

1990

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

REPORT ON THE OPERATIONS OF
THE COMMITTEE
FOR 1989

COMMITTEE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Membership

(36th Parliament)

Mr S C Dubois, MP (Chairman)

Mr D M Connolly, MP

Mr D B Cowan, MP

Mr E J Lindsay, RFD, MP

Mr L R T O'Neil, MP

Mr P M Ruddock, MP

Mr J L Scott, MP

Clerk to the Committee

Mr L M Barlin

R E P O R T

Introduction

(1) The Committee of Members' Interests is required by standing order 28A by which it is established to prepare and table in the House as soon as possible after 31 December in each year a report on its operations during that year. With the dissolution of the House of Representatives in the 35th Parliament on 19 February 1990 shortly before the scheduled resumption of its sittings, the Committee of Members' Interests in that Parliament did not have the opportunity to complete and present a report on its operations during 1989. Furthermore, the end of the 35th Parliament saw the voluntary retirement of the chairman, Dr R E Klugman and other changes in the membership of this committee in the new Parliament.

(2) Given these circumstances, this committee of the 36th Parliament has decided to adopt in full the draft report for 1989 of the previous committee which had been prepared by the former Chairman and distributed by him to committee members for their consideration. The report follows these introductory paragraphs.

(3) This committee expresses its thanks for the work undertaken by the previous committee and, in particular, records its deep appreciation of the services of its chairman, Dr Klugman. He brought to the position an excellent understanding of the requirements of the House and a practical appreciation of the way in which those requirements were to be met. He was largely responsible for moulding the operations of the Registry of Members' Interests and the Committee of Members' Interests. The House of Representatives owes him a debt of gratitude.

S C DUBOIS
Chairman
17 May 1990

COMMITTEE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Membership

(As at 31 December 1989)

Dr R E Klugman, MP (Chairman)

Hon. A E Adernann, MP

Mr D M Cameron, MP

Mr L Kent, MP

Mr E J Lindsay, RFD, MP

Mr P M Ruddock, MP

Mr J L Scott, MP

Clerk to the Committee

Mr L M Barlin

COMMITTEE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

NEW STANDING ORDER 28A ADOPTED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON 9 OCTOBER 1984, a.m.

Committee of Members' Interests

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.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REGISTRATION AND DECLARATION OF
MEMBERS' INTERESTSRequirements of the House of Representatives
from the first sitting day in 1989

Resolutions adopted by the House on 9 October 1984 a.m. as amended on 21 March 1985, 13 February 1986, 22 October 1986 and 30 November 1988

That the following resolutions relating to the registration and declaration of Members' interests be adopted, such resolutions to have effect from the commencement of the 34th Parliament and to continue in force unless and until amended or repealed by the House of Representatives in this or a subsequent Parliament:

(1) Declaration of Members' interests

That within 28 days of making and subscribing an oath or affirmation as a Member of the House of Representatives each Member shall provide to the Registrar of Members' Interests, a statement of—

- (1) the Member's registrable interests, and
- (2) the registrable interests of which the Member is aware (a) of the Member's spouse and (b) of any children who are wholly or mainly dependent on the Member for support,

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.

(2) Registrable interests

That the statement of a Member's registrable interests to be provided by a Member shall include the registrable interests of which the Member is aware (1) of the Member's spouse and (2) of any children who are wholly or mainly dependent on the Member for support, and shall cover 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 Member, the Member's spouse, or a child who is wholly or mainly dependent on the Member for support, is a trustee (but not including a trustee of an estate where no beneficial interest is held by the Member, the Member's spouse or dependent children), 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) registered directorships of companies;
- (e) partnerships indicating the nature of the interests and the activities of the partnership;
- (f) liabilities 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 (excluding household and personal effects) each valued at over \$5,000;
- (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 provided that a gift received by a Member, the Member's spouse or dependent children from family members or personal friends in a purely personal capacity need not be registered unless the Member judges that an appearance of conflict of interest may be seen to exist;
- (l) any sponsored travel or hospitality received;
- (m) membership of any organisation, and
- (n) any other interests where a conflict of interest with a Member's public duties could foreseeably arise or be seen to arise.

(3) Register and Registrar of Members' Interests

That—

- (a) 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;
- (b) 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;
- (c) as soon as possible after the commencement of each 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
- (d) 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.

