

1993-94

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS**

No. 95

MONDAY, 10 OCTOBER 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 FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF  
PAPER**

Mr Duffy presented the following report and related papers:

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade—Joint Standing Committee—The implications of Australian defence exports—

Report, incorporating an additional report, September 1994.

Evidence received by the committee.

Minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Mr Duffy made a statement in connection with the report.

Ordered—That Mr Duffy be granted an extension of time.

Mr Sinclair, Mr Gibson and Mr Langmore also made statements in connection with the report.

Mr Gibson, by leave, again addressed the House.

The time allotted for making statements on the report having expired—

Mr Langmore 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 NATIONAL CRIME AUTHORITY—PARLIAMENTARY JOINT COMMITTEE—  
REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

Mr Cleeland (Chairman) presented the following report:

National Crime Authority—Parliamentary Joint Committee—Investigating complaints made against the National Crime Authority—Report, October 1994.

Ordered to be printed.

Mr Cleeland and Mr Filing made statements in connection with the report.

The time allotted for making statements on the report having expired—

Mr Cleeland 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 TRIALS OF DRUG RU486

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

- (1) notes the temporary suspension of one trial by Family Planning Victoria to assess whether or not subject women were fully informed of the risk of side effects of the abortion drug RU486;
- (2) states that this is not good enough considering the highly questionable process which allowed the trials to be conducted in the first place;
- (3) also notes the revelation that gynaecologists running the trials used potentially deadly pituitary hormones on women and that Dr Lawrence herself told the Parliament on 29 June 1994 that the report on the hormone program showed the Government had put in the hands of those who ought to have been the subject of regulation the very power of regulation itself;
- (4) expresses concern that the trials are *prima facie* being conducted contrary to section 83 of the New South Wales Crimes Act and section 65 of the Victorian Crimes Act;
- (5) suggests the entire process of the approval for the trials is a matter of serious concern to the community and that the apparent lack of concern over the breach of the undertaking by the federal Government and the seemingly non-existent scrutiny of the trials is an outrage; and
- (6) therefore calls on the Government to institute an immediate ban on all future clinical trials of the drug RU486 in Australia.

Debate ensued.

Debate adjourned, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting Monday.

#### 5 MALDISTRIBUTION OF WORK

Mr Langmore, pursuant to notice, moved—That, recognising that:

- (a) one of the causes of high unemployment is a maldistribution of work in a situation in which many people are working too hard while many others cannot find work; and
- (b) one of the significant reasons for the maintenance of full employment for much of the post-war period was the gradual reduction in average working hours—

this House urges the Government to establish immediately a task force representative of employers, unions, community organisations, government and experts to study the issue of the organisation of work and to make recommendations which would:

- (i) allow average hours of full-time work to be reduced as productivity improves and which could also contribute to increasing the security of the growing proportion of the labour force employed in casual work; and

- (ii) consider both national standards relating to the organisation of work and possibilities for increasing individual choice about working time.

Debate ensued.

It being 2.45 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with standing order 104A, the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting Monday, and Mr Wakelin was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

## 6 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Members' statements were made.

## 7 DEATH OF FORMER MEMBER (THE HONOURABLE SIR NIGEL HUBERT BOWEN)

Mr Keating (Prime Minister) referred to the death of the Honourable Sir Nigel Hubert Bowen, and moved—That the House expresses its deep regret at the death on Tuesday, 27 September 1994, of the Honourable Sir Nigel Hubert Bowen, AC, KBE, Member of the House of Representatives for the Division of Parramatta from 1964 to 1973, Attorney-General from 1966 to 1969 and in 1971, Minister for Education and Science from 1969 to 1971, Minister for Foreign Affairs from 1971 to 1972 and former Chief Justice of the Federal Court of Australia from 1976 to 1990, places on record its appreciation of his long and meritorious public service, and tenders its profound sympathy to his family in their bereavement.

Mr Downer (Leader of the Opposition) seconded the motion, and Mr Fischer (Leader of the National Party of Australia) addressed the House in support thereof.

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 DEATH OF SIR GEOFFREY YEEND

The Speaker informed the House of the death, on 6 October 1994, of Sir Geoffrey John Yeend, AC, CBE, Chancellor of the Australian National University and former Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Mr Keating (Prime Minister) and Mr Downer (Leader of the Opposition) paid tribute to his memory.

