

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 22

THURSDAY, 11 OCTOBER 1990

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

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

Mr Crean, Mr Langmore and Mr Newell, from 877, 362 and 100 petitioners, respectively, praying that policies be implemented to increase Australian aid, fight poverty, protect the environment and promote human rights.

Mr Aldred and Mr Beale, from 208 and 87 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 Peacock and Mr Prosser, from 303 and 69 petitioners, respectively, in similar terms.

Mr Newell and Mr Simmons, from 22 and 18 petitioners, respectively, praying that an International Earth Repair Action Decade begin on 5 June 1990.

Mr Anderson, from 39 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.

Dr Catley, from 427 members of the Association of Ukrainians in South Australia, praying that the Ukrainian Republic's right to self-determination and national independence be supported and that the proposed Treaty between the USSR and the Ukrainian Republic be opposed.

Mr Chaney, from 16 337 petitioners, praying that action be taken to phase out the consumption, production and export of chlorofluorocarbons and halons.

Mr Nugent, from 20 petitioners, in similar terms.

Mr Elliott, from 27 petitioners, praying that proposals to introduce a charge for prescriptions under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme and to assess low-interest and no-interest savings accounts as earning 10 per cent income under the social security pension income test not be supported.

Mr Somlyay, from 57 petitioners, in similar terms.

Mr Keating, from 32 petitioners, praying that funding of abortions through Medicare cease and certain other action be taken to protect the right to life of the unborn.

- Mr Mack, from 2302 petitioners, praying that legislation to prevent the dumping of sewage sludge, industrial waste and inadequately treated sewage effluent into coastal waters be enacted.
- Mr Mack, from 520 petitioners, praying that existing applications for animal patents be rejected and that legislation be amended to prohibit the patenting of animals.
- Mr Nehl, from 7488 residents of the Shire of Nambucca, NSW, praying that the decision by the Health Insurance Commission to terminate the Medicare agency agreement with Macksville Financial Services Pty Ltd be reversed.
- Mr Nehl, from 369 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 Newell, from 25 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.
- Mr Reith, from 20 petitioners, praying that reservations be made to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child prior to its ratification to protect the rights of parents in relation to their children.
- Mr Sawford, from 1332 petitioners, praying that channel 35 of the Citizen's Band Radio Service be allocated for exclusive use as an additional call channel.
- Mr Shack, from 32 petitioners, praying that the signing of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child be deferred until approved by referendum.
- Mr Smith, from 1027 residents of Tasmania, praying that the sale of Australian land to overseas interests be prevented.
- Mr Somlyay, from 409 residents of Queensland, praying for the establishment of a Medicare office at Maroochydore, Qld.
- Mr Somlyay, from 90 petitioners, praying that closure or privatisation of the National Acoustic Laboratory be resisted.
- Mr Somlyay, from 14 petitioners, praying that the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child not be ratified.
- Mr Wilson, from 24 petitioners, praying that proper publicity, public consultation and parliamentary debate take place before any United Nations treaties, covenants or declarations are signed.
- Dr R. L. Woods, from 20 petitioners, praying that steps be taken to maintain both high quality health care for the community and equity for community pharmacists.
- Dr R. L. Woods, from 14 petitioners, praying that the restructuring of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme be reconsidered.

Petitions received.

3 AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS: Mr Johns presented the following paper:

Australian Parliamentary Delegation to the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organisation Conference (XI), Singapore, 10-15 September 1990—Report.

Mr Johns and Mr Cowan made statements in connection with the report.

4 PROCEDURE—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENT BY MEMBER—MOTION TO ADOPT REPORT: Mr Scholes (Chairman) presented the following report and related papers:

Procedure—Standing Committee—Greater opportunities for debate on reports from parliamentary committees—

Report, dated 18 September 1990.

Minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Mr Scholes made a statement in connection with the report.

Mr Scholes moved—That the report be adopted.

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.

- 5 CONSTITUTION ALTERATION (ALTERATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION ON THE INITIATIVE OF THE ELECTORS) BILL 1990:** Mr Mack, pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to provide methods of altering the Constitution on the initiative of the electors.

Mr Mack made a statement in relation to the Bill.

Bill read a first time.

Ordered—That the second reading be made an order of the day for the next sitting Thursday, in accordance with sessional order 104A.

