

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 29

THURSDAY, 8 NOVEMBER 1990

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- 1 The House met, at 10 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. Mr Speaker (the Honourable Leo McLeay) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
- 2 **NOTICE PAPER—STATEMENT BY MR SPEAKER:** Mr Speaker referred to the report of the Procedure Committee on greater opportunities for debate on reports from parliamentary committees presented on 11 October 1990. Mr Speaker informed the House that, as recommended by the Procedure Committee in its report, the Notice Paper had been rearranged so that orders of the day for the resumption of debate on motions moved in relation to committee or delegation reports appear in a discrete section of the Notice Paper.
- 3 **PETITIONS:** The Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:
- Mr Beale and Mr Willis, from 663 and 58 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 Anderson, from 22 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 Andrew, from 5849 petitioners, praying that the original criteria for assessing eligibility for family allowance and assets test levels in relation to Austudy be retained.
- Mr Bevis, from 13 petitioners, praying that an International Earth Repair Action Decade begin on 5 June 1990.
- Mr Fife, from 125 petitioners, praying that legislative action be taken to protect the present Australian coat of arms and national flag and to impose certain penalties for the abuse of those symbols.
- Mrs Gallus, from 721 petitioners, praying that steps be taken to reduce the high level of petrol prices and excise.
- Mr Mack, from 2189 petitioners, praying that action be taken to phase out the consumption, production and export of chlorofluorocarbons and halons.
- Mr Mack, from 482 petitioners, praying that a charge on pensioners' prescriptions not be introduced.
- Mr McArthur, from 22 petitioners, praying that the Otway Forests, Vic., be managed in the best interests of the Australian people and that the export woodchip licence granted to Midway Wood Products be rescinded.

and imprisonment as well as over all officials authorised by law to use force and firearms; and

- (4) urges the Australian Government to seek whatever ways are appropriate to bring a halt to all human rights abuses carried out by all armed parties in Sri Lanka and urges all parties involved to exercise maximum restraint.

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

- 11 **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.

Papers: Mr McGauran, by leave, presented the following papers:

Proformas headed "FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE MINISTER" on—

Briefing.

Visit.

Debate continued.

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

Question—That grievances be noted—put and passed.

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

- 13 **PAPER:** Mr Hawke (Prime Minister), by indulgence, added to an answer given during question time on 7 November 1990 concerning postage entitlements for Members of Parliament and presented the following paper:

Postage entitlements of Members of Parliament—Certain Commonwealth payments to Australia Post for postal items—Opinion by Solicitor-General, dated 25 May 1990.

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

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

Aboriginal deaths in custody—Royal Commission—Report of inquiry into the death of Bernard Matthew Johnson.

AUSSAT Pty Ltd—Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report, for 1989-90.

Defence Force Discipline Act—Judge Advocate General—Report for 1989.

Equal Employment Opportunity (Commonwealth Authorities) Act—Equal employment opportunity program—

AUSSAT Pty Ltd—Report for 1989-90.

Film Australia Pty Limited—Report on development and implementation, for 1989-90.

Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission Act—Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission—Report—Review of consistency with human rights of Family Law Act provisions concerning guardianship orders.

Industry Commission Act—Industry Commission—Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report and freedom of information statement, for 1989-90.

Industry Research and Development Act—Industry Research and Development Board—Report for 1989-90.

Public Service Act—Department of the Treasury—Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report and freedom of information statement, for 1989-90.

