

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 35

WEDNESDAY, 5 DECEMBER 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 **SITUATION IN THE PERSIAN GULF—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED:** The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Beazley (Leader of the House)—That the House take note of the paper (*presented on 4 December 1990*), viz.:
 Situation in the Persian Gulf—Ministerial statement, 4 December 1990—
 Debate resumed.
 Question—put and passed.
- 3 **GOVERNMENTS AND GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES (APPLICATION OF LAWS) 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.
 It being 12.45 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with sessional order 101A, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.
- 4 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice were asked.
- 5 **PAPER:** Mr Speaker presented the following paper:
 Public Service Act—Joint House Department—Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report, for 1989-90.
- 6 **PAPERS:** The following papers were presented:
 Advance to the Minister for Finance—
 Statement for November 1990.
 Supporting applications of issues from the Advance during November 1990.
 Anglo-Australian Telescope Agreement Act—Anglo-Australian Telescope Board—Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report and freedom of information statement, for 1989-90.
 Australian Capital Territory—Corporate Affairs Commission—Report for 1989-90.
 Australian Federal Police Act—Australian Federal Police—Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report and freedom of information statement, for 1989-90.
 Australian Institute of Marine Science Act—Australian Institute of Marine Science—Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report and freedom of information statement, for 1989-90.

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

Employment, Education and Training Act—

Australian Research Council—Report—Grants and fellowships awarded in 1990.

National Board of Employment, Education and Training and the Department of Employment, Education and Training—Report—Careers advisory services in higher education institutions, dated December 1990.

Fishing Industry Act—Report for 1989-90.

National Companies and Securities Commission Act—National Companies and Securities Commission—11th Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report and freedom of information statement, for 1989-90.

Public Service Act—

Department of Primary Industries and Energy—Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report and freedom of information statement, for 1989-90.

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

Seat of Government (Administration) Act—Canberra Institute of the Arts Ordinance—Canberra Institute of the Arts—Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report, for the period 8 February to 31 December 1988.

Transport, Communications and Infrastructure—Standing Committee—Report—Rail: Five systems, one solution—The efficiency of Australian National's east-west operations—Government response, dated December 1990.

7 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—RURAL AND REGIONAL

AUSTRALIA: The House was informed that Mr T. A. Fischer (Leader of the National Party of Australia) had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The Government's engineered recession impacting on rural and regional Australia, undermining our export performance and the lack of any real response from the Government in the form of appropriate economic policies".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr T. A. Fischer addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

8 SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS MOVED: Mr Reith (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) moved—That so much of the standing and sessional orders be suspended as would prevent the Treasurer explaining forthwith to this House:

- (1) exactly what advice the Governor of the Reserve Bank and his officers gave to the former Premier of Victoria, John Cain, concerning the collapse of the Pyramid and other building societies in the Farrow group and, in particular, whether it included advice "to let the societies go";
- (2) when that advice was given; and
- (3) what prior knowledge or involvement the Treasurer had in the provision of that advice to the former Victorian Premier.

Closure of Member: Mr Beazley (Leader of the House) moved—That the honourable Member be not further heard.

Question—put.

The House divided (the Deputy Speaker, Mr R. F. Edwards, in the Chair)—

AYES, 65

Mr Baldwin	Mr Fitzgibbon	Mr Keating	Mr Scholes
Mr Beazley	Mr Free	Mrs Kelly	Mr J. L. Scott
Mr Beddall	Mr Gayler	Mr Kerin	Mr L. J. Scott
Mr Brereton	Mr Gear*	Mr Kerr	Mr Simmons
Mr R. J. Brown	Mr Gibson	Mr Langmore	Mr Snow
Mr Campbell	Mr Gorman	Mr Lavarch	Mr Snowdon
Dr Catley	Mr Grace*	Mr Lee	Mr Staples
Dr Charlesworth	Mr Hand	Mr Lindsay	Dr Theophanous
Mr Courtice	Mr Holding	Ms McHugh	Mr Tickner
Ms Crawford	Mr Hollis	Mr Martin	Mr Walker
Mr Crean	Mr Howe	Mr Melham	Mr West
Mrs Crosio	Mr Hulls	Mr A. A. Morris	Mr Willis
Mr Dawkins	Mr Humphreys	Mr P. F. Morris	Mr H. F. Woods
Mr Duffy	Mrs Jakobsen	Mr Newell	Mr Wright
Mr Elliott	Mr Jenkins	Mr O'Keefe	
Ms Fatin	Mr Johns	Mr Price	
Mr Ferguson	Mr Jones	Mr Punch	