Additional resolutions adopted by the House on 13 February 1986

That this House re-affirms the requirement for the registration and declaration of the interests of Members, their spouses and dependent children adopted by the House of Representatives on 9 October 1984 a.m.

That any Member of the House of Representatives who—

- (a) knowingly fails to provide a statement of registrable interests to the Registrar of Members' Interests by the due date,
- (b) knowingly fails to notify any alteration of those interests to the Registrar of Members' Interests within 28 days of the change occurring, or
- (c) knowingly provides false or misleading information to the Registrar of Members' Interests,

shall be guilty of a serious contempt of the House of Representatives and shall be dealt with by the House accordingly.

Note

The requirements set out above are those in force from the first sitting day of the House of Representatives in 1989.

No reference has been made to—

- (1) earlier registration and declaration requirements deleted on 13 February 1986, 22 October 1986 and 30 November 1988, and
- (2) resolutions of 21 March 1985 and 13 February 1986 which related to the lodgement of initial statements of interests by Members of the 34th Parliament.

REPORT

Introduction

(1) As required by standing order 28A by which the Committee of Members' Interests is established, the Committee presents its report on its operations for the calendar year 1989, being the 4th annual report of the Committee.

Membership

(2) No changes occurred in the membership of the Committee during the year. However, because standing order 28A makes no provision for the appointment of a Deputy Chairman, it was necessary for the Committee to appoint an Acting Chairman during the attendance of the Chairman as one of the Australian Parliament's representatives at the 44th session of the United Nations. Mr Lindsay was appointed to this position.

(3) The deficiency in the standing order was brought to the attention of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Procedure which has recommended amended standing orders which would overcome the existing difficulty in respect of this Committee.

The Registrar of Members' Interests

(4) During periods of absence of the Registrar, Speaker Child and later Speaker McLeay, appointed Mr B Wright to act as Registrar and Clerk to the Committee. The Committee records its appreciation of his assistance during those periods.

Meetings of the Committee

(5) It was necessary for the Committee to meet on 5 occasions only during the year, principally for the purpose of making determinations on the interpretation of some aspects of the registration requirements. These matters are dealt with under specific headings later in this report.

Tabling of statements of interests and notifications of alterations of interests

(6) As previously reported, the Committee of the 34th Parliament had determined that since an up-to-date Register of Members' Interests was maintained by the Registrar of Members' Interests and available for public inspection, statements of interests and notifications of alterations of interests would be tabled in the House by the Chairman once only during the autumn and Budget sittings each year. In accordance with this decision on 1 June 1989 the Chairman tabled a statement of registrable interests received from a Member elected at a by-election during the period 1 December 1988 to 31 May 1989 and notifications of alterations of interests received during the same period. Notifications of alterations of interests received during the period 1 June 1989 to 29 November 1989 were tabled by the Acting Chairman on 30 November 1989.

Access to the Register

(7) During the year, the Registrar provided access to the Register on 12 occasions in response to requests received by him. This compared with 2 occasions during each of the calendar years 1987 and 1988 and once only during the first year of operation of the Register in 1986.

(8) A request to extract and supply certain material from the Register was refused by the Registrar and his decision was later endorsed by the Committee. The basis for

this decision was that while the Register is freely available for public inspection under conditions which the Committee was required to determine, it was not the duty of the Registrar to make searches of the Register and supply material from it. The inquirer was informed that he, or a person acting on his behalf, could freely inspect the Register during the hours laid down by the Committee.

Registration of Gifts

(9) The Committee again considered the application of the requirements in respect of the receipt of gifts by Ministers in their official positions while travelling overseas, from overseas visitors in Australia and from Australian sources. The requirements contained in the resolutions provide for Members to notify the receipt by them, their spouses or dependent children of gifts valued at more than \$250 when received from official sources or \$100 when received from other sources although it is not a requirement to register gifts received from family members or personal friends in a purely personal capacity unless the Member judges that an appearance of conflict of interest may be seen to exist.

(10) Under the Government's guidelines, gifts received by Ministers in their official capacity are to be regarded as Commonwealth property and all gifts, other than token gifts, are to be declared to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and moved to the custody of that Department as soon as possible. Valuations by accredited valuers are arranged by that Department and gifts may be transferred to the recipient on request where the assessed value does not exceed \$250 if received from official sources (i.e. Government) or \$100 from other sources (industry or private). Where the assessed value is greater than these limits, the recipient may pay the difference and retain the gift.

