

1993-94

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS**

No. 87

MONDAY, 29 AUGUST 1994

1 The House met, at 12.30 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (the Honourable Stephen Martin) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

**2 BANKING, FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENT BY MEMBER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

Mr Simmons (Chairman) presented the following report and related papers:

Banking, Finance and Public Administration—Standing Committee—Review of the Reserve Bank of Australia's 1992-93 annual report—

Report, 17 August 1994.

Minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Mr Simmons made a statement in connection with the report.

Mr Simmons moved—That the House take note of the report.

In accordance with standing order 102B, the debate was adjourned, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting Monday.

**3 COMMUNITY AFFAIRS—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

Mr A. A. Morris (Chairman) presented the following report and related papers:

Community Affairs—Standing Committee—Home but not alone—Report on the Home and Community Care Program—

Report, 26 July 1994.

Evidence received by the committee.

Minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Mr A. A. Morris, Mr Ruddock, Ms Deahm, Mr B. C. Scott and Mr Haviland made statements in connection with the report.

Mr A. A. Morris moved—That the House take note of the report.

In accordance with standing order 102B, the debate was adjourned, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting Monday.

#### 4 PROPOSED NATIONAL COAL AUTHORITY

Mr Brown, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House calls on the Government to establish a National Coal Authority to:

- (1) oversee and coordinate negotiations between Australian coal exporters and overseas buyers, especially the Japanese, in order to achieve better pricing outcomes;
- (2) develop a national role in the management and development of Australia's coal reserves and in the issue of new coal mining leases;
- (3) investigate the effects of Japanese investment in the Australian coal industry on the negotiations for export tonnages and prices;
- (4) advise the Government on measures which are appropriate at the national level to ensure that coal industry employees receive a more equitable return for their cooperation in industry restructuring, improved productivity and industrial stability; and
- (5) monitor, and respond as necessary to, adverse developments in employment and investment levels in the coal mining industry.

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 Monday.

#### 5 ABC NEWS PROGRAMMING

Mr Filing, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House:

- (1) condemns the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's proposal to alter the format of the evening news and the *7.30 Report* for the following reasons:
  - (a) the *7.30 Report* is a successful program in Western Australia;
  - (b) the proposal is likely to reduce substantially the Western Australian content of the *7.30 Report* or its replacement program;
  - (c) any attempt to move news production to the eastern States would deprive Western Australian viewers of local news; and
  - (d) Western Australian interests are just as important to a national news service as those of other States;
- (2) supports the retention of the existing 7 p.m. television news bulletin format with production in each State and a current affairs program which allows for the flexibility to insert locally produced Western Australian stories; and
- (3) calls on the ABC Board to preserve the regional integrity of the ABC in each State.

Debate ensued.

Mr Filing, by leave, again addressed the House without closing the debate.

It being 2.45 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with standing order 104A and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting Monday.

#### 6 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Members' statements were made.

## 7 COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Mr Keating (Prime Minister), by leave, moved—That this House:

- (1) congratulates the Australian team for its magnificent performance at the Fifteenth Commonwealth Games in Victoria, Canada;
- (2) recognises the achievements attained by competitors across all sports, including disabled athletes, and the record number of medals won; and
- (3) thanks all members of the team for their conduct as representatives of Australia and for competing with such success and obvious team spirit and pride.

Debate ensued.

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

## 8 PAPER

Mr Beazley (Leader of the House) presented the following paper:

Roster of Ministers to attend question time as at 29 August 1994.

## 9 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

## 10 PETITIONS

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

Mr Anderson, Mr Bevis, Mr Cadman, Mr Connolly, Ms Deahm, Mr M. J. Evans, Mr Forrest, Mr Griffin, Mr Halverson, Mr Hawker, Mr Holding, Mr Jenkins, Mr Keating, Mr Knott, Mr Lloyd, Mr McGauran, Mr McLeay, Mr Nehl, Mr O'Connor, Mr Quick, Mr Ronaldson, Mr Somlyay, Mr Tuckey and Mr Vaile, from 92, 61, 10, 1, 1222, 131, 21, 244, 36, 137, 580, 52, 285, 53, 37, 44, 86, 45, 60, 56, 19, 48, 28 and 12 petitioners, respectively, praying that Anzac Day be declared Australia's National Day of Commemoration and that it be held on 25 April each year and on no other day.

