

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 15

THURSDAY, 13 SEPTEMBER 1990

1 The House met, at 10 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. Mr Speaker (the Honourable Leo McLeay) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

2 **PETITIONS:** The Acting Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:

Mr Baldwin, Mr Bilney, Dr Blewett, Mr Dobie and Mr Wright, from 713, 266, 21, 12 and 560 petitioners, respectively, praying that policies be implemented to increase Australian aid, fight poverty, protect the environment and promote human rights.

Mr Dubois, Dr H. R. Edwards, Mr Gorman, Mr Kerin and Mr Melham, from 15, 16, 14, 27 and 29 petitioners, respectively, praying for the re-enforcement and revision of the Treaty of Trianon (1920).

Mr Charles, Mr Nehl, Mr Webster and Dr R. L. Woods, from 17, 24, 19 and 669 petitioners, respectively, praying that the Therapeutic Goods Regulations be rejected and a public inquiry held into the registration of the natural healing profession and regulation of natural therapeutic goods.

Mr Webster and Dr R. L. Woods, from 121 and 14 648 petitioners, respectively, in similar terms.

Mr Dubois, for Mr McLeay, Mr Free, Dr Hewson and Mr Tickner, from 15, 16, 16 and 203 petitioners, respectively, praying that the Treaty of Trianon (1920) and the Peace Treaty of Paris (1947) be revised.

Mr Charles, Mr P. S. Fisher and Dr R. L. Woods, from 54, 142 and 436 petitioners, respectively, praying that the Therapeutic Goods Regulations be rejected and a public inquiry held into the registration of natural medicines.

Mr Carlton and Mr Nehl, from 15 and 54 petitioners, respectively, praying that an International Earth Repair Action Decade begin on 5 June 1990.

Mr Courtice and Ms McHugh, from 40 and 334 petitioners, respectively, praying that any attempt to restrict access to abortion under Medicare be opposed.

Mr Dubois and Mr Howard, from 15 and 15 petitioners, respectively, praying that action be taken to re-negotiate or nullify the Treaty of Trianon (1920).

Mr Dubois, from 15 petitioners, in similar terms.

Mr Howard and Mr Prosser, from 15 and 3464 petitioners, respectively, praying for a twelve month moratorium followed by a referendum to enable the citizens of Australia to consider and decide whether the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child should be ratified.

Mr Reith, from 17 petitioners, in similar terms.

- Mr Aldred, from 68 residents of Victoria, praying that social security and other benefits not be paid to the Chinese students who were recently granted temporary residence for four years.
- Mr Anderson, from 585 petitioners, praying that consideration of the proposed Multifunction Polis be suspended, pending exhaustive public debate and full public disclosure of the nature and details of the proposal.
- Mr Anderson, from 14 petitioners, praying that existing applications for animal patents be rejected and that legislation be amended to prohibit the patenting of animals.
- Mr Broadbent, from 128 petitioners, praying that an International Earth Repair Action Decade begin on 5 June 1992.
- Dr Catley, from 1520 residents of South Australia, praying that action be taken to prevent a reduction of funding for public housing in South Australia.
- Mr Courtice, from 483 petitioners, praying that the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child not be supported.
- Mr Hand, from 36 petitioners, praying for legislation for the reintroduction of glass milk bottles.
- Mr Hawker, from 57 petitioners, praying that the funding of road works be given higher priority and certain other action be taken in relation to upgrading Australia's road network.
- Mr Hawker, from 50 residents of the Division of Wannon, praying that the incidence of crime and violence broadcast on television be reduced and tighter controls on the sale and classification of videos be introduced.
- Mr Hulls, from 900 petitioners, praying that a Medicare office be established at Mareeba, Qld, or that other action be taken to improve the provision of Medicare services.
- Mrs Jakobsen, from 762 petitioners, praying for a temporary ban on the use of the artificial food colourings E123 and E102 pending investigation and assessment of their effects on health.
- Mrs Jakobsen, from 241 petitioners, praying that the WHO International Code of Marketing of Breast Milk Substitutes be implemented, that violations of the Code be penalised and that the establishment and maintenance of successful lactation be encouraged.
- Mrs Jakobsen, from 83 petitioners, praying that action be taken to ensure the production of disposable nappies which are biodegradable and free of dioxin.
- Mrs Jakobsen, from 11 petitioners, praying that support for the capital gains tax be maintained.
- Mrs Kelly, from 36 petitioners, praying that woodchipping be phased out and certain other action be taken in relation to the forests of south eastern Australia.
- Dr Kemp, from 353 petitioners, praying that the Abortion Funding Abolition Bill be supported.
- Dr Kemp, from 15 petitioners, praying that Government funding of abortion be abolished.
- Mr Melham, from 173 teachers, students and others associated with East Hills Girls' Technology High School, NSW, praying that the portrait of Caroline Chisholm on the five dollar note be maintained.
- Mr Nehl, from 1642 petitioners, praying that funds be provided to enable the Pacific Highway to be made into a four-lane, divided dual carriageway from Hexham, NSW, to the Queensland border.
- Mr Ruddock, from 893 residents of New South Wales, praying that the decision to return Khmer boat people be overturned and that an orderly departure program for Khmer family reunion be implemented.