11. An examination of these guidelines made it clear to

the Committee that Ministers in that capacity cannot freely retain any item valued at more than \$250 received from official sources or \$100 where received from other sources. As a consequence the gift component of an item allowed to be retained can not exceed the values fixed by the House and it is not necessary for Ministers to notify such gifts for the Register of Members' Interests. However, this does not in any way relieve Ministers of the requirement to notify the receipt of relevant gifts received in a capacity other than a ministerial capacity.

(12) The Committee's determination was the subject of a report to the House tabled by the Chairman on 13 April 1989.

Registration of shareholdings

(13) Resolution 2(a) provides for the registration of "shareholdings in public and private companies (including holding companies) indicating the name of the company or companies".

Some doubt arose as to the proper interpretation of that paragraph of the resolutions. As a consequence the Committee sought legal advice from the Attorney-General's Department in respect of the following matters:

- (a) is it necessary for a Member to register shareholdings held by a company in which the Member, the Member's spouse or dependent children are shareholders, and
- (b) is it necessary for a Member to register other relevant interests (e.g. real estate) held by a company in which the Member, the Member's spouse or dependent children are shareholders.

The advice received from the Attorney-General's Department made it clear that only if a Member (the Member's spouse or dependent children) holds a controlling interest in a company is it necessary for any shareholdings of that company to be registered. In respect of the second question, the advice received was to the effect that the resolutions as presently drafted do not require the registration of other interests held by a company. To remove any uncertainty that existed, the substance of this advice was conveyed in writing to all Members of the House.

Other responsibilities of the Committee

(14) Apart from its responsibility for the arrangements made for the compilation, maintenance and accessibility of the Register of Members' Interests, the Committee is required by standing order 28A -

- (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 persons (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.

(15) During the reporting period,

- (a) no proposals were made by Members or others as to the form and content of the register;
- (b) no specific complaints were made to the Committee in relation to the registering of interests;
- (c) since no Code of Conduct has been adopted by the House, the question of changes did

not arise;

(d) the Committee gave no further formal consideration to the question of what classes of persons (if any) other than Members ought to be required to register their interests, and

(e) the Committee made no recommendation to the House upon any of these or related matters.

Effect of dissolution on the registration requirements

(16) In its annual reports for 1987 and 1988 the Committee drew attention to the fact that under the existing requirements there is no obligation placed upon Members to register interests, from the date of dissolution of the House of Representatives in one Parliament until the 28th day after they make an oath or affirmation in the next Parliament. Without repeating what was stated in those reports, the Committee wishes to remind the House that with an election for the House of Representatives due in 1990, the perceived deficiency in the registration arrangements still remains and unless early action is taken to alter the resolutions, the same position will apply between the 35th and 36th Parliaments.

Appreciation

(17) Having announced my intention not to re-nominate for the House of Representatives at the next election, this will be the last occasion when I will have the honour to report to the House as Chairman of the Committee of Members' Interests.

(18) Since its first establishment in 1985, the Committee has been faced with many difficult decisions associated with the setting up of the Register of Members' Interests and the making of determinations in respect of the interpretation of the resolutions of the House. I believe it has carried out its responsibilities in an exemplary manner, and deserves credit for its achievements in what threatened to be a most difficult, and potentially politically divisive

issue. I place on record my appreciation of the co-operation and assistance received from all past and present members of the Committee and particularly thank Mr L Barlin, the Registrar of Members' Interests, for his outstanding performance, especially when dealing with the difficult question of Members' privacy and the public's right to know. I wish the committee well in its future responsibilities.

R E KLUGMAN
CHAIRMAN

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

35th Parliament - 7th Meeting

Minutes of Proceedings of meeting held on
7 March ¹⁹⁸⁹ at 3.50 p.m.

(1) Present:

Dr R E Klugman, MP (Chairman)
Hon. A. E. Adermann, MP
Mr Don Cameron, MP
Mr L Kent, MP
Mr E J Lindsay, RFD, MP
Mr P M Ruddock, MP
Mr J L Scott, MP

(2) Minutes of Proceedings

The Minutes of Proceedings of the meeting held on 9 November 1988 were confirmed.

(3) Report on the need for oral declarations of interests by Members

The Chairman reported that on 23 November 1988 he had tabled in the House the Committee's report on the need for oral declarations of interests by Members.