- 6 SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC:** Mr Langmore, pursuant to notice, moved—That, in view of the recent dramatic improvement in the global strategic environment and of the importance of facilitating extension of those improved conditions to the East Asia and Pacific regions, this House supports the establishment of a Conference on Security and Cooperation in East Asia and the Pacific to increase collective security through negotiation of confidence-building measures and steps towards disarmament.

Debate ensued.

The time allotted for the debate having expired, the debate was interrupted and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting Thursday.

- 7 ASSETS TESTS:** Mr Andrew, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House calls on the Government to acknowledge the key role played by primary producers and small businesses in generating exports by (a) agreeing to remove the discriminatory assets test on family allowances and (b) lifting the threshold for the assets test on Austudy.

Debate ensued.

The time allotted for the debate having expired, the debate was interrupted and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting Thursday.

- 8 RESTORATION OF SPORTING LINKS WITH SOUTH AFRICA:** Mr Cobb, pursuant to notice, moved—That the Australian Government allow the restoration of normal sporting links with South Africa.

Debate ensued.

The time allotted for the debate having expired, the debate was interrupted and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting Thursday.

- 9 NATIONAL ABORIGINAL HEALTH STRATEGY:** Mr Gibson, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House:

- (1) welcomes the adoption of the National Aboriginal Health Strategy by Commonwealth, State and Territory Ministers for Aboriginal Affairs and Health; and
- (2) calls on governments at all levels to fund the implementation of the strategy to address the critical issues of Aboriginal health.

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 Anderson was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

- 10 **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.
- 11 **MEMBERS' STATEMENTS:** Members' statements were made.
- 12 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice were asked.
- 13 **PAPERS:** The following papers were presented:
Fisheries Act—Western Australian Fisheries Joint Authority—Report for 1989.
Legal and Constitutional Affairs—Standing Committee—Report—Fair shares for all: Insider trading in Australia—Government response.
- 14 **LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT ON INSIDER TRADING IN AUSTRALIA—GOVERNMENT RESPONSE—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Mr Beazley (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the following paper:
Legal and Constitutional Affairs—Standing Committee—Report—Fair shares for all: Insider trading in Australia—Government response.
Debate adjourned (Mr Fife), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 15 **DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—INTEREST RATE POLICIES:** The House was informed that Dr Hewson (Leader of the Opposition) had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The Government's failure to acknowledge and address the fact that its high interest rate policies have deliberately engineered a recession and rapidly rising unemployment in Australia".
The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—
Dr Hewson addressed the House.
Discussion ensued.
Discussion concluded.
- 16 **SELECTION COMMITTEE—REPORT:** Mr R. F. Edwards (Chairman) presented the following report:
Selection Committee—Report relating to the program of business prior to 12.30 p.m. on Thursday, 18 October 1990.
- 17 **INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1990:** Mr Willis (Minister representing the Minister for Industrial Relations), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend various Acts relating to matters dealt with by the Department of Industrial Relations, and for related purposes.
Bill read a first time.
Mr Willis moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Paper: Mr Willis presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.
Debate adjourned (Dr Kemp), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 18 **HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1990:** Mr Baldwin (Minister for Higher Education and Employment Services), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Higher Education Funding Act 1988*, and for related purposes.
Bill read a first time.
Mr Baldwin moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Paper: Mr Baldwin presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.
Debate adjourned (Dr Kemp), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

- 19 **CHILD SUPPORT LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1990:** Mr Crean (Minister Assisting the Treasurer), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Child Support (Assessment) Act 1989*, the *Child Support (Registration and Collection) Act 1988* and the *Family Law Act 1975*.

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

- 20 **STATES GRANTS (GENERAL PURPOSES) BILL 1990:** Mr Crean (Minister Assisting the Treasurer), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to provide for grants to the States and the Northern Territory.

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

- 21 **AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM BILL 1990:** The order of the day having been read for the second reading—Mr Simmons (Minister for the Arts, Tourism and Territories) moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Paper: Mr Simmons presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.
Debate adjourned (Mr Braithwaite), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

- 22 **COMMONWEALTH SERUM LABORATORIES (CONVERSION INTO PUBLIC COMPANY) BILL 1990—SENATE'S AMENDMENTS:** The House, according to order, resolved itself into a committee of the whole to consider the amendments made by the Senate.