Mr Sciacca, from 213 petitioners, praying that a total ban be placed on the export of animals for slaughter until legislation is enacted ensuring that animals are exported humanely.

Mr L. J. Scott, from 4 residents of Raymond's Hill, Qld, praying that a post box be placed at 11 Holmes Street, Raymond's Hill.

Mr Taylor, from 438 petitioners, praying that the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child not be ratified.

Mr Taylor, from 369 petitioners, praying that the decision to close RAAF No. 7 Stores Depot at Toowoomba be delayed until there has been full debate on the political, cost efficiency and strategic implications of the decision.

Mr Taylor, from 161 petitioners, praying that foreign aid be increased, progressively, to reach 0.7 per cent of the gross national product.

Mr Taylor, from 104 petitioners, praying that foreign investment in Australian property, business and resources be limited to 45 per cent of each purchase and that certain other action be taken to control foreign investment.

Mr Webster, from 20 petitioners, praying that certain action be taken to recognise Lithuania's Declaration of Independence and endorse its right to self-determination.

Dr R. L. Woods, from 211 petitioners, praying that the Therapeutic Goods Regulations be rejected and a public inquiry held into the registration of alternative practitioners.

Dr R. L. Woods, from 22 petitioners, praying that the Therapeutic Goods Regulations be set aside until their effect upon the practice of natural therapies is investigated and assessed and that procedures for the registration of practitioners of natural therapies be initiated.

Petitions received.

**3 ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Mr Kerr (Chairman) presented the following report and related papers:

Aboriginal Affairs—Standing Committee—Our Future, Our Selves: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community control management and resources—

Report, dated August 1990.

Minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Mr Kerr, Mr Snowdon (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Transport and Communications), Dr Wooldridge, Mr Nugent and Mr Gayler made statements in connection with the report.

The time allotted for making statements on the report having expired—

Mr Kerr moved—That the House take note of the report.

In accordance with sessional order 102B, the debate was adjourned, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting Thursday.

**4 DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH:** Mr Kerr, pursuant to notice, moved—That:

- (1) noting the scarcity of information on the distribution of wealth in Australia;
- (2) recognising that concern regarding inequality is shared by all major political parties in Australia;
- (3) noting that the most recently published survey on the distribution and composition of personal wealth in Australia, Dilnot Australia Economic Review—1st quarter 1990, has concluded that over half the total personal wealth in Australia is held by the wealthiest 10 per cent of the population and the effective tax rate on income from savings falls as wealth rises; and

(4) sharing the sentiments expressed by the Prime Minister in his maiden speech to the House—

this House calls on the Government to:

- (a) collect and publish national statistical information regarding the distribution of wealth in Australia; and
- (b) commission a study to give detailed consideration to, and to report upon, measures available to reduce the inequality of wealth distribution in Australia.

Debate ensued.