- 16 **INDUSTRY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Mr Beazley (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the following paper:
 Industry Research and Development Act—Industry Research and Development Board—Report for 1989-90.
 Debate adjourned (Mr Fife), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 17 **INDUSTRY COMMISSION—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Mr Beazley (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the following paper:
 Industry Commission Act—Industry Commission—Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report and freedom of information statement, for 1989-90.
 Debate adjourned (Mr Fife), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 18 **ABORIGINAL DEATHS IN CUSTODY—ROYAL COMMISSION—REPORT—PUBLICATION OF PAPER:** Mr Beazley (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That this House, in accordance with the provisions of the *Parliamentary Papers Act 1908*, authorises the publication of the report of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody of the inquiry into the death of Bernard Matthew Johnson.
 Question—put and passed.
- 19 **MICROECONOMIC REFORM IN TRANSPORT AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT AND PAPER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS:** Mr Hawke (Prime Minister), by leave, made a ministerial statement on microeconomic reform in transport and telecommunications and presented the following papers:
 Microeconomic reform in transport and telecommunications—
 Microeconomic reform: Progress—Telecommunications—Report by Mr Beazley, Minister for Transport and Communications, dated November 1990.
 Transport and telecommunications reform—Ministerial statement, 8 November 1990.
 Dr Hewson (Leader of the Opposition), by leave, also made a statement in connection with the matter.
 Mr Griffiths (Minister for Resources) moved—That the House take note of the papers.
 Debate adjourned (Mr Fife), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 20 **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, 15 November 1990.
- 21 **DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—TRADE AND PROTECTION POLICY:** The House was informed that Mr McLachlan had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The threat to Australia's future international competitiveness posed by the growing disunity amongst Government members over trade and protection policy".
 The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—
 Mr McLachlan addressed the House.
 Discussion ensued.
 Discussion concluded.

- 22 **MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE:** A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill without amendment:
8 November 1990—Message No. 73—Crimes (Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances) 1990.
- 23 **MIGRATION REGULATIONS—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE—INTERIM REPORT:** Dr Theophanous (Chairman) presented the following report:
Migration Regulations—Joint Standing Committee—Interim report (in the form of a letter to the Minister for Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs) concerning the issue of change of status on the basis of marriage and de facto relationships, dated 7 November 1990.
- 24 **COMMUNITY SERVICES AND HEALTH LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1990:** Mr Willis (Minister for Finance), for Mr Staples (Minister for Aged, Family and Health Services), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend various Acts relating to matters dealt with by the Department of Community Services and Health, 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.
- 25 **NATIONAL CRIME AUTHORITY—PARLIAMENTARY JOINT COMMITTEE—PROPOSED REFERENCE—STATEMENT BY MEMBER:** Mr O’Keefe, by leave, made a statement relating to a speech he had made in the House earlier this day (*see* entry No. 9).
- 26 **POSTPONEMENT OF NOTICE:** Ordered—That notice No. 2, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.
- 27 **NORTHERN PRAWN FISHERY VOLUNTARY ADJUSTMENT SCHEME LOAN GUARANTEE AMENDMENT BILL 1990:** Mr Willis (Minister for Finance), for Mr Kerin (Minister for Primary Industries and Energy), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Northern Prawn Fishery Voluntary Adjustment Scheme Loan Guarantee Act 1985*.
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.
- 28 **POSTPONEMENT OF NOTICES:** Ordered—That notices Nos. 4 to 8, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.
- 29 **PIPELINE AUTHORITY (CHARGES) BILL 1990:** Mr Willis (Minister for Finance), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act relating to the charges for certain services provided by the Pipeline Authority, 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 (Mr Smith), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 30 **BUILDERS LABOURERS’ FEDERATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1990:** Mr Willis (Minister representing the Minister for Industrial Relations), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Builders Labourers’ Federation (Cancellation of Registration—Consequential Provisions) Act 1986*, 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.

31 TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT (INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS) 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 Bill.

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

32 TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 5) 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 Bill.

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

33 EXPORT MARKET DEVELOPMENT GRANTS AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1990:

Mr Crean (Minister for Science and Technology), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Export Market Development Grants Act 1974*.

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.

34 HOUSING LOANS INSURANCE CORPORATION (SALE OF ASSETS AND ABOLITION) BILL 1990: Mr Crean (Minister Assisting the Treasurer), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to provide for the sale of the assets, and the abolition, of the Housing Loans Insurance Corporation, and for related purposes.

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.

35 AUSSAT AMENDMENT BILL 1990: Mr Beazley (Minister for Transport and Communications), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *AUSSAT Act 1984*.

Bill read a first time.

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

Paper: Mr Beazley 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.

