

ERC & A-180

29 Nov 1994

*Golden*

*LOT. Cash*

PROOF



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

## SENATE

ENVIRONMENT, RECREATION, COMMUNICATIONS AND THE ARTS  
LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

Reference: Matters arising from Telstra annual report 1995-96

CANBERRA

Tuesday, 24 June 1997

PROOF HANSARD REPORT

CONDITIONS OF DISTRIBUTION

This is an uncorrected proof of evidence taken before the Committee and it is made available under the condition that it is recognised as such.

CANBERRA

**Senator O'CHEE**—And what were you told in that induction briefing about the group's role?

**Mr White**—In the first induction—and I was one of the early ones, and probably the earliest in the Freehill's area—there were five complainants. They were Garms, Gill and Smith, and Dawson and Schorer. My induction briefing was that we—we being Telecom—had to stop these people to stop the floodgates being opened.

**Senator O'CHEE**—What, stop them reasonably or stop them at all costs—or what?

**Mr White**—The words used to me in the early days were that we had to stop these people at all costs.

**Senator O'CHEE**—So when you were told to do a document better, that meant to do a better job of stopping them at all costs?

**Mr White**—I would say explaining the information available to the best of my ability. That is the best way I can explain it.

**Senator O'CHEE**—To the satisfaction of—

**Mr White**—The team leader.

**CHAIR**—Mr White, were you ever expected to fabricate information or to misinterpret the evidence?

**Mr White**—No.

**CHAIR**—So you were asked to explain to the best of your ability, if this could be explained not as Telstra's mishandling of it but as an error that could be explained?

**Mr White**—I was never ever coerced to do something that was immoral or illegal.

**Senator O'CHEE**—Mr Pinnock, you just heard evidence of this group being established after the fast-track arbitration process was set up.

**Mr Pinnock**—I am not sure whether the evidence was that it was after it was set up. I understood it was to be at the same time. But in the event, I take your point on that, Senator.

**Senator O'CHEE**—You have just heard evidence about the activities of this group. Do you think that Telstra's conduct in this is consistent with a simple, fast, non-legalistic approach to resolving the problem?