



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE
COMMENT BY PRIME MINISTER
REGARDING AMERICAN PRESIDENCY
QUESTION

Thursday, 31 May 1973

BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

QUESTION

Date Thursday, 31 May 1973
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Questioner LYNCH, Phillip
Speaker

Source House
Proof No
Responder WHITLAM, Gough
Question No.

COMMENT BY PRIME MINISTER REGARDING AMERICAN PRESIDENCY

Mr LYNCH (FLINDERS, VICTORIA—) (NaN.NaN pm) - My question is addressed to the Prime Minister. The honourable gentleman will be aware of Press reports both in Australia and overseas which have interpreted his comments at question time yesterday concerning President Nixon and the American Presidency as a deliberate and premeditated insult. I ask the honourable gentleman: Were his remarks made deliberately or as a consequence of his characteristic impetuosity and arrogance? In view of the vital importance of future United States-Australian relations will he retract modify or reinterpret the comments which he made at question time yesterday?

Mr WHITLAM (WERRIWA, NEW SOUTH WALES—Prime Minister) (NaN.NaN pm) - There could have been no deliberate reply or premeditated reply to a question without notice from my predecessor. If there was any insult it was made by my predecessor in using the word 'Watergate'.