

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 81

TUESDAY, 3 SEPTEMBER 1991

- 1 The House met, at 2 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (the Honourable Leo McLeay) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
- 2 **PRIVILEGE—COMPLAINT OF BREACH:** Mr Peacock raised, as a matter of privilege, reported allegations of threats to members of the Australian Labor Party caucus during the recent leadership challenge to the Prime Minister. Mr Peacock produced a copy of an article published in the *Daily Telegraph Mirror* of 31 August 1991. The Speaker stated that he would consider the matter and report to the House.
- 3 **MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS:** Mr Hawke (Prime Minister) informed the House that, during the absence abroad of Dr Blewett (Minister for Trade and Overseas Development), Senator Evans (Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade) was performing Dr Blewett's duties and Mr Duffy (Attorney-General) was representing Senator Evans in this House.
- 4 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice were asked.
- 5 **AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORTS—PUBLICATION OF PAPERS:** The Speaker presented the following papers:  
 Audit Act—Auditor-General—Audit reports of 1991-92—  
 No. 6—Project audit—Department of the Parliamentary Library: Review of management.  
 No. 7—Ministerial portfolios: Budget sittings 1991.  
 Mr Beazley (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That:  
 (1) this House, in accordance with the provisions of the *Parliamentary Papers Act 1908*, authorises the publication of the Auditor-General's audit reports Nos. 6 and 7 of 1991-92; and  
 (2) the reports be printed.  
 Question—put and passed.
- 6 **PAPERS:** The following papers were presented:  
 Australian National University Act—Council of the Australian National University—Report for 1990.  
 Australia's language—The Australian language and literacy policy, released by Mr Dawkins, Minister for Employment, Education and Training, August 1991—  
 Policy information paper.  
 Companion volume.  
 Christmas Island Act—Services Corporation Ordinance—Christmas Island Services Corporation—Report for 1989-90.

Defence Act—Army and Air Force Canteen Service Regulations—Army and Air Force Canteen Service Board of Management—Report from 30 January 1990 to 28 January 1991.

Employment, Education and Training Act—

Australian Research Council—Report—Grants and fellowships awarded in 1991.

National Board of Employment, Education and Training—Report by the Schools Council—Resource agreements for schools, August 1991.

Portfolio program estimates 1991-92 (Budget paper No. 3)—Corrigenda.

Royal Australian Air Force Veterans' Residences Act—Royal Australian Air Force Veterans' Residences Trust—Report for 1989-90.

Seat of Government (Administration) Act—Canberra Institute of the Arts Ordinance—Canberra Institute of the Arts—Report for 1990.

Services Trust Funds Act—

Royal Australian Air Force Welfare Trust Fund—Report for 1990.

Royal Australian Navy Relief Trust Fund—Report for 1990.

TAFE in the 1990s: Developing Australia's skills—Discussion paper by the Employment and Skills Formation Council of the National Board of Employment, Education and Training.

- 7 **TAFE IN THE 1990S: DEVELOPING AUSTRALIA'S SKILLS—PAPER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Mr Beazley (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the following paper:

TAFE in the 1990s: Developing Australia's skills—Discussion paper by the Employment and Skills Formation Council of the National Board of Employment, Education and Training.

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

- 8 **AUSTRALIA'S LANGUAGE—PAPERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS:** Mr Beazley (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the following papers:

Australia's language—The Australian language and literacy policy, released by Mr Dawkins, Minister for Employment, Education and Training, August 1991—

Policy information paper.

Companion volume.

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

- 9 **PRINT MEDIA—SELECT COMMITTEE—NOMINATIONS OF MEMBERS—STATEMENT BY SPEAKER:** The Speaker made a statement relating to the nominations of Members to serve on the Select Committee on the Print Media, and stated that the experience had demonstrated both uncertainty in sessional order 28B relating to the nominations of Members to serve on a committee and the desirability of amending the sessional order.

- 10 **DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—UNEMPLOYMENT:** 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 tragedy of Australia's long-term unemployed".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Howard addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

- 11 **MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL—ASSENT TO BILLS:** Messages from His Excellency the Governor-General were announced informing the

House that His Excellency, in the name of Her Majesty, had assented to the following Bills:

- 23 August 1991—Message No. 172—
  - Crimes Legislation Amendment (No. 2) 1991.
  - Service and Execution of Process Amendment 1991.
- 28 August 1991—Message No. 173—Primary Industries Legislation Amendment (No. 2) 1991.
- 2 September 1991—Message No. 174—
  - Defence Force Superannuation Legislation Amendment 1991.
  - Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation 1991.
  - Interstate Road Transport Amendment 1991.
  - Interstate Road Transport Charge Amendment 1991.
  - Superannuation Legislation Amendment 1991.
  - Australian National University 1991.
  - University of Canberra Amendment 1991.
  - Wildlife Protection (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Amendment 1991.
  - Quarantine Amendment 1991.

**12 PUBLIC WORKS—PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORTS—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS:** Mr Hollis (Chairman) presented the following reports:

- Public Works—Parliamentary Standing Committee—Reports—
  - Construction of Australian High Commission Complex, Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan (6th report of 1991).
  - Development of HMAS *Albatross*, Nowra, NSW, Stage 2 (7th report of 1991).
  - Redevelopment by the Defence Housing Authority of Seaward Village, Perth (8th report of 1991).

