of the interests of their families (para 16).

18. Proposed standing order 28A and draft resolutions to give effect to the recommendations contained in this report are attached as appendices to the report.

H.A. JENKINS
Chairman

6 June 1984

DISSENTING REPORT BY THE HON. R.J. GROOM, M.P., THE HON. J.W. HOWARD, M.P., MR P.C. MILLAR, M.P., MR A.C. ROCHER, M.P. AND THE RT HON. I.McC. SINCLAIR, M.P.

While we recognise that on 5 October 1983 the House of Representatives expressed the opinion that "all Members should provide similar statements [to those provided by Ministers] of their private interests, including those of their families of which they are aware" and at the same time agreed that a public register of Members' statements of their private interests should be established, we disagree with that opinion and accept the conclusions of the Report of the Committee of Inquiry into Public Duty and Private Interest dated July 1979 that the advantages of compulsory registration of the private interests of Members are insufficient to outweigh the disadvantages.

There is an obvious need and justification for Ministers to declare their interests to the Prime Minister, but we see no similar need nor justification for such a requirement in respect of Members who are not Ministers. In addition, we consider the requirement that Members should be obliged to declare the private interests of their families of which they are aware to be an indefensible invasion of the privacy of Members' families to which the strongest objection must be taken.

For these reasons, we dissent from the majority report of the Committee, the recommendations of which, if implemented, would introduce requirements to which we are opposed.

R.J. GROOM
J.W. HOWARD
P.C. MILLAR
A.C. ROCHER
I. McC. SINCLAIR

COMMITTEE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

DRAFT STANDING ORDER

- 28A. (a) A Committee of Members' Interests shall be appointed at the commencement of each Parliament -
- (i) to inquire into and report upon the arrangements made for the compilation, maintenance and accessibility of a Register of Members' Interests;
 - (ii) to consider any proposals made by Members and others as to the form and content of the Register;
 - (iii) to consider any specific complaints made in relation to the registering or declaring of interests;
 - (iv) to consider what changes to any Code of Conduct adopted by the House are necessary or desirable;
 - (v) to consider what classes of person (if any) other than Members ought to be required to register and declare their interests, and
 - (vi) to make recommendations upon these and any other matters which are relevant.
- (b) The committee shall consist of 7 Members, 4 Members to be nominated by either the Prime Minister, the Leader of the House or the Government Whip and 3 Members to be nominated by either the Leader

of the Opposition, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition or the Opposition Whip:

Provided that, where the Opposition is composed of 2 Parties, the committee shall consist of 4 Members to be nominated by either the Prime Minister, the Leader of the House or the Government Whip, 2 Members to be nominated by either the Leader of the Opposition, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition or the Opposition Whip, and 1 Member to be nominated by either the Leader of the Third Party, the Deputy Leader of the Third Party or the Third Party Whip.

(c) The committee shall elect as Chairman of the committee one of the Members nominated either by the Prime Minister, the Leader of the House or the Government Whip.

(d) The committee shall have power to send for persons, papers and records but shall not exercise that power, nor undertake an investigation of the private interests of any person, unless approved by not less than 4 members of the committee other than the Chairman.

(e) The committee shall have power to confer with a similar committee of the Senate.

(f) The committee shall, as soon as practicable after 31 December in each year, prepare and table in the House a report on its operations during that year and shall also have power to report from time to time.

APPENDIX IIDECLARATION AND REGISTRATION OF
PRIVATE INTERESTS OF MEMBERS OF
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

Declaration of Members' Interests

"That within 28 days of making and subscribing an oath or affirmation as a Member of the House of Representatives and within 28 days of the commencement of the first period of sittings in each subsequent calendar year while remaining a Member of the House of Representatives, each Member shall provide to the Registrar of Members' Interests, a statement of the Member's registrable interests, including those of the Member's family of which the Member is aware, in accordance with resolutions adopted by the House and in a form determined by the Committee of Members' Interests from time to time, and shall also notify any alteration of those interests to the Registrar within 28 days of that alteration occurring".

(Note - This resolution will require amendment if the House should modify its resolution of 5 October 1983 in respect of the declaration of the interests of a Member's family.)

Register and Registrar of Members' Interests

"That -

- (1) at the commencement of each Parliament, and at other times as necessary, Mr Speaker shall appoint

an officer of the Department of the House of Representatives as the Registrar of Members' Interests and that officer shall also be Clerk to the Committee of Members' Interests;

- (2) the Registrar of Members' Interests shall, in accordance with procedures determined by the Committee of Members' Interests, maintain a Register of Members' Interests in a form to be determined by that Committee from time to time;
- (3) as soon as possible after the commencement of each Parliament and in each subsequent calendar year during the life of that Parliament, the Chairman of the Committee of Members' Interests shall table in the House a copy of the completed Register of Members' Interests and shall also table from time to time as required any notification by a Member of alteration of those interests, and
- (4) the Register of Members' Interests shall be available for inspection by any person under conditions to be laid down by the Committee of Members' Interests from time to time".

