



SPEECH IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BY THE
PRIME MINISTER, THE RT. HON. J.G. GORTON, M.P.

PARLIAMENT HOUSE SITE

29 May 1969

The debate on the siting of the new and permanent Parliament House has now proceeded over something like the last 9 months.

It resulted initially from the Government's decision of last August to have a free non-party vote on the question of a site. That debate provided a full opportunity for members and senators to express their views, and most of them did.

The original proposal for the lakeside site was clearly unacceptable to the majority of the members in each House, and that site was abandoned. Subsequently, the Joint Select Committee, representative of all parties and both Houses, after hearing and studying public and expert evidence from all those wishing to come forward, overwhelmingly recommended to Parliament that the new Parliament House should be sited on Camp Hill, as was originally planned by Burley Griffin, the designer of Canberra. In the resultant debate the House of Representatives voted to agree with the recommendation of that Committee while the Senate voted to disagree with it, and the Senate has also voted against the proposal for a joint sitting. The position therefore remains quite unresolved.

It should not be allowed to remain unresolved because of the need for planning and construction of other works, both road works and construction which depend on the making of a decision as to the site of Parliament House. Therefore the Government, feeling that a decision must be made, has decided to inform the National Capital Development Commission that Camp Hill will be the site of the new and permanent Parliament House.