(4) Resolution of the House

The Chairman announced the receipt of an extract from the Votes and Proceedings of 30 November 1988 containing a resolution adopted by the House which deleted resolution (4) of the requirements for the registration and declaration of Members' interests thereby abolishing the need for oral declarations of interests during debate on proceedings in the House or committee, effective from the first sitting day in 1989.

(5) Draft Annual Report for 1988

The Chairman brought up his draft annual report for 1988.

Report, by leave, taken as a whole, amended and agreed to.

Resolved - On the motion of Mr Adermann -

That the draft report, as amended, be the report of the Committee to the House.

(6) Interpretation of aspects of the resolutions of the House

The Committee deliberated in respect of the requirement to notify receipt of gifts contained in paragraph (k) of resolution (2) of the House.

Resolved - On the motion of Mr Ruddock -

That this Committee determines

- (1) that it is not necessary for Ministers to notify for the Register of Members' Interests gifts received by them in their ministerial capacity and dealt with in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet;
- (2) that gifts received by Ministers in other than their ministerial capacity must be dealt with in accordance with the resolutions of the House which apply to all Members of the House;
- (3) that the value of gifts requiring registration fixed by the House in 1984 should be reviewed periodically with the objective of maintaining those values in real terms as was recommended by this Committee in its report of 18 September 1985; and
- (4) that a report be presented to the House in respect of these matters.

(7) Adjournment

At 4.25 p.m. the Committee adjourned until a date and hour to be determined by the Chairman.

Confirmed

CHAIRMAN

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

35th Parliament - 8th Meeting

Minutes of Proceedings of meeting held on
4 April 1989 at 3.50 p.m.

(1) Present:

Dr R E Klugman, MP (Chairman)

Hon. A E Adermann, MP

Mr D M Cameron, MP

Mr L Kent, MP

Mr E J Lindsay, RFD, MP

Mr P M Ruddock, MP

(2) Minutes of Proceedings

The Minutes of Proceedings of the meeting held on 7
March 1989 were confirmed.

(3) Report relating to the requirement for the
registration of gifts

The Chairman brought up his draft report relating to
the requirement for the registration of gifts.

Report, by leave, taken as a whole and agreed to.

Resolved - On the motion of Mr Ruddock -

That the draft report be the report of the
Committee to the House.

(4) Reminder letter to all Members

The Chairman informed the Committee that, after
consultation with him, the Registrar had written to
all Members on 17 March 1989 -

- (a) advising them of the alteration of the resolutions of the House making it no longer necessary to make oral declarations of interests when participating in debate or proceedings in the House or committee and
- (b) reminding them of the requirement to notify any alterations of interest within 28 days of the alteration occurring.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved - On the motion of Mr Adermann -

That the Registrar be authorised to send letters to all Members reminding them of the registration requirements at the commencement of the Autumn and Budget sittings in each year.

(5) Letter from Chairman of Procedure Committee

The Chairman presented a letter from the Chairman, House of Representatives Standing Committee on Procedure, dated 9 March 1989 inviting submissions on alterations to the standing and sessional orders affecting this committee or committees generally.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved - On the motion of Mr Ruddock -

That the Committee agrees with changes to standing order 28A suggested by the Registrar and notes that these changes will not prevent the committee inquiring into and reporting upon any aspect of most effectively protecting the public interest where conflicts of interest may arise.

(6) Adjournment

At 4.30 p.m. the Committee adjourned until a date and hour to be determined by the Chairman.

Confirmed

CHAIRMAN

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

35th Parliament - 9th Meeting
Minutes of Proceedings of meeting held on
11 April 1989 at 3.35 p.m.

(1) Present:

Dr R E Klugman, MP (Chairman)
Hon. A E Adermann, MP
Mr D M Cameron, MP
Mr P M Ruddock, MP

(2) Minutes of Proceedings

The Minutes of Proceedings of the meeting held on 4 April 1989 were confirmed.

(3) Report relating to the requirement for the registration of gifts

The Chairman advised the Committee that, for completeness, it was desirable that the report be recommitted to include reference to consideration of this matter by the Committee in the 34th Parliament.

Resolved - On the motion of Mr Adermann, by leave -

That the Committee's report relating to the requirement for the registration of gifts be recommitted for further consideration.

Report, by leave, taken as a whole, amended and agreed to.