As a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased all Members present stood, in silence.

## 9 MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Mr Keating (Prime Minister) informed the House that, during the absence of Mr Willis (Treasurer), Mr Beazley (Minister for Finance) would answer questions on behalf of Mr Willis.

Mr Keating also informed the House that, during the absence of Dr Lawrence (Minister for Human Services and Health), Mr Howe (Minister for Housing and Regional Development) would answer questions on behalf of Dr Lawrence today and Mr Beazley would answer questions on behalf of Dr Lawrence tomorrow.

## 10 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice being asked—

*Paper:* Mr Fischer (Leader of the National Party of Australia), in accordance with standing order 321, having called for a document quoted from by Mr Brereton (Minister for Transport)—

Mr Brereton presented the following paper:

Seaview Aviation—Copy of letter from Mr Ian L. Paull, District Flight Operations Manager, Directorate of Aviation Safety Regulation, Coffs Harbour District Office, Civil Aviation Authority to Captain G. Matthews, Chief Pilot, Seaview Aviation, dated 18 January 1994.

Questions without notice continued.

## 11 PETITIONS

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

Mr Anderson, Mr Filing, Mr Nehl and Ms Worth, from 11, 6, 54 and 798 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 Dodd, Mr Lindsay and Ms Worth, from 621, 657 and 74 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 Lindsay, Mr Neville and Mr Truss, from 823, 1372 and 635 petitioners, respectively, praying for certain changes to the Family Law Act and the Child Support Scheme.

Mr Hawker and Dr Kemp, from 91 and 239 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 Baldwin, from 84 participants in the Leichhardt-Stanmore Parish Mission, praying that the noise management plan for the third runway at Sydney (Kingsford-Smith) Airport make provision for owners of affected places of Christian worship.

Mr Bradford, from 409 residents of New South Wales and Queensland affected by air traffic at Coolangatta Airport, praying that air traffic movement problems at Coolangatta Airport be addressed immediately and that the airport not be sold until the concerns of local residents have been met.

Mr Cameron, from 9493 residents of Western Australia, praying that action be taken to stop the practice in China of extracting bile from caged bears for medical purposes.

Mr Cameron, from 22 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 Filing, from 21 petitioners, praying that the ABC continue its current programming of news and current affairs in Western Australia.

Mr Gorman, from 460 petitioners, praying that women remain eligible for the age pension from the age of 60.

Dr Kemp, from 114 residents of Warragul, Vic., praying that there be no change to the Constitution or national flag.

Mr Neville, from 20 petitioners, praying that the national flag not be changed, replaced or diminished without being approved by a referendum.

Mr Snowdon, from 2 residents of the Northern Territory, praying that the *Australian Citizenship Act 1948* be amended to provide for dual citizenship.

Dr Wooldridge, from 1085 petitioners, praying that funding per resident of the advanced dementia unit at Strathdon Lodge, Forest Hill, Vic., be increased by \$20 per day.

Petitions received.

**12 SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS—GRIEVANCE DEBATE**

Mr Free (Minister for Schools, Vocational Education and Training), by leave, moved—That so much of the standing and sessional orders be suspended as would prevent order of the day No. 1, government business (Grievance debate), when called on, continuing for a period not exceeding 1 hour 15 minutes.

Question—put and passed.

**13 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.

The time allotted for the Grievance debate having expired—

Question—That grievances be noted—put and passed.

**14 DEATH OF FORMER MEMBER (THE HONOURABLE SIR NIGEL HUBERT BOWEN)—MOTION OF CONDOLENCE**

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 the House expresses its deep regret at the death on Tuesday, 27 September 1994, of the Honourable Sir Nigel Hubert Bowen, AC, KBE, Member of the House of Representatives for the Division of Parramatta from 1964 to 1973, Attorney-General from 1966 to 1969 and in 1971, Minister for Education and Science from 1969 to 1971, Minister for Foreign Affairs from 1971 to 1972 and former Chief Justice of the Federal Court of Australia from 1976 to 1990, places on record its appreciation of his long and meritorious public service, and tenders its profound sympathy to his family in their bereavement—

Debate resumed.

All Members present having risen, in silence—

Question—passed.