NOES, 58

Mr Anderson	Mr Cowan	Mr Lloyd	Mr Ruddock
Mr Andrew*	Mr Dobie	Mr McArthur	Mr B. C. Scott
Mr Atkinson	Mr Downer	Mr McGauran	Mr Shack
Mr Beale	Dr H. R. Edwards	Mr Mack	Mr Sharp
Mr Bradford	Mr Fife	Mr MacKellar	Mr Sinclair
Mr Braithwaite	Mr Filing	Mr McLachlan	Mr Somlyay
Mr Broadbent	Mr T. A. Fischer	Mr Miles	Mrs Sullivan
Mr N. A. Brown	Mr P. S. Fisher	Mr Moore	Mr Taylor
Mr Burr	Mr Ford	Mr Nehl	Mr Truss
Mr Cameron	Mrs Gallus	Mr Peacock	Mr Tuckey
Mr Carlton	Mr Hall	Mr Prosser	Mr Webster
Mr Chaney	Mr Halverson	Mr Reid	Dr R. L. Woods
Mr Charles	Mr Hicks*	Mr Reith	Dr Wooldridge
Mr Cobb	Mr Howard	Mr Roher	
Mr Costello	Dr Kemp	Mr Ronaldson	

* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Mr Costello (seconder) addressing the House—

Closure of Member: Mr Beazley moved—That the honourable Member be not further heard.

Question—put.

The House divided (the Deputy Speaker, Mr R. F. Edwards, in the Chair)—

AYES, 65

Mr Baldwin	Mr Fitzgibbon	Mr Keating	Mr Scholes
Mr Beazley	Mr Free	Mrs Kelly	Mr J. L. Scott
Mr Beddall	Mr Gayler	Mr Kerin	Mr L. J. Scott
Mr Brereton	Mr Gear*	Mr Kerr	Mr Simmons
Mr R. J. Brown	Mr Gibson	Mr Langmore	Mr Snow
Mr Campbell	Mr Gorman	Mr Lavarch	Mr Snowdon
Dr Catley	Mr Grace*	Mr Lee	Mr Staples
Dr Charlesworth	Mr Hand	Mr Lindsay	Dr Theophanous
Mr Courtice	Mr Holding	Ms McHugh	Mr Tickner
Ms Crawford	Mr Hollis	Mr Martin	Mr Walker
Mr Crean	Mr Howe	Mr Melham	Mr West
Mrs Crosio	Mr Hulls	Mr A. A. Morris	Mr Willis
Mr Dawkins	Mr Humphreys	Mr P. F. Morris	Mr H. F. Woods
Mr Duffy	Mrs Jakobsen	Mr Newell	Mr Wright
Mr Elliott	Mr Jenkins	Mr O'Keefe	
Ms Fatin	Mr Johns	Mr Price	
Mr Ferguson	Mr Jones	Mr Punch	

NOES, 61

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

* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Closure: Mr Beazley moved—That the question be now put.

Question—That the question be now put—put and passed.

And the question—That the motion for the suspension of standing and sessional orders be agreed to—being accordingly put—

The House divided (the Deputy Speaker, Mr R. F. Edwards, in the Chair)—

AYES, 60

Mr Anderson	Mr Cobb	Mr Howard	Mr Rocher
Mr Andrew*	Mr Costello	Mr Jull	Mr Ronaldson
Mr Atkinson	Mr Cowan	Dr Kemp	Mr Ruddock
Mrs Bailey	Mr Dobie	Mr Lloyd	Mr B. C. Scott
Mr Beale	Mr Downer	Mr McArthur	Mr Shack
Mr Bradford	Dr H. R. Edwards	Mr McGauran	Mr Sharp
Mr Braithwaite	Mr Fife	Mr MacKellar	Mr Sinclair
Mr Broadbent	Mr Filing	Mr McLachlan	Mr Somlyay
Mr N. A. Brown	Mr T. A. Fischer	Mr Miles	Mrs Sullivan
Mr Burr	Mr P. S. Fisher	Mr Moore	Mr Taylor
Mr Cadman	Mr Ford	Mr Nehl	Mr Truss
Mr Cameron	Mrs Gallus	Mr Nugent	Mr Tuckey
Mr Carlton	Mr Hall	Mr Prosser	Mr Webster
Mr Chaney	Mr Halverson	Mr Reid	Dr R. L. Woods
Mr Charles	Mr Hicks*	Mr Reith	Dr Wooldridge