The time allotted for the debate having expired, the debate was interrupted, the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting Thursday, and Mr Broadbent was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

**5 FAMILY LAW ACT—PROPOSED JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE:** Mr Peacock, pursuant to notice, moved—

(1) That a Joint Select Committee, to be known as the Joint Select Committee on Certain Aspects of the Operation and Interpretation of the *Family Law Act 1975*, be appointed to inquire into and report upon the following matters:

The practice and application of the following aspects of the *Family Law Act 1975*:

- (a) whether Parts II and III of the Act have been found to provide adequately for effective counselling and independent mediation;
  - (b) whether Part VII of the Act has been found to provide for fair and equitable resolution of custody and access matters and, in particular, whether the interests of children are being effectively safeguarded;
  - (c) whether Part VIII of the Act has been found to be effective in arriving at fair and equitable maintenance property settlements;
  - (d) whether the enforcement provisions of Part XIII of the Act have proven in practice to be effective and how the operation of this Part has been affected by the introduction of the Child Support Agency scheme; and
  - (e) whether, in the abovementioned Parts of the Act, excessive discretion has been conferred upon the Family Court and, if so, how that discretion may be better defined.
- (2) That the committee confine its inquiry and report to the terms of the *Family Law Act 1975* and associated relevant policy matters.
  - (3) That provisions relating to the powers, procedure and composition of the committee be contained in a subsequent resolution.
  - (4) That a message be sent to the Senate acquainting it of this resolution and requesting that it concur and take action accordingly.

Debate ensued.

The time allotted for the debate having expired, the debate was interrupted, the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting Thursday, and Mr Lavarch was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

**6 FLAGS AMENDMENT BILL 1990:** The order of the day having been read for the second reading—

Mr Hawker moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Debate ensued.

Debate adjourned, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting Thursday.

- 7 **FOREST INDUSTRIES:** Mr Miles, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House:
- (1) recognises the importance of forest industries to Australia's social and economic future;
  - (2) requests the Government to facilitate industries that will add value to our wood resource; and
  - (3) strongly opposes minority groups who undermine balanced development projects.

Debate ensued.

It being approximately 12.30 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with sessional order 104A, the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting Thursday, and Mr Newell was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

- 8 **GRIEVANCE DEBATE:** Pursuant to the provisions of sessional order 106, the order of the day having been read—

Question proposed—That grievances be noted.

Debate ensued.

It being 1.45 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with sessional order 106.

Question—That grievances be noted—put and passed.

- 9 **MEMBERS' STATEMENTS:** Members' statements were made.

- 10 **PRIVILEGE—COMPLAINT OF BREACH:** Mr Scholes raised, as a matter of privilege, a letter from A. Elder, Partner, Dunhill Madden Butler, regarding the Farrow/Pyramid Group of Building Societies, which he considered constituted interference with his duties as a Member of the House.

Mr Scholes, by leave, presented the following papers:

Farrow/Pyramid Group of Building Societies—Copies of—

Letter from A. Elder, Partner, Dunhill Madden Butler, to Mr Scholes, MP, dated 6 September 1990, together with Appendix.

Newspaper cuttings (13).

Note stating the Administrator had reported to State Government on progress in the administration of the Farrow Group of Building Societies.

Notice—Government fails to honor the Pyramid promise.

Notice from Mr Scholes, MP, to all Branch members.

Mr Speaker stated that he would consider the matter and report to the House at a later time.

**QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice were asked.

**PAPERS:** The following papers were presented:

Audit Act—Australian Capital Territory—

Housing Trust—Report, including the financial statements of the Australian Capital Territory Housing Assistance Fund and the Auditor-General's Report, for the period 1 July 1988 to 10 May 1989.

Transport Trust Account—Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report, for the period 1 July 1988 to 10 May 1989.

Australian Bureau of Statistics Act—

Australian Bureau of Statistics—Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report and freedom of information statement, for 1989-90.

Australian Statistics Advisory Council—Report, including freedom of information statement, for 1989-90.

Australian Science and Technology Council Act—Australian Science and Technology Council—Report—Setting directions for Australian research, dated June 1990—

Report.

Statement by Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Science, dated 13 September 1990.

Industry, Science and Technology—House of Representatives Standing Committee—Report—The North West Shelf—A sea of lost opportunities?: First report on Australian industry participation in the second stage of the North West Shelf Project—Government response—

Joint statement by Mr Griffiths, Minister for Resources and Senator Button, Minister for Industry, Technology and Commerce.

Response.

National Crime Authority—Parliamentary Joint Committee—Report—Drugs, crime and society, dated May 1989—Government response.

National Debt Sinking Fund Act—National Debt Commission—67th Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report, for 1989-90.

Official Establishments Trust—Report for 1989-90.