Declaration of interest in debate and other proceedings

"That, notwithstanding the lodgement by a Member of a statement of the Member's interests and those of the Member's family of which the Member is aware and the incorporation of that statement in a Register of Members' Interests, a Member shall declare any relevant interest -

- (a) at the beginning of his or her speech if the Member should participate in debate in the House, committee of the whole House, or a committee of the House (or of the House and the Senate), and

- (b) as soon as practicable after a division is called for in the House, committee of the whole House, or a committee of the House (or of the House and the Senate) if the Member proposes to vote in that division, and

the declaration shall be recorded and indexed in the Votes and Proceedings or Minutes of Proceedings (as applicable) and in any Hansard report of those proceedings or that division:

Provided that it shall not be necessary for a Member to declare an interest when directing a question seeking information in accordance with standing order 142 or 143".

(Note - This resolution will require amendment if the House should modify its resolution of 5 October 1983 in respect of the declaration of the interests of a Member's family.)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVESSTANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE33rd Parliament - 1st MeetingMinutes of Proceedings of Meeting held on
2 November 1983 at 4.40 p.m.

1. Present: Mr Speaker (The Hon. Dr H.A. Jenkins)
The Chairman of Committees (The Hon. L.R. Johnson)
The Leader of the House (The Hon. L.F. Bowen)
The Hon. R.J. Groom
Mr B.C. Humphreys
Mr E.J. Lindsay
Mr A.C. Rocher
The Rt Hon. I.McC. Sinclair
(Mr D.M. Blake, Clerk of the House, was
in attendance).

2. Membership of Committee

The Members of the Committee, as appointed by resolution of the House on 11 May 1983, were announced.

3. Chairman

On the motion of Mr Sinclair, Mr Speaker was elected Chairman.

4. Private Interests of Members of Parliament

The following resolution of the House of 5 October 1983 (Votes and Proceedings No. 27) referring matters to the Committee was reported:

That this House—

- (1) notes that Ministers have provided statements of their private interests, and those of their families of which they are aware, and that copies of those returns have been presented to the Parliament as a matter of public record;
- (2) is of the opinion that all Members should provide similar statements of their private interests, including those of their families of which they are aware, covering the following matters:
 - (a) shareholdings in public and private companies (including holding companies) indicating the name of the company or companies;
 - (b) family and business trusts and nominee companies—
 - (i) in which a beneficial interest is held, indicating the name of the trust, the nature of its operation and beneficial interest; and
 - (ii) in which the person or immediate family is a trustee, indicating the name of the trust, the nature of its operation and the beneficiary of the trust;
 - (c) real estate, including the location (suburb or area only) and the purpose for which it is owned;
 - (d) directorships in private companies, indicating the name of the company, its activities and the total amounts of its assets and liabilities;
 - (e) partnerships, indicating the nature of the interest, the activities of the partnership and the total amounts of its assets and liabilities;
 - (f) liabilities (excluding short-term credit arrangements) indicating the nature of the liability and the creditor concerned;
 - (g) the nature of any bonds, debentures and like investments;
 - (h) saving or investment accounts, indicating their nature and the name of the bank or other institutions concerned;

- (i) the nature of any other assets (including collections, but excluding household and personal effects) each valued at over \$5000;
 - (j) the nature of any other substantial sources of income;
 - (k) gifts valued at more than \$250 received from official sources, or at more than \$100 where received from other than official sources;
 - (l) any sponsored travel or hospitality received; and
 - (m) any other interests, such as membership of organisations, where a conflict of interest with a Member's public duties could foreseeably arise or be seen to arise;
- (3) agrees that a public register of Members' statements of their private interests referred to in paragraph (2) should be established;
- (4) agrees that Members should provide such statements on an annual basis and that amended statements should be provided if alterations in circumstances occur;
- (5) agrees that notwithstanding the lodgement of statements by Members and their incorporation in a public register individual Members should declare any relevant interest if they participate in a debate in the House or vote in a division in the House, and
- (6) requests the Standing Orders Committee to consider and report upon --
- (a) what changes to the standing orders may be required to give effect to the matters contained in paragraphs (2) to (5) of this resolution, and
 - (b) the desirability of adopting other provisions relating to Senators and Members contained in the report of the Committee of Inquiry into Public Duty and Private Interest (except constitutional matters, but including, in particular, a Code of Conduct).