NOES, 66

Mr Baldwin	Mr Fitzgibbon	Mr Keating	Mr Punch
Mr Beazley	Mr Free	Mrs Kelly	Mr Scholes
Mr Beddall	Mr Gayler	Mr Kerin	Mr J. L. Scott
Mr Brereton	Mr Gear*	Mr Kerr	Mr L. J. Scott
Mr R. J. Brown	Mr Gibson	Mr Langmore	Mr Simmons
Mr Campbell	Mr Gorman	Mr Lavarch	Mr Snow
Dr Catley	Mr Grace*	Mr Lee	Mr Snowdon
Dr Charlesworth	Mr Hand	Mr Lindsay	Mr Staples
Mr Courtice	Mr Holding	Ms McHugh	Dr Theophanous
Ms Crawford	Mr Hollis	Mr Mack	Mr Tickner
Mr Crean	Mr Howe	Mr Martin	Mr Walker
Mrs Crosio	Mr Hulls	Mr Melham	Mr West
Mr Dawkins	Mr Humphreys	Mr A. A. Morris	Mr Willis
Mr Duffy	Mrs Jakobsen	Mr P. F. Morris	Mr H. F. Woods
Mr Elliott	Mr Jenkins	Mr Newell	Mr Wright
Ms Fatin	Mr Johns	Mr O'Keefe	
Mr Ferguson	Mr Jones	Mr Price	

* Tellers

And so it was negatived.

9 COMPANIES (INSOLVENCY ASSISTANCE) AMENDMENT BILL 1990: Mr Duffy (Attorney-General), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to companies.

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.

- 10 **INSURANCE AMENDMENT BILL 1990:** Mr R. J. Brown (Minister for Land Transport), for Mr Crean (Minister Assisting the Treasurer), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Insurance Act 1973*.

Bill read a first time.

Mr R. J. Brown moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Paper: Mr R. J. Brown 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.

- 11 **POSTPONEMENT OF NOTICE:** Ordered—That notice No. 3, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.

- 12 **GOVERNMENTS AND GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES (APPLICATION OF LAWS) 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

Clauses 1 to 4, by leave, taken together, and agreed to.

Clause 5—

Mr Costello moved the following amendment: Page 3, before paragraph (3) (a) insert the following paragraph:

“(aa) any law that discloses (expressly or otherwise) an intention that the State and the Commonwealth should be bound by it unless it is declared by the regulations to be a law to which this subsection does not apply;”.

Debate continued.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

The committee divided (the Deputy Chairman, Mr Jenkins, in the Chair)—

AYES, 56

Mr Aldred	Mr Charles	Mr Hicks*	Mr Reith
Mr Andrew*	Mr Cobb	Mr Howard	Mr Rocher
Mr Atkinson	Mr Costello	Mr Jull	Mr Ronaldson
Mrs Bailey	Mr Cowan	Dr Kemp	Mr Ruddock
Mr Beale	Mr Dobie	Mr Lloyd	Mr B. C. Scott
Mr Bradford	Mr Downer	Mr McArthur	Mr Sinclair
Mr Braithwaite	Dr H. R. Edwards	Mr McGauran	Mr Smith
Mr Broadbent	Mr Fife	Mr MacKellar	Mr Somlyay
Mr N. A. Brown	Mr Filing	Mr McLachlan	Mr Truss
Mr Burr	Mr T. A. Fischer	Mr Miles	Mr Tuckey
Mr Cadman	Mr Ford	Mr Nehl	Mr Webster
Mr Cameron	Mr Hall	Mr Nugent	Mr Wilson
Mr Carlton	Mr Halverson	Mr Prosser	Dr R. L. Woods
Mr Chaney	Mr Hawker	Mr Reid	Dr Wooldridge

The House continuing to sit until 11 p.m.—Mr Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 5 December 1990:

Australian Bureau of Statistics Act—Australian Bureau of Statistics—Proposal for the collection of information—1990—No. 29—ABS register of businesses: updating collections.

Census and Statistics Act—Australian Bureau of Statistics—Statements of disclosure of information—1990—

No. 2—List of names and addresses of agricultural establishments for Australian Meat and Live-stock Corporation.

No. 3—List of names and addresses of agricultural establishments for Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics.

Christmas Island Act—Christmas Island Casino Control Ordinance—Amendments to the Christmas Island Casino Agreements, dated 30 November 1990.

Motor Vehicle Standards Act—Determination of Motor Vehicle Standards—Order—1990—No. 2.

National Health Act—Determination—1990—No. BPT13.

University of Canberra Act—Statutes—

No. 6—Academic Progress Amendment 1990.

No. 7—Courses and Awards Amendment (No. 2) 1990.

ATTENDANCE: All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Bevis, Mr Bilney, Dr Blewett, Mr Connolly, Mrs Darling, Mr Duncan, Mr Griffiths, Mr O'Neil, Mr Sawford and Mr Sciacca.

A. R. BROWNING
Clerk of the House of Representatives