

1996

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 3

THURSDAY, 2 MAY 1996

1 The House met, at 9.30 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (the Honourable Bob Halverson, OBE) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

2 **ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH**

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the following Address in Reply to the speech of His Excellency the Governor-General be agreed to:

May it please Your Excellency:

We, the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia, in Parliament assembled, desire to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the speech which you have been pleased to address to Parliament—

Debate resumed.

Debate adjourned (Mr A. P. Thomson—Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

3 **TREATY MAKING PROCESS—REFORM—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

Mr Downer (Minister for Foreign Affairs), by leave, made a ministerial statement on the reform of the treaty making process and presented the following paper:

Treaty making process—Reform—Ministerial statement, 2 May 1996.

Mr A. P. Thomson (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs) moved—That the House take note of the paper.

Suspension of standing orders—Extended time for speech: Mr A. P. Thomson, by leave, moved—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent Mr Brereton speaking for a period not exceeding 15½ minutes.

Question—put and passed.

Debate ensued.

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

4 ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the following Address in Reply to the speech of His Excellency the Governor-General be agreed to:

May it please Your Excellency:

We, the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia, in Parliament assembled, desire to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the speech which you have been pleased to address to Parliament—

Debate resumed.

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

Debate continued.

It being 2 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with standing order 101A, and the resumption of the debate was made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

5 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice being asked—

Papers: Mr Costello (Treasurer) presented the following papers:

Coalition costings—Media release issued by the Treasurer, 29 February 1996, together with associated papers (3).

Questions without notice continued.

6 AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT—PUBLICATION OF PAPER

The Speaker presented the following paper:

Audit Act—Auditor-General—Audit report No. 20 of 1995-96—Performance audit—Diesel fuel rebate scheme: Australian Customs Service.

Mr Reith (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That:

- (1) this House authorises the publication of the Auditor-General's audit report No. 20 of 1995-96; and
- (2) the report be printed.

Question—put and passed.

7 COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Deputy Speaker presented the following papers:

Committee reports received by the Speaker after the last sitting day of the House of Representatives in 1995 pursuant to resolutions agreed to on 29 November 1995—

Community Affairs—Standing Committee—A fair go for all—Report on migrant access and equity—

Report, January 1996.

Evidence received by the committee.

Minutes of proceedings.

Electoral Matters—Joint Standing Committee—Electoral redistributions: Report on the effectiveness and appropriateness of the redistribution provisions of Parts III and IV of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*—

Report, December 1995.

Evidence received by the committee.

Employment, Education and Training—Standing Committee—Truancy and exclusion from school: Inquiry into non-attendance at school by young people under fifteen years of age—

Report, December 1995.

Minutes of proceedings.

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade—Joint Standing Committee—Bosnia: Australia's response—

Report, January 1996.

Evidence received by the committee.

Minutes of proceedings.

Migration—Joint Standing Committee—Australia's visa system for visitors—

Report, January 1996.

Evidence received by the committee.

Minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That each of the reports be printed.

8 INDUSTRY COMMISSION—PAPER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

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

Industry Commission Act—Industry Commission—Report No. 43—Vehicle and recreational marine craft repair and insurance industries, 15 March 1995—
and moved—That the House take note of the paper.

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

9 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—PROPOSED BUDGET CUTS

The House was informed that Mr Beazley (Leader of the Opposition) had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The likely impact of proposed Budget cuts on the Australian economy".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Beazley addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

10 TELSTRA (DILUTION OF PUBLIC OWNERSHIP) BILL 1996

Mr W. L. Smith (Minister representing the Minister for Communications and the Arts), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act relating to the dilution of the public ownership of Telstra, and for other purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mr W. L. Smith moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Paper: Mr W. L. Smith presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

11 MINISTERS OF STATE AMENDMENT BILL 1996

Mr Jull (Minister for Administrative Services), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Ministers of State Act 1952*.

Bill read a first time.

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

Paper: Mr Jull presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Debate adjourned (Mr L. D. T. Ferguson), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

12 ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the following Address in Reply to the speech of His Excellency the Governor-General be agreed to:

May it please Your Excellency:

We, the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia, in Parliament assembled, desire to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the speech which you have been pleased to address to Parliament—

Debate resumed.

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

13 ADJOURNMENT

Mr A. P. Thomson (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until 6 p.m.—The Speaker adjourned the House until Monday next at 12.30 p.m.

PAPERS

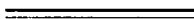
The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 2 May 1996:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act—Directions under section 142E, 30 April 1996.

Social Security Act—

Social Security (Present Value of Unpaid Amounts—Interest Rate) Notice (No. 1).

Social Security (Qualification for Carer Pension—Higher Amounts) Determination (No. 1).



ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Hawker and Mr Hollis.



L. M. BARLIN

Clerk of the House of Representatives