- 13 **NATIONAL CRIME AUTHORITY—PARLIAMENTARY JOINT COMMITTEE—REPORT—GOVERNMENT RESPONSE—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Mr Beazley (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the following paper:

National Crime Authority—Parliamentary Joint Committee—Report—Drugs, crime and society, dated May 1989—Government response.

Debate adjourned (Mr Fife), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

- 14 **DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—WAGE FIXING SYSTEM:** The House was informed that Mr Howard had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The growing need for a wage fixing system based on true enterprise bargaining".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Howard addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

- 15 **PUBLIC ACCOUNTS—JOINT COMMITTEE—REPORTS—FINANCE MINUTES—STATEMENT BY MEMBER:** Mr Punch, by leave, presented the following papers:

Public Accounts—Joint Committee—Finance minute on—

Report 302—Engagement of external consultants by Commonwealth departments.

Report 303—Review of Auditor-General's efficiency audits: Department of Defence—Safety principles for explosives and ordnance.

Report 305—Review of the Finance Minute on Report 270—Implementation of the Offsets Program.

Mr Punch, by leave, made a statement in connection with the papers.

- 16 **PUBLIC WORKS—PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORTS—STATEMENT BY MEMBER:** Mr Hollis (Chairman) presented the following reports:

Public Works—Parliamentary Standing Committee—53rd General Report of the Committee, 1990, pursuant to the Public Works Committee Act.

Dedicated computer centre for the Australian Taxation Office, Bruce, ACT (6th report of 1990).

Severally ordered to be printed.

Mr Hollis, by leave, made a statement in connection with the reports.

- 17 **SELECTION COMMITTEE—REPORT:** Mr Halverson (Acting Chairman) presented the following report:

Selection Committee—Report relating to the program of business prior to 12.30 p.m. on Thursday, 20 September 1990.

- 18 **PUBLIC WORKS—PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORK—BRISBANE AIR TRAFFIC SERVICES CENTRE:** Mr Beddall (Minister representing the Minister for Administrative Services), pursuant to notice, moved—That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, the following proposed work be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for consideration and report: Brisbane Air Traffic Services Centre.

Mr Beddall presented plans in connection with the proposed work.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

- 19 **TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT (FOREIGN INCOME) BILL 1990:** Mr Crean (Minister Assisting the Treasurer) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to taxation.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Crean moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

*Paper:* Mr Crean presented an explanatory memorandum to the following Bills:

Taxation Laws Amendment (Foreign Income) 1990.

Taxation (Interest on Non-resident Trust Distributions) 1990.

Debate adjourned (Mr Peacock), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

- 20 **TAXATION (INTEREST ON NON-RESIDENT TRUST DISTRIBUTIONS) BILL 1990:** Mr Crean (Minister Assisting the Treasurer) presented a Bill for an Act to impose an interest charge in respect of distributions from certain trust estates.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Crean moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Debate adjourned (Mr Peacock), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

- 21 **APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1990-91—BUDGET DEBATE:** The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the Bill be now read a second time—

Debate resumed.

Mr Free (Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister) addressing the House—

- 22 **ADJOURNMENT:** It being 10.30 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until 11 p.m.—Mr Speaker adjourned the House until Monday next at 2 p.m.

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**PAPERS:** The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 13 September 1990:

National Health Act—Nursing Home Patients Classification Principles, formulated under subsection 40AFA (3), dated 27 July 1990.

Proclamation by His Excellency the Governor-General fixing 13 September 1990 as the date on which sections 4, 5, 6 and 7 of the *Commonwealth Employees' Rehabilitation and Compensation Amendment Act 1990* commence.

States Grants (Schools Assistance) Act—Determination of amount under section 17, dated 3 September 1990.

States Grants (TAFE Assistance) Act—Determinations—TAFE 11/90, TAFE 12/90, TAFE 13/90, TAFE 14/90, TAFE 15/90, TAFE 16/90, TAFE 17/90.

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**ATTENDANCE:** All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Dr Blewett, Dr Charlesworth, Mr Cowan, Mrs Darling, Mr Dubois, Mr R. F. Edwards, Mr Johns, Mr McGauran, Mr J. L. Scott, Mr Sinclair, Mr Taylor, Mr Webster and Mr Wright.

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**L. M. BARLIN**  
Acting Clerk of the House of Representatives