In the committee

SCHEDULE OF THE AMENDMENTS MADE BY THE SENATE

No. 1—Clause 14, page 14, proposed section 56, definition of “exempt matter”, paragraph (f), line 20, omit “this Act”, substitute “the *Commonwealth Serum Laboratories (Conversion into Public Company) Act 1990*”.

No. 2—Clause 14, page 14, proposed section 56, definition of “exempt matter”, paragraph (g), line 22, omit “otherwise giving effect to this Act”, substitute “giving effect to the *Commonwealth Serum Laboratories (Conversion into Public Company) Act 1990*”.

On the motion of Mr Griffiths (Minister for Resources), the amendments were agreed to.

Resolution to be reported.

The House resumed; Mr MacKellar reported accordingly.
On the motion of Mr Griffiths, the House adopted the report.

- 23 **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1990—SENATE'S AMENDMENT:** The House, according to order, resolved itself into a committee of the whole to consider the amendment made by the Senate.

In the committee

‘SCHEDULE OF THE AMENDMENT MADE BY THE SENATE
Schedule, page 3, amendments of *Parliamentary Allowances Act 1952*, omit
the amendments, substitute the following amendments:

“Subsection 5 (3):

Omit the subsection, substitute the following subsection:

‘(3) This section does not apply in relation to any allowance payable to a senator by reason of holding a particular office, other than any allowance payable in respect of an office specified in the Schedule.

Subsection 5A (3):

Omit the subsection, substitute the following subsection:

‘(3) This section does not apply in relation to any allowance payable to a member of the House of Representatives by reason of holding a particular office, other than any allowance payable in respect of an office specified in the Schedule.’.

Add the following Schedule:

‘SCHEDULE

Office

Leader of the Opposition

Deputy Leader of the Opposition

Leader of the Opposition in the Senate

Leader of the Third Party in the House of Representatives

Leader of a recognised non-Government party of at least 5 members not otherwise specified herein

Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Senate’”.

On the motion of Mr Griffiths (Minister for Resources), the amendment was agreed to.

Resolution to be reported.

The House resumed; Mr MacKellar reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr Griffiths, the House adopted the report.

24 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—AUSTRALIAN MARITIME SAFETY AUTHORITY BILL 1990: The following message from the Senate was reported:

Message No. 61

Mr Speaker,

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the bill for “*An Act to establish an Australian Maritime Safety Authority, and for related purposes*”, and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the bill with the amendment indicated by the annexed schedule, in which amendment the Senate requests the concurrence of the House of Representatives.

KERRY SIBRAA
President

The Senate,
Canberra, 10 October 1990

Ordered—That the amendment be taken into consideration, in committee of the whole House, forthwith.

In the committee

SCHEDULE OF THE AMENDMENT MADE BY THE SENATE

Clause 58, page 24, lines 2 and 3, omit the clause, substitute the following clause:

“58. (1) Subject to subsection (2), the Authority may, by written instrument, delegate to a person all or any of its powers under this or any other Act.

“(2) The powers of the Authority under subsection 40 (1), section 42, subsection 47 (1) and section 56, may be delegated only to a member or officer of the Authority.”.

On the motion of Mr Snowdon (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Transport and Communications), the amendment was agreed to, after debate.

Resolution to be reported.

The House resumed; Mr MacKellar reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr Snowdon, the House adopted the report.

25 **MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE:** A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill without amendment:

11 October 1990—Message No. 62—Customs (Detention and Search) 1990.

26 **STEVEDORING INDUSTRY LEVY AMENDMENT BILL 1990:** 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.

Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole.

In the committee

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole.

Mr Sharp moved the following amendment: Clause 7, page 2, omit proposed subsection 9A (1), substitute the following subsection:

“(1) The Minister shall notify in the *Gazette* a date, being a date no later than 1 June 1992, (in this section called the “finishing date”) after which the levy referred to in paragraph 4 (1) (a) ceases to be imposed in respect of the employment of Division B waterside workers by an employer at a port.”.

Debate continued.

Question—put.