**15 MESSAGES FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR—ASSENT TO BILLS**

Messages from His Excellency the Administrator were announced informing the House that His Excellency, in the name of Her Majesty, had assented to the following Bills:

27 September 1994—Message No. 187—

Aboriginal Education (Supplementary Assistance) Amendment 1994.

Coarse Grains Levy Amendment 1994.

Grain Legumes Levy Amendment 1994.

Oilseeds Levy Amendment 1994.

States Grants (General Purposes) 1994.

6 October 1994—Message No. 188—Export Market Development Grants Amendment 1994.

#### 16 POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY

Ordered—That orders of the day Nos. 2 to 9, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.

#### 17 WITNESS PROTECTION BILL 1994

The order of the day having been read for the second reading—Mr Kerr (Minister for Justice) moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Dr Theophanous (Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister), the Bill was read a third time.

#### 18 ADJOURNMENT

Dr Theophanous (Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 7.40 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 12.30 p.m.

#### PAPERS

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 10 October 1994:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act—

Determination under section 4A—1994 No. 2.

Statement under section 122A—1994 No. 1.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act—Declaration under section 12—1994 No. 10.

Australian Securities Commission Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1994 No. 301.

Banks (Shareholdings) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1994 No. 331.

Civil Aviation Act—Civil Aviation Regulations—Civil Aviation Orders—Parts—

92—Amendment 1994, 4 October.

105—Amendments 1994, 15, 19, 21(2), 26, 27(3), 29(7) September.

106—Amendment 1994, 16 September.

Corporations Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1994 Nos. 302, 303.

Defence Act—

Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal—Determination 1994 No. 16.

Determination under section 58B—1994 No. 33.

Federal Court of Australia Act—Rules of Court—Statutory Rules 1994 No. 332.  
General Insurance Supervisory Levy Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1994 No. 326.

Health Insurance Act—

Declaration QAA No. 3/1994.

Regulations—Statutory Rules 1994 No. 328.

Higher Education Funding Act—Determination No. T21/94.

Insurance (Agents and Brokers) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1994 No. 325.

Insurance Contracts Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1994 No. 327.

Insurance Supervisory Levies Collection Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1994 No. 323.

Life Insurance Supervisory Levy Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1994 No. 324.

Migration Act—

Statement under section 115.

Statements (2) under section 137.

National Library Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1994 No. 329.

Proclamations by His Excellency the Governor-General fixing the dates on which the following provisions of Acts shall come into operation—

*Insurance Laws Amendment Act 1994*—Other than sections 1, 2, 3, 10, 40 and 41—1 October 1994.

*Insurance Laws Amendment Act (No. 2) 1994*—Amendments contained in the items of the Schedule to the Act, other than items 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 17, 18 and 19—1 October 1994.

Public Service Act—

Determinations 1994 Nos. 150, 152, 154, 155, LES 19, LES 20.

Parliamentary Presiding Officers' Determination 1994 No. 5.

Regulations—Statutory Rules 1994 No. 330.

Radiocommunications Act—

Class licences (2), 15 September 1994.

Determinations under sections—

98—1993 No. 1 (Amendment No. 2).

119—1993 No. 1 (Amendment No. 3).

147—1993 No. 1 (Amendment No. 2).

293—1993 No. 1 (Amendment No. 2).

Variation to class licence, 23 September 1994.

Radiocommunications Act and Radiocommunications (Transmitter Licence Tax) Act—Determination 1993 No. 2—Amendment No. 1.

Radiocommunications (Transmitter Licence Tax) Act—Determination 1993 No. 1—Amendment No. 1.

Remuneration Tribunal Act—Remuneration Tribunal—Determinations 1994 Nos. 24, 25.

Veterans' Entitlements Act—Instruments 1994 Nos. 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45.

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**ATTENDANCE**

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr J. N. Andrew, Mr Beale, Mr Braithwaite, Mr Cunningham, Mr R. D. C. Evans, Ms Fatin, Mr Fitzgibbon, Mr Gear, Mr Grace, Ms Henzell, Mr Jones, Dr Lawrence, Mr Lieberman, Ms McHugh, Mr Price, Mr Reid, Mr Reith, Mr Sciacca, Mr Sharp, Mr Staples, Mr Tuckey, Mr Walker and Mr Willis.

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**I. C. HARRIS**

Acting Clerk of the House of Representatives