Severally ordered to be printed.

Mr Hollis, Mr Hawker and Mr Sharp, by leave, made statements in connection with the reports.

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

- Selection Committee—Amended report relating to the program of business prior to 12.30 p.m. on Thursday, 5 September 1991—
- and, by leave, moved—That the report be adopted in lieu of the report presented on 22 August 1991.

Question—put and passed.

**14 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—CRIMES (AVIATION) BILL 1991:** Message No. 288, dated 21 August 1991, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for "*An Act relating to crimes and certain other acts committed on or in respect of certain aircraft, aerodromes, airports and air navigation facilities, and for related purposes*".

Bill read a first time.

Mr Duffy (Attorney-General) moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

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

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

**15 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AMENDMENT BILL 1991:** Message No. 289, dated 22 August 1991, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for "*An Act to amend the 'Freedom of Information Act 1982', and for related purposes*".

Bill read a first time.

Mr Duffy (Attorney-General) moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

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

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

**16 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—MIGRATION REGULATIONS—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE—PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF RESOLUTION OF APPOINTMENT:** The following message from the Senate was reported:

Message No. 290

Mr Speaker,

The Senate, having considered message no. 272 of the House of Representatives, has agreed to the following resolution:

That the Senate concurs in the resolution transmitted to the Senate by message no. 272 of the House of Representatives relating to amendments to the resolution of appointment of the Joint Standing Committee on Migration Regulations subject to the following modification:

Paragraph (2), omit the paragraph, substitute the following paragraph:

“(2) That the committee consist of 10 members, 3 Members of the House of Representatives to be nominated by the Government Whip or Whips and 2 Members of the House of Representatives to be nominated by the Opposition Whip or Whips or by any independent Member, 2 Senators to be nominated by the Leader of the Government in the Senate, 2 Senators to be nominated by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate and 1 Senator to be nominated by any minority groups or independent Senators.”.

The Senate requests the concurrence of the House of Representatives in the Senate’s modification of the resolution transmitted to the Senate by the House.

KERRY SIBRAA  
President

The Senate,  
Canberra, 22 August 1991

Ordered—That consideration of the message be made an order of the day for the next sitting.

**17 ABORIGINAL EDUCATION (SUPPLEMENTARY ASSISTANCE) AMENDMENT BILL 1991:** Mr Tickner (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Aboriginal Education (Supplementary Assistance) Act 1989*.

Bill read a first time.

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

*Paper:* Mr Tickner presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

**18 POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY:** Ordered—That orders of the day Nos. 1 to 4, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.

**19 LOAN BILL (NO. 2) 1991:** 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 by Mr Rocher who moved, as an amendment—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following

words: “whilst not declining to give the Bill a second reading, the House condemns the Government for:

- (1) engineering the worst economic recession for 60 years;
- (2) knowingly putting over one million people out of work;
- (3) its economic mismanagement and fiscal irresponsibility revealed in the Budget;
- (4) failing to create a climate for increased national savings, investment, growth and jobs;
- (5) not curtailing its own purpose spending, running a reckless deficit and plundering the savings of households and firms; and
- (6) providing no leadership, no example and no hope to the people of Australia”.

Debate continued.

Amendment negatived.

Question—That the Bill be now read a second time—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

*Message from the Governor-General:* Message No. 175, dated 23 August 1991, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation of moneys for the purposes of the Bill.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Griffiths (Minister for Resources), the Bill was read a third time.

- 20 **APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1991-92—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.

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*Privilege—Statement by Speaker:* The Speaker referred to the matter raised earlier today and on an earlier occasion by Mr Peacock regarding alleged threats to influence the voting of Members in the Australian Labor Party leadership ballot. The Speaker reaffirmed the view expressed in his statement of 5 June 1991 that, as a general rule the House should not attempt to intervene in arrangements within political parties unless a Member personally sought the protection of the House and said that he was not prepared to grant precedence to a motion in respect of the matter.

Debate continued.

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

- 21 **ADJOURNMENT:** Mr Simmons (Minister for the Arts, Tourism and Territories) moved—That the House do now adjourn.  
Debate ensued.

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

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**PAPERS:** The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 3 September 1991:

Customs Act—Instruments of approval—1991—Nos. 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27.

Defence Act—Determinations under section 58B—1991—  
No. 70—Education—Hong Kong.

No. 79—Rates of Travelling Allowance—Italy and other allowances.

No. 85—Living Out Allowance and another allowance.

No. 87—Calculation of fortnightly and daily rates.

**Public Service Act—**

Determinations—1991—Nos. 59, 79, 81, 82, 85, 86, 87, 88, 90, 91,  
250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255.

Parliamentary Presiding Officers' Determinations—1991—Nos. 3, 8.

Superannuation Benefits (Supervisory Mechanisms) Act—Determination—  
1991—No. 8.

*Telecommunications Act 1991*—Determination of Technical Standard  
pursuant to subsection 246 (1), dated 17 July 1991.

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**ATTENDANCE:** All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except  
Mr J. N. Andrew, Dr Blewett, Mr Connolly, Mrs Darling, Mr R. F. Edwards,  
Mr Grace, Mr Humphreys, Mr McArthur, Mr Martin, Mr Scholes, Mr Shack,  
Mr Sinclair and Mr Wilson.

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**L. M. BARLIN**

Clerk of the House of Representatives