



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE
PROPOSED VISIT TO WASHINGTON
BY PRIME MINISTER
QUESTION

Wednesday, 30 May 1973

BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

QUESTION

Date Wednesday, 30 May 1973
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Questioner MCMAHON, William
Speaker

Source House
Proof No
Responder WHITLAM, Gough
Question No.

PROPOSED VISIT TO WASHINGTON BY PRIME MINISTER

Mr McMAHON (—) (NaN.NaN pm) - My question is directed to the Prime Minister. He will remember that in answer to an interjection by me in the House last week he said he was going to Washington. Yesterday he said at a Press conference that an official invitation was not necessary to visit Nixon. I ask him: Has any other Australian Prime Minister ever before visited Washington with the expectation of seeing the President without a formal invitation being issued? I remind him that when I visited Washington in September 1971 it was in response to an official invitation. Does he not think that it is humiliating to the Australian people that an Australian head of Government should create the impression that, Watergate style, he is crashing into the White House uninvited?

Mr WHITLAM (—) (NaN.NaN pm) - We all remember the 'McMann' visit. I take such questions in good part because I realise that the American President and the American presidency would not be in their present parlous position if the present President were to have regular Press conferences as the present Australian Prime Minister does, and if the American Administration were answerable to the American Congress as the Australian Government is answerable to the Australian Parliament. I was asked questions about this yesterday in the House and at my Press conference. I have nothing further to add, to what I said then, but if the right honourable gentleman is still able to absorb a mature attitude I would commend to him today's editorial in the Age'. I hope it will be noted by him and overseas.