Resolved -

- (a) That any relevant consideration by the Joint Select Committee on Privilege and initial attitudes of the Senate Standing Orders Committee to the reference be ascertained;
- (b) That a general paper be prepared on what matters the Committee might consider, including any draft standing orders or resolutions to give effect to those matters, and
- (c) That the content of sub-paragraphs 2(a) to (m) of the terms of reference contained in the resolution of the House was not examinable by the Committee.

5. Other matters

Matters relating to Question Time were discussed briefly including supplementary questions and the length of questions and answers.

Meeting adjourned at 4.58 p.m.

Confirmed.

Chairman

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

33rd Parliament - 2nd Meeting

Minutes of Proceedings of Meeting held on
5 April 1984 at 8 a.m.

1. Present: Mr Speaker (The Hon. Dr H.A. Jenkins) (Chairman)
The Chairman of Committees (Mrs J. Child)
The Leader of the House (The Hon. M.J. Young)
The Hon. R.J. Groom
Mr B.C. Humphreys
Mr E.J. Lindsay
Mr P.C. Millar
Mr J.G. Mountford
Mr A.C. Rocher
Rt Hon. I.McC. Sinclair

2. Minutes of Proceedings: The Minutes of Proceedings of the meeting of the Committee held on 2 November 1983, circulated to members of the Committee on 6 March 1984, were confirmed.

3. Paper: Mr Speaker presented the following paper:

Private Interests of Members of Parliament - General paper prepared at request of House of Representatives Standing Orders Committee, dated 5 March 1984.

4. Private Interests of Members of Parliament: The Committee deliberated in respect of the matter referred to it by the House on 5 October 1983 and the paper presented by Mr Speaker.

Ordered - That the paper be considered in 2 parts - firstly, that relating to those matters upon which the House had already agreed, contained in paragraphs (2) to (5) of the resolution of 5 October 1983, and secondly, the additional provisions relating to Senators and Members contained in the report of the Committee of Inquiry into Public Duty and Private Interest referred to in paragraph 6(b) of the resolution of 5 October 1983.

Resolved -

- (a) That the draft standing order for the appointment of a Committee of Members' Interests contained in the general paper on Members' Interests, be revised to qualify the power of the Committee to send for persons, papers and records.

(b) That, subject to the satisfactory resolution of the matter referred to in part (a), the Committee supports the establishment by standing order of a Committee of Members' Interests to supervise the declaration and registration of Members' Interests and related matters.

(c) That other matters relating to the declaration and registration of Members' Interests are not appropriate items for inclusion in the standing orders of the House but should instead be given effect by the adoption by the House of appropriate resolutions.

5. Next meeting of the Committee:

Ordered - That the next meeting of the Committee be arranged for the sitting week commencing Tuesday, 1 May 1984.

6. Adjournment: The Committee adjourned at 8.30 a.m.

Confirmed

Chairman

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

33rd Parliament - 3rd Meeting

Minutes of Proceedings of Meeting held on
3 May 1984 at 8 a.m.

1. Present: Mr Speaker (The Hon. Dr H.A. Jenkins) (Chairman)
The Chairman of Committees (Mrs J. Child)
The Leader of the House (The Hon. M.J. Young)
The Hon. R.J. Groom
The Hon. J.W. Howard
Mr E.J. Lindsay
Mr P.C. Millar
Mr J.G. Mountford
Mr A.C. Rocher
2. Minutes of Proceedings: The Minutes of Proceedings of the meeting of the Committee held on 5 April 1984, circulated to members of the Committee on 18 April 1984, were confirmed.
3. Paper: Mr Speaker presented the following paper:

Revised draft standing order 28A for the appointment of a Committee of Members' Interests, together with explanatory notes in relation to the proposed standing order.
4. Private Interests of Members of Parliament: The Committee deliberated in respect of the matter referred to it by the House on 5 October 1983.

Paper: Mr Speaker presented a preliminary draft report in relation to the matters contained in paragraphs (2) to (5) of the resolution of the House of 5 October 1983.

The Committee further deliberated.

Resolved - On the motion of Mr Howard -

That the Committee agrees in principle with the thrust of the preliminary draft report subject to alterations being made to revised draft standing order 28A and to paragraph 15.
5. Next meeting of the Committee:

Ordered - That the date of the meeting of the Committee be determined by Mr Speaker.
6. Adjournment: The Committee adjourned at 8.44 a.m.

Confirmed

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

33rd Parliament - 4th Meeting

Minutes of Proceedings of Meeting held on
10 May 1984 at 8 a.m.