Resolved - On the motion of Mr Ruddock -

That the report, as amended, be the report of the Committee to the House.

(4) Interpretation of the resolutions of the House

The Committee deliberated in respect of the need to register shareholdings and other interests held by private companies in which Members, their spouses or dependent children hold shares.

Resolved - On the motion of Mr Ruddock -

That the Clerk be invited to obtain a legal opinion from the Attorney-General's Department as to the extent to which resolution 2(a) of the House requires a Member to disclose shareholdings and/or other registrable interests held by a private company in which that Member, his or her spouse or dependent children hold shares.

Resolved - On the motion of Mr Adermann -

That, in the event of inquiries being received from Members, the Registrar be authorised to inform those Members that the need to register shareholdings and other registrable interests held by a private company in which that Member, his or her spouse or dependent children hold shares, is in some doubt and legal advice on the interpretation of the requirements is being sought.

(5) Adjournment

At 4.35 p.m. the Committee adjourned until a date and hour to be determined by the Chairman.

Confirmed

CHAIRMAN

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

35th Parliament - 10th Meeting

Minutes of Proceedings of meeting held on
15 June 1989 at 6.05 p.m.

(1) **Present:**

Dr R E Klugman, MP (Chairman)
Mr D M Cameron, MP
Mr L Kent, MP
Mr E J Lindsay, RFD, MP
Mr P M Ruddock, MP
Mr J L Scott, MP

(2) Minutes of Proceedings

The Minutes of Proceedings of the meeting held on 11 April 1989 were confirmed.

(3) Advice from Attorney-General's Department

The Chairman presented a copy of an opinion received from the Senior Assistant Secretary, Counsel 3 Branch, General Counsel Division, Attorney-General's Department dated 7 June 1989 in response to the Committee's request of 19 April 1989 for advice on the extent to which resolution 2(a) of the House requires a Member to disclose shareholdings and/or other registrable interests held by a private company in which that Member, his or her spouse or dependent children hold shares.

The committee deliberated.

Resolved - On the motion of Mr Lindsay -

That -

- (1) the substance of the advice received from the Attorney-General's Department in respect of shareholdings be conveyed to all Members of the House by the Registrar as soon as possible, and
- (2) for this purpose, a draft letter be submitted to and cleared by the Attorney-General's Department prior to its despatch to Members.

(4) Adjournment

At 6.40 p.m. the Committee adjourned until a date and hour to be determined by the Chairman.

Confirmed

CHAIRMAN

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

35th Parliament - 11th Meeting

Minutes of Proceedings of meeting held on
15 August 1989 at 3.55 p.m.

(1) Present:

Dr R E Klugman, MP (Chairman)
Hon. A E Adermann, MP
Mr D M Cameron, MP
Mr L Kent, MP
Mr E J Lindsay, RFD, MP
Mr P M Ruddock, MP
Mr J L Scott, MP

(2) Minutes of Proceedings

The Minutes of Proceedings of the meeting held on 15
June 1989 were confirmed.

(3) Registration of Shareholdings

The Chairman informed the Committee that on 22 June
1989 the Attorney-General's Department had
cleared a draft letter containing the substance
of that Department's advice in respect of the
need for Members to register shareholdings held
by a private company in which a Member, the
Member's spouse or dependent children have a
controlling interest, and that the letter had
been sent to all Members of the House on 23 June
1989.

(4) Election of Acting Chairman

The Chairman having informed the Committee of his forthcoming absence overseas -
The Committee deliberated.

Resolved - On the motion of Mr Scott -

That Mr Lindsay be appointed Acting Chairman of the Committee during the forthcoming absence of the Chairman.

(5) Access to the Register

The Registrar, without revealing the identity of the persons involved, informed the committee of a recent request for the supply of details from the Register of Members' Interests.

The committee deliberated.

Resolved - On the motion of Mr Kent -

That this committee, in accordance with paragraph (d) of resolution (3) of the standing resolutions of the House in respect of the registration of interests, re-affirms that, by prior appointment, the Register of Members' Interests shall be available for public inspection between the hours of 10 a.m. - 12 noon and 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. on working days in the Office of the Registrar of Members' Interests.

(6) Adjournment

At 4.30 p.m. the Committee adjourned until a date and hour to be determined by the Chairman, or, in his absence, by the Acting Chairman.

Confirmed

CHAIRMAN