

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

No. 48

TUESDAY, 5 MARCH 1991

- 1 The House met, at 2 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. Mr Speaker (the Honourable Leo McLeay) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
 - 2 **RESIGNATION OF MEMBER:** Mr Speaker announced that, on 25 February 1991, he had received from the Honourable Neil Anthony Brown, QC, a letter resigning his seat as Member for the electoral division of Menzies, in the State of Victoria, and that he had written to the Party Leaders concerning the date of the by-election.
 - 3 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice were asked.
 - 4 **PAPERS:** The following papers were presented:
 - Australian Sports Commission Act—Australian Sports Commission—Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report, for 1989-90.
 - Employment, Education and Training Act—National Board of Employment, Education and Training—Report by the Higher Education Council, including the Board's comments—Funding principles, 1991-93 Triennium: Allocation of funds to higher education institutions, dated February 1991.
 - Equal Employment Opportunity (Commonwealth Authorities) Act—Equal employment opportunity program—OTC Limited—Report for 1989-90.
 - Rural Industries Research Act—
 - Australian Special Rural Research Council—Report for 1989-90.
 - Dried Fruits Research Council—Report for 1989-90.
 - 5 **AUSTRALIAN SPECIAL RURAL RESEARCH COUNCIL—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Mr Beazley (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the following paper:
 - Rural Industries Research Act—Australian Special Rural Research Council—Report for 1989-90.
 Debate adjourned (Mr Fife), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
 - 6 **GULF CRISIS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED:** Mr Hawke (Prime Minister), by leave, made a ministerial statement concerning the Gulf crisis, and presented the following paper:
 - Gulf crisis—Ministerial statement, 5 March 1991.
 Dr Hewson (Leader of the Opposition), by leave, also made a statement with reference to the matter.
 - Mr Beazley (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the paper.
 Debate ensued.
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Newspaper article—Statement by Mr Speaker: Mr Speaker made a statement relating to a question asked of him earlier today by Mr Chaney concerning an article published in the *Melbourne Age* of 23 February 1991. Mr Speaker stated that he had now seen the article, was of the opinion that the words used in it were taken out of context and, if Mr Chaney was offended by the words contained in the report, he withdrew the remarks.

Possible intimidation of Mr J. McLennan—Statement by Mr Speaker: Mr Speaker also made a statement relating to the request by Mr Martin, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration, as to the possible intimidation of a witness involved in the committee's inquiry into the Australian banking system, Mr J. McLennan, and whether a question of contempt arose from actions taken on 17 February 1991. Mr Speaker stated that a *prima facie* case such as would cause him to accord precedence to a motion on this matter had not been made out at present and that he had informed the committee that he wished to be advised if any additional material evidence came to light, and if it did, he would then give it immediate consideration. Mr Speaker further stated that any person or organisation contemplating any obstruction, intimidation or harassment should be aware that the House will exercise its undoubted powers to protect witnesses in respect of their participation in committee inquiries.

Debate continued.

Mr Beazley addressing the House—

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

Mr Beazley requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate—
Question—put and negatived.

Mr Beazley concluded his speech.

Question—That the House take note of the paper—put and passed.

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

Debate ensued.

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 March 1991:

Australian Sports Drug Agency Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1991, No. 19.

Banks (Shareholdings) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1991, No. 21.

Civil Aviation Act—Civil Aviation Regulations—Civil Aviation Orders—
Part 29—Amendment, dated 18 February 1991.

Customs Act—Notice—1991—No. 1.

Excise Act—Notice—1991—No. 1.

Fisheries Act—Notices—Nos. GEM 3, ORF 12.

Income Tax Assessment Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1991, No. 20.

Migration Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1991, No. 18.

Public Service Act—Determinations—
1990—No. 229.

- 1991—Nos. 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 21, 22, 27, 28, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 120, 121, LES 1, LES 2, LES 3, LES 4, LES 5, LES 6.
- Quarantine Act—Determination under section 86E—1991—No. 1.
- Superannuation Act 1976*—Determinations pursuant to subsections—
238 (1)—No. 6—Period.
- 240 (1)—No. 1—Superannuation (CSS) Assets Transfer (CAA Staff Superannuation Fund).
- 241 (1)—No. 1—Superannuation (CSS) Employer Component Payment (CAA Staff Superannuation Fund).
- Superannuation Benefits (Supervisory Mechanisms) Act—Determination—1991—No. 1.
- Therapeutic Goods Act—Determination—1991—No. MP1, including Codes of Good Manufacturing Practice for Sterile Therapeutic Devices and for Therapeutic Goods—Medicinal Products.
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ATTENDANCE: All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Downer, Mr Gorman, Mrs Jakobsen, Mr Lindsay and Mr Peacock.

A. R. BROWNING
Clerk of the House of Representatives