36 EDUCATION SERVICES (EXPORT REGULATION) BILL 1990: Mr Staples (Minister for Aged, Family and Health Services), for Mr Dawkins (Minister for Employment, Education and Training), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to regulate the export of education services and training, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

Paper: Mr Staples 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.

37 **POSTPONEMENT OF NOTICE:** Ordered—That notice No. 12, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.

38 **STATES GRANTS (GENERAL PURPOSES) 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.

Debate adjourned (Mr Gear), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

39 **STATES GRANTS (SCHOOLS ASSISTANCE) AMENDMENT BILL 1990:** Mr Simmons (Minister for the Arts, Tourism and Territories), for Mr Dawkins (Minister for Employment, Education and Training), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *States Grants (Schools Assistance) Act 1988*.

Bill read a first time.

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

Paper: Mr Simmons 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.

40 **DEFENCE FORCE (HOME LOANS ASSISTANCE) BILL 1990:** Mr Bilney (Minister for Defence Science and Personnel), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act providing for the payment of home loan subsidies in respect of certain members of the Defence Force and certain other persons, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

Paper: Mr Bilney presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

41 **CORPORATIONS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1990:** Mr Duffy (Attorney-General), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Corporations Act 1989* and related legislation.

Bill read a first time.

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

Paper: Mr Duffy presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

42 **STATES GRANTS (GENERAL PURPOSES) 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 having been resumed by Mr Gear—

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

Mr Simmons (Minister for the Arts, Tourism and Territories) requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate—

Question—put and negatived.

Mr Gear continued his speech.

Debate adjourned (Dr Kemp), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

- 43 **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER 103:** Mr Beazley (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That standing order 103 (11 o'clock rule) be suspended for this sitting.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

- 44 **STATES GRANTS (GENERAL PURPOSES) 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.

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

- 45 **COMMONWEALTH BANKS RESTRUCTURING BILL 1990:** Mr Keating (Treasurer) presented a Bill for an Act to give effect to an agreement between Victoria and the Commonwealth Bank relating to the succession of the Commonwealth Bank to the State Bank of Victoria, and for other purposes. Bill read a first time.

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

Paper: Mr Keating presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

- 46 **VETERANS' AFFAIRS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1990:** Mr Humphreys (Minister for Veterans' Affairs), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to veterans' affairs, and for related matters. Bill read a first time.

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

Paper: Mr Humphreys presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

- 47 **ADJOURNMENT:** Mr Beazley (Leader of the House) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 11.41 p.m., adjourned until Monday next at 2 p.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 8 November 1990:

Australian Bureau of Statistics Act—Australian Bureau of Statistics—Proposal for the collection of information—1990—No. 26—Extension of quarterly survey of balance sheet information.

Defence Act—Determinations under section 58B—1990—

No. 117—Medical and Hospital Expenses of a Member's Family Overseas.

No. 136—Meal Allowance Overseas.

No. 144—Post Allowance and other allowances.

No. 152—Revised rates of allowance.

No. 154—Rates of Overseas Outfit Allowance.

Fisheries Act—Plan of Management—No. NPF 2—Northern Prawn Fishery Management Plan (Amendment).

Proclamation by His Excellency the Governor-General fixing 1 February 1991 as the date on which the provisions, other than Parts I and II, section 24 and Parts IV to VII (inclusive), of the *Cash Transaction Reports Act 1988* shall come into operation.

Public Service Act—Determinations—1990—Nos. 127, 137, 138, 141, 144, 145, 159, LES 6, LES 8, LES 9, LES 10, LES 12, LES 13.

Supported Accommodation Assistance Act—Variation agreement between the Commonwealth of Australia and the State of Tasmania in relation to the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program, dated 11 October 1990.

ATTENDANCE: All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Bevis, Dr Blewett, Mr R. J. Brown, Mr Burr, Mr Connolly, Mr Duncan, Mr Fitzgibbon, Mr Goodluck, Mr Halverson, Mrs Jakobsen, Mrs Kelly, Mr Miles, Mr O'Neil, Mr Sawford, Mr Sciacca and Mr Snowdon.

A. R. BROWNING
Clerk of the House of Representatives