1. Present: The Speaker (The Hon. Dr H.A. Jenkins)
(Chairman)
The Chairman of Committees (Mrs J. Child)
The Leader of the House (The Hon. M.J. Young)
The Deputy Leader of the Opposition (The Hon.
J.W. Howard)
The Hon. R.J. Groom
Mr B.C. Humphreys
Mr E.J. Lindsay
Mr P.C. Millar
Mr J.G. Mountford
Mr A.C. Rocher
The Rt Hon. I.McC. Sinclair

(Mr D.M. Blake, Clerk of the House, was in attendance)
2. Minutes of Proceedings: The Minutes of Proceedings of
the meeting of the Committee held on 3 May 1984, circula-
ted to Members of the Committee on 4 May 1984, were
confirmed.
3. Paper: Mr Speaker presented the following paper:

Copy of letter and accompanying documents from the Leader
of the House dated 8 May 1984 in respect of the content
of the form of disclosure of private interests by
Ministers, public servants and statutory officeholders.
4. Private Interests of Members of Parliament: Mr Speaker
presented his revised draft report, copies of which
had been circulated to members of the Committee on 4
May 1984.

The Committee deliberated.

Paragraphs 1 to 4 agreed to
Paragraph 5 amended and agreed to.
Paragraph 6 amended and agreed to.
Paragraphs 7 to 9 agreed to.
Paragraph 10 amended and agreed to.
Paragraph 11 amended and agreed to.
Paragraph 12 agreed to.
Paragraph 13 amended and agreed to.
Paragraph 14 amended and agreed to.
New paragraph 14A inserted.
Paragraph 15 agreed to.
Paragraph 16 amended and agreed to.
Paragraph 17 agreed to.
Appendix I (Draft standing order 28A) amended and
agreed to.
Appendix II (Draft resolutions of the House) amended
and agreed to

Mr Sinclair informed the Committee that he proposed to submit a dissent report to the Committee's report.

Ordered - That the draft report, as amended, be reprinted for further consideration by the Committee at its next meeting.

5. Adjournment: The committee adjourned at 8.50 a.m.

Confirmed

Chairman

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE
33rd Parliament - 5th Meeting

Minutes of Proceedings of Meeting held on
30 May 1984 at 8 a.m.

1. Present: The Speaker (The Hon. Dr H.A. Jenkins)
(Chairman)
The Leader of the House (The Hon. M.J. Young)
The Deputy Leader of the Opposition (The Hon.
J.W. Howard)
The Hon. R.J. Groom
Mr B.C. Humphreys
Mr E.J. Lindsay
Mr P.C. Millar
Mr A.C. Rocher
The Rt Hon. I.McC. Sinclair

(Mr D.M. Blake, Clerk of the House, was in attendance)

2. Minutes of Proceedings: The Minutes of Proceedings of
the meeting of the Committee held on 10 May 1984, circula-
ted to Members of the Committee on 25 May 1984, were
confirmed.
3. Private Interests of Members of Parliament: Mr Speaker
presented a reprinted draft report incorporating amend-
ments agreed to by the Committee at its previous meeting
and additional changes of a drafting nature.

The committee deliberated.

Appendix I further amended and agreed to.
Appendix II further amended and agreed to.

Resolved - On the motion of Mr Young -

That the revised Draft Report, as amended, be the report
of the Committee, subject to further consideration of
matters raised by Mr Lindsay in respect of paragraph
14.

4. Adjournment: The Committee adjourned at 8.20 a.m.

Confirmed

Chairman

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

33rd Parliament - 6th Meeting

Minutes of Proceedings of Meeting held on
6 June 1984 at 8 a.m.

1. Present: The Speaker (The Hon. Dr H.A. Jenkins)
(Chairman)
The Chairman of Committees (Mrs J. Child)
The Leader of the House (The Hon. M.J. Young)
The Deputy Leader of the Opposition (The Hon.
J.W. Howard)
The Hon. R.J. Groom
Mr B.C. Humphreys
Mr E.J. Lindsay
Mr P.C. Millar
The Rt Hon. I.McC. Sinclair

(Mr D.M. Blake, Clerk of the House, was in attendance)
2. Minutes of Proceedings: The Minutes of Proceedings of
the meeting of the Committee held on 30 May 1984, circula-
ted to Members of the Committee on 5 June 1984, were
confirmed.
3. Private Interests of Members of Parliament: Mr Speaker
presented a further revised draft report incorporating
proposed revisions to paragraph 14 and Appendix II made
following consideration of matters raised by Mr Lindsay.

The committee deliberated.

Paragraph 14 and Appendix II, as revised, agreed to.

Paragraph 17 amended and agreed to.

Further revised draft report, as amended, agreed to.

Resolved - On the motion of Mr Lindsay -

That the further revised Draft Report, as amended, be
the report of the Committee to the House.
4. Adjournment: The Committee adjourned at 8.12 a.m.

Confirmed

Chairman

