



Speech by

**Hon. JUDY SPENCE**

**MEMBER FOR MOUNT GRAVATT**

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Hansard 25 March 1999

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Auctioneers and Agents Committee**

**Hon. J. C. SPENCE** (Mount Gravatt— ALP) (Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading) (10.01 p.m.), by leave: Over the past two days the Opposition, particularly the Liberal Party, has obsessed itself with the vilification of members of the Auctioneers and Agents Committee. It has pursued a vendetta against this committee and called into disrepute its integrity. I believe that this week too much of the time of this House has been devoted to the issue.

Yesterday, I tabled a letter from the committee chairman which any fair person would have to say put the truth squarely around the issue. Of course, it supported the ministerial statement that I supplied to the House to explain the law in regard to this matter.

So concerned were committee members by the baseless and false attacks on their integrity by Liberal Party members this week that yesterday they held an extraordinary meeting and have issued a statement of facts and the reasons for their decisions. I believe that the committee's views should become public knowledge within this Parliament.

I now table those documents. I trust that Liberal Party members opposite will give proper examination to the facts. I suggest that they will then need to consider their form of apology to the committee and to this House.

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