Mr K. J. Andrews, Mr Atkinson, Mr Beale, Mr Cleary, Mr Cobb, Mr Costello, Mr Duncan, Mr Halverson, Mr Jenkins, Dr Kemp, Mr O'Connor, Mr Peacock, Mr Reith, Mr Ronaldson, Dr Wooldridge and Ms Worth, from 735, 620, 580, 394, 1562, 348, 3297, 938, 303, 326, 275, 200, 132, 576, 816 and 1509 petitioners, respectively, praying for certain changes to the Family Law Act and the Child Support Scheme.

Mr Cadman, Mr Cobb, Mr Downer, Mr R. D. C. Evans, Mr Filing, Mr Forrest, Mr Hawker, Dr Hewson, Mrs Moylan, Mr Nehl, Mr Neville, Mr Tuckey, Mr Wakelin and Ms Worth, from 14, 10, 12, 12, 8, 7, 144, 79, 175, 427, 180, 33, 11 and 3566 petitioners, respectively, praying that funding for breast cancer research be increased tenfold in the Budget and initiatives to encourage donations for research be considered.

Mr Braithwaite and Mr Forrest, from 19 and 5 petitioners, respectively, praying that an indexed homemaker's allowance be introduced.

Mr Gorman and Mr Nehl, from 125 and 74 petitioners, respectively, praying that women remain eligible for the age pension from the age of 60.

Mr Hawker and Mr Jull, from 198 and 228 petitioners, respectively, praying that no action be taken to change the national flag unless approved by the people of Australia in a national poll.

Mr Cadman, from 122 petitioners, praying that by enactment, Parliament ensure that the Prime Minister of Australia cannot change the flag of Australia without the majority consent of the people of Australia.

Mr Cadman, from 95 petitioners, praying that any action which is capable of deeply dividing the people of Australia be desisted from.

Mr Cameron, from 10 members of staff at CSIRO's Division of Animal Production, praying that CSIRO agricultural research be assigned a higher priority and provided with greater funding.

Mr Gorman, from 100 members of staff of CSIRO's Division of Animal Production, in similar terms.

Mr Campbell, from 82 electors of the Division of Kalgoorlie, praying that SBS television be made available in Kalgoorlie, WA.

Mrs Crosio, from 211 residents of the Division of Prospect, praying that costs associated with public utilities and insurance be included as legitimate expenditure of tax deductible donations to school building funds.

Mr R. D. C. Evans, from 199 petitioners, praying that greater resources be made available for research into breast cancer.

Mr Hall, from 39 petitioners, praying that the Resident Classification Instrument relating to the care of incontinent frail persons be reviewed.

Mr Hawker, from 44 petitioners, praying that Anzac Day be kept on 25 April and not made a nearest weekend holiday.

Mr Hawker, from 17 residents of Victoria, praying that Mount Stirling, Vic., be protected from development and preserved for all time.

Mr Horne, from 122 residents of New South Wales, praying that the services of the postal agency at Hinton, NSW, be retained.

Mr Howard, from 93 residents of New South Wales, praying that the Grant-in-Aid program at Christian Community Aid Service Incorporated, Eastwood, NSW, continue to be funded.

Mr Howard, from 9 petitioners, praying that certain action be taken to establish by referendum whether the Constitution should be amended to ensure parliamentary scrutiny of all international treaties, conventions and agreements before they come into force in Australia.

Mr Langmore, from 1626 residents of the Australian Capital Territory, praying that the status of Acton Peninsula and West Basin in Canberra not be altered.

Mr Lieberman, from 411 residents of Victoria, praying that action be taken to stop the practice in China of extracting bile from caged bears for medical purposes.