The committee divided (the Chairman, Mr R. F. Edwards, in the Chair)—

AYES, 57

Mr Aldred	Mr Cowan	Mr Howard	Mr Ronaldson
Mr Anderson	Mr Dobie	Mr Jull	Mr Ruddock
Mr Andrew*	Mr Downer	Dr Kemp	Mr B. C. Scott
Mr Atkinson	Dr H. R. Edwards	Mr Lloyd	Mr Shack
Mrs Bailey	Mr Fife	Mr McArthur	Mr Sharp
Mr Bradford	Mr Filing	Mr Mack	Mr Smith
Mr Braithwaite	Mr T. A. Fischer	Mr MacKellar	Mr Somlyay
Mr Broadbent	Mr P. S. Fisher	Mr McLachlan	Mr Taylor
Mr N. A. Brown	Mr Ford	Mr Nehl	Mr Truss
Mr Cadman	Mrs Gallus	Mr Nugent	Mr Wilson
Mr Carlton	Mr Goodluck	Mr Prosser	Dr R. L. Woods
Mr Chaney	Mr Hall	Mr Reid	Dr Wooldridge
Mr Charles	Mr Halverson	Mr Reith	
Mr Cobb	Mr Hawker	Mr Riggall	
Mr Costello	Mr Hicks*	Mr Rocher	

NOES, 63

Mr Baldwin	Mr Elliott	Mr Jones	Mr Scholes
Mr Beazley	Ms Fatin	Mrs Kelly	Mr Sciacca
Mr Beddall	Mr Ferguson	Mr Kerin	Mr J. L. Scott
Mr Bevis	Mr Free	Mr Langmore	Mr L. J. Scott
Mr Bilney	Mr Gear*	Mr Lavarch	Mr Simmons
Dr Blewett	Mr Gibson	Mr Lindsay	Mr Snow
Mr Brereton	Mr Grace*	Mr Martin	Mr Snowdon
Mr R. J. Brown	Mr Griffiths	Mr Melham	Mr Staples
Mr Campbell	Mr Hand	Mr A. A. Morris	Dr Theophanous
Dr Catley	Mr Hollis	Mr P. F. Morris	Mr Tickner
Mr Crean	Mr Howe	Mr Newell	Mr Walker
Mrs Crosio	Mr Hulls	Mr O'Keefe	Mr West
Mrs Darling	Mr Humphreys	Mr O'Neil	Mr Willis
Mr Dawkins	Mrs Jakobsen	Mr Price	Mr H. F. Woods
Mr Dubois	Mr Jenkins	Mr Punch	Mr Wright
Mr Duncan	Mr Johns	Mr Sawford	

* Tellers

And so it was negated.

Bill agreed to.

Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed; Mr R. F. Edwards reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr Willis (Minister representing the Minister for Industrial Relations), the House adopted the report, and, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

- 27 **STEVEDORING INDUSTRY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1990:** 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—

Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Willis (Minister representing the Minister for Industrial Relations), the Bill was read a third time.

- 28 **FIRST HOME OWNERS AMENDMENT BILL 1990:** 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 Filing addressing the House—

Adjournment negated: It being 10.30 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Mr Howe (Minister for Community Services and Health) requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate—

Question—put and negated.

Debate continued.

Paper: Mr Howe presented the following paper:

Commonwealth home ownership support arrangements and the Mortgage and Rent Relief Scheme—Copy of letter to all State and Territory Housing Ministers from Mr Howe.

Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Howe, the Bill was read a third time.

- 29 **LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS—STANDING COMMITTEE:** The House was informed that Mr Snow had been nominated by the Government Whip and Mr Nehl had been nominated by the Opposition Whip to be members of the Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs

for the purposes of the inquiry into the legal regimes of Australia's external territories and the Territory of Jervis Bay.

30 **ADJOURNMENT:** Mr Howe (Minister for Community Services and Health) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 11.08 p.m., adjourned until Monday next at 2 p.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 11 October 1990:

Public Service Act—Parliamentary Presiding Officers' Determinations—1990—Nos. 20, 21.

ATTENDANCE: All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Burr, Mr Cameron, Dr Charlesworth, Mr Connolly, Ms Crawford, Mr Fitzgibbon, Mr Gorman, Mr Holding, Mr Kerr, Mr Lee, Ms McHugh, Mr Miles, Mr Sinclair, Mrs Sullivan and Mr Webster.

A. R. BROWNING

Clerk of the House of Representatives