Mr Lloyd, from 64 petitioners, praying that no change be made to the design or colour of the Australian national flag and that Australia remain a democratic constitutional monarchy with the Queen as head of state, represented in Australia by a Governor-General.

Mr Mack, from 64 610 petitioners, praying that certain measures be taken that would prevent members of parliament, retired members and top bureaucrats from plundering the public purse.

Mr O'Connor, from 293 parents and supporters of children with attention deficit disorder, praying that children with attention deficit disorder continue to be deemed eligible for the Child Disability Allowance.

Mr Prosser, from 825 electors of the Division of Forrest, praying that listing on the Register of the National Estate of forests or lands outside the Western Australian state reserve system be opposed until the State and Commonwealth Governments endorse a definitive and comprehensive regional assessment process.

Mr Ruddock, from 287 petitioners, praying that the guidelines for homeless rate recipients be reviewed and greater commitment shown to programs which prevent family breakdown.

Mr B. C. Scott, from 1130 electors of the Division of Maranoa, praying that an SBS transmitter be installed in the Stanthorpe Shire, Qld.

Mr B. C. Scott, from 507 electors of the Division of Maranoa, praying that Telecom Mobile Net be made available in the Texas, Inglewood and Yelarbon areas of Queensland.

Mr Truss, from 44 petitioners, praying that the current national flag be preserved and no change be made to its design unless supported by referendum by the majority of Australians in the majority of States.

Mr Tuckey, from 51 petitioners, praying that the rights of State governments alone to define and issue land title be reaffirmed through a referendum.

Mr Tuckey, from 11 petitioners, praying that the proposal to charge off-road users of diesel fuel a tax equal to one per cent of the diesel fuel rebate be abandoned.

Mr Vaile, from 153 petitioners, praying that the drug Orap be funded and made available for the treatment of schizophrenia.

Mr Williams, from 543 petitioners, praying that the export of dogs from Australia for sale in China be banned.

Petitions received.

## 11 GRIEVANCE DEBATE

Pursuant to the provisions of standing order 106, the order of the day having been read—

Question proposed—That grievances be noted.

Debate ensued.

Question—That grievances be noted—put and passed.

## 12 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—AUSTRALIAN TRADE COMMISSION AMENDMENT BILL 1994

Message No. 314, dated 25 August 1994, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for "*An Act to amend the 'Australian Trade Commission Act 1985'*".

Bill read a first time.

*Paper:* Ms Crawford (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Housing and Regional Development) presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Ordered—That the second reading be made an order of the day for the next sitting.

**13 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—EXCISE TARIFF LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1994**

Message No. 315, dated 25 August 1994, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for "*An Act to amend legislation relating to duties of excise*".

Bill read a first time.

*Paper:* Ms Crawford (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Housing and Regional Development) presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Ordered—That the second reading be made an order of the day for the next sitting.

**14 COMMONWEALTH GAMES**

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Keating (Prime Minister) (*see* entry No. 7)—That this House:

- (1) congratulates the Australian team for its magnificent performance at the Fifteenth Commonwealth Games in Victoria, Canada;
- (2) recognises the achievements attained by competitors across all sports, including disabled athletes, and the record number of medals won; and
- (3) thanks all members of the team for their conduct as representatives of Australia and for competing with such success and obvious team spirit and pride—

Debate resumed.

Question—put and passed.

**15 STATES GRANTS (GENERAL PURPOSES) BILL 1994**

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—*And on the amendment moved thereto by Mr Costello, viz.*—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) its continuing mismanagement of Commonwealth-State relations; and
- (2) its threat to recoup from any State funds paid to that State as a result of the Parliament of that State repealing laws which prescribe compulsory student unionism at universities"—

Debate resumed.

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. 177, dated 6 June 1994, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation for the purposes of the Bill.

*Consideration in detail*

Clauses 1 to 14, by leave, taken together, and agreed to.

Clause 15 debated.

Question—That the clause be agreed to—put.

The House divided (the Deputy Speaker, Mr Snow, in the Chair)—

AYES, 71

Mr Adams	Mr Duffy	Mr Horne	Mr Price
Mr Baldwin	Mr Duncan	Mr Howe	Mr Punch
Mr Beazley	Mrs Easson	Mr Humphreys	Mr Sawford*
Mr Beddall	Mr M. J. Evans	Mr Jenkins	Mr Sciacca
Mr Bevis	Ms Fatin	Mr Kerr	Mr L. J. Scott
Mr Bilney	Mr Ferguson	Mr Knott	Mr Simmons
Mr Breerton	Mr Fitzgibbon	Mr Lavarch	Mrs S. J. Smith
Mr Brown	Mr Free	Dr Lawrence	Mr S. F. Smith
Mr Campbell	Mr Gear	Mr Lee	Mr Snowdon
Mr Chynoweth	Mr Gibson	Mr Lindsay	Mr Stables
Mr Cleary	Mr Gorman	Ms McHugh	Mr Swan
Mr Cleeland	Mr Grace*	Mr McLeay	Mr Tanner
Ms Crawford	Mr Griffin	Mr Melham	Dr Theophanous
Mr Crean	Mr Griffiths	Mr A. A. Morris	Mr Tickner
Mrs Crosio	Mr Haviland	Mr P. F. Morris	Mr Walker
Mr Cunningham	Ms Henzell	Mr Newell	Mr Willis
Ms Deahm	Mr Holding	Mr O'Connor	Mr Woods
Mr Dodd	Mr Hollis	Mr O'Keefe	

NOES, 57

Mr Abbott	Mr Dobie	Mr Mack	Mr B. C. Scott
Mr Aldred	Mr R.D.C. Evans	Mr McLachlan	Mr Sharp
Mr Anderson	Mr Filing	Mr Miles	Mr Sinclair
Mr J. N. Andrew	Mr Forrest	Mr Moore	Mr Slipper
Mr K. J. Andrews	Mrs Gallus	Mrs Moylan	Mr Somlyay
Mr Atkinson	Mr Hall	Mr Nehl	Mrs Sullivan
Mr Beale	Mr Halverson	Mr Neville	Mr Tuckey
Mr Bradford	Mr Hawker*	Mr Nugent	Mr Vaile
Mr Braithwaite	Dr Hewson	Mr Peacock	Mr Wakelin
Mr Cadman	Mr Hicks*	Mr Prosser	Mr Williams
Mr Cameron	Mr Jull	Mr Pyne	Dr Wooldridge
Mr Charles	Mr Lieberman	Mr Reid	Ms Worth
Mr Cobb	Mr Lloyd	Mr Reith	
Mr Connolly	Mr McArthur	Mr Rocher	
Mr Costello	Mr McGauran	Mr Ronaldson	

\* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Remainder of Bill, by leave, taken as whole, and agreed to.

Bill agreed to.

Consideration in detail concluded.

On the motion of Mr Gear (Assistant Treasurer), by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

**16 STUDENT ASSISTANCE (BUDGET MATTERS) AMENDMENT BILL 1994**

The order of the day having been read for the second reading—Mr Free (Minister for Schools, Vocational Education and Training) moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

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

**17 ADJOURNMENT**

Mr Snowdon (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Employment, Education and Training) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 7.54 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 12.30 p.m.

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#### **PAPERS**

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 29 August 1994:  
Civil Aviation Act—Civil Aviation Regulations—Civil Aviation Orders—  
Parts—

105—Amendments 1994, 11, 12(2), 17, 18(2), 19, 22(3), 25(2) August.

106—Amendment 1994, 24 August.

107—Amendments 1994, 11, 24(2) August.

Defence Housing Authority Act—Statement under section 10 relating to a joint venture between the Defence Housing Authority and Delfin Property Group Limited.

National Health Act—Determinations Nos. 1994-95/4, 1994-95/5.

*Social Security Act 1991*—Determination 1994 Instrument No. 3.

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#### **ATTENDANCE**

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Elliott, Mr Howard, Mr Johns, Mr Katter, Mr Langmore, Mr Latham, Mr Quick and Mr Taylor.

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**L. M. BARLIN**

Clerk of the House of Representatives