

1996

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 12

MONDAY, 27 MAY 1996

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

2 NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK

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

- (1) welcomes the initiative of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation to launch a National Reconciliation Week to be held each year from 27 May to 3 June for at least the next five years up to 2001, the centenary of federation;
- (2) notes that the inaugural National Reconciliation Week beginning on 27 May 1996 will launch twelve months of community activities and a public awareness campaign leading up to the Australian Reconciliation Convention, which will be held during National Reconciliation Week in 1997;
- (3) reaffirms its commitment to a process of reconciliation; and
- (4) calls on all Australians to support the National Reconciliation Week and thereby to advance the reconciliation process.

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.

3 GUN CONTROL

Ms Worth, pursuant to notice, moved—That the House:

- (1) extends its sympathies to the family and friends of all the victims of the Port Arthur massacre;
- (2) recognises the outstanding work done by the police and emergency services during the tragedy and the efforts of those associated with the counselling of victims, their families and friends;

- (3) congratulates the Prime Minister and the State and Territory governments in making a significant contribution to public safety by moving to ban automatic and semi-automatic rifles and shotguns;
- (4) acknowledges the contribution made by the Leader of the Opposition in securing a bipartisan approach to the issue of gun control; and
- (5) acknowledges that many law abiding citizens who own guns may be inconvenienced by the ban on some types of firearms.

Debate ensued.

It being 1.45 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with standing order 101A, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

4 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Members' statements were made.

5 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

6 PAPER

Mr Latham, by leave, after putting a question to the Speaker, presented the following paper:

Age of social transformation—Copy of article by Peter F. Drucker, *Atlantic Monthly*, November 1994.

7 PAPER—STATEMENT BY SPEAKER

The Speaker presented the following paper:

Advance to the Speaker of the House of Representatives—Statement of use, May 1996—

and made a statement in connection with the paper.

8 PETITIONS

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

Mr Cobb, Mr Latham, Mr McLeay, Mr Melham and Mr A. P. Thomson, from 130, 60, 110, 15 and 16 petitioners, respectively, praying that the drug Betaferon be subsidised under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

Ms Gambaro and Mrs Sullivan, from 120 and 17 petitioners, respectively, praying that the exclusiveness of marriage as being between one male and one female be preserved and that the Marriage Act be amended to prohibit certain marriages.

Mr Abbott, from 407 petitioners, praying that local government be provided a consent role in the installation of mobile telephone base stations and overhead cabling.

Mr Filing, from 3927 petitioners, praying that an Australian Embassy be established in the Republic of Croatia.

Mr Filing, from 1447 petitioners, praying that certain action be taken to stop the use of "how to vote" cards at federal and State elections.

Mr Filing, from 836 petitioners, praying that certain legislative action be taken to prevent the transmission of indecent or obscene material on the information superhighway.

Mr Fitzgibbon, from 9850 petitioners, praying that certain action be taken to promote the recognition of human rights in Sudan.

Mrs D. M. Kelly, from 753 residents of Queensland, praying that action be taken to improve television reception in and around Sarina, Qld.

Mr P. F. Morris, from 737 electors of the Division of Shortland, praying that the Commonwealth Bank of Australia be called on to maintain its existing banking services at Budgewoi, NSW.

Mr Reith, from 1347 petitioners, praying that Betaferon be made available as a subsidised drug.

Mr Ronaldson, from 534 residents of Victoria, praying that the proposed closure of the office of the Department of Social Security at Wendouree, Vic., not be supported.

Mr Ronaldson, from 20 petitioners, praying that certain action be taken to reduce the difference in petrol pricing between country Victoria and metropolitan Melbourne.

Mr Ronaldson, from 12 petitioners, praying that certain action be taken to reduce the difference in petrol pricing between city and country areas.

Mr Ruddock, from 8 petitioners, praying that certain moves to tighten gun laws be supported.

Mr Sawford, from 5 residents of South Australia, praying that certain shortcomings in the implementation of national competition policy be removed.

Mr Somlyay, from 691 residents of Queensland, praying that the proposal to establish a pharmacy at Montville, Qld, be allowed to proceed.

Petitions received.

9 MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT

Mr Brereton, pursuant to notice, moved—That the Australian Parliament:

- (1) declares its support for world efforts to secure peace in the Middle East through a settlement of the present conflict between the Hezbollah and Israel in Southern Lebanon;
- (2) deplors the tragic loss of life and the endangerment of the innocent civilian population as a result of this conflict;
- (3) is of the view that a settlement must involve the Governments of Lebanon, Syria and Israel and be based on the following guarantees:
 - (a) the territorial integrity of Lebanon and all countries in the region; and

- (b) the absolute right of security for the citizens of Israel; and
- (4) supports the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425 as part of the settlement.

Debate ensued.

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

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

10 MAIN COMMITTEE—DAY OF NEXT MEETING

The Second Deputy Speaker reported that the Deputy Speaker had fixed Tuesday, 28 May 1996, at 4.30 p.m., for the next meeting of the Main Committee.

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.

Paper: Mr P. F. Morris, by leave, presented the following paper:

Petition not in accord with standing and sessional orders of the House—Commonwealth Bank branch office at Budgewoi, NSW (655 petitioners).

Debate continued.

Paper: Mr Mossfield, by leave, presented the following paper:

Blacktown Regional Economic and Employment Development (BREED) Taskforce—Membership.

Debate continued.

Question—That grievances be noted—put and passed.

12 TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 1) 1996

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 Latham 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 is of the opinion that the Government has:

- (1) by adopting a permanent rate of 10% beyond 1996-97, failed to fulfil its election promise to small businesses and self-funded retirees to reduce the provisional tax uplift factor to 6%;
- (2) failed to fulfil its long-standing promise to set the provisional tax uplift factor at rates corresponding to forecasts for inflation, income growth and economic growth; and
- (3) failed to deliver a sound policy framework for small business, with:

- (a) the contractionary impact of withdrawing more than 2% GDP from the income/expenditure stream in the forthcoming budget;
- (b) failure to consider an even lower uplift factor in light of the Government's downward revision of the growth forecasts for 1996-97 (3.75% to 3.25%);
- (c) cuts to small business support programs such as EMDG, AusIndustry, NIES and the Innovate Australia programs;
- (d) higher underlying interest rates with the abolition of wages policy; and
- (e) the Government's failure to support amendments to the Trade Practices Act to strengthen the provisions concerning harsh or oppressive conduct in circumstances where a small business is vulnerable and economically captive to another enterprise".

Debate continued.

Question—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the question—put.

The House divided (the Deputy Speaker, Mr M. A. J. Vaile, in the Chair)—

AYES, 90

Mr Anderson	Mr Entsch	Mr Lindsay	Mr Scott
Mr J. N. Andrew	Mr R. D. C. Evans	Mr Lloyd	Mr Sharp
Mr K. J. Andrews	Mr Fahey	Mr McArthur*	Mr Sinclair
Mr Anthony	Mr Filing	Mr McDougall	Mr Slipper
Mrs Bailey	Mr Fischer	Mr McGauran	Mr A. C. Smith
Mr R. C. Baldwin	Mr Forrest	Mr McLachlan	Mr W. L. Smith
Mr Barresi	Mrs Gallus	Mr Marek	Mr Somlyay
Mr Bartlett	Ms Gambaro	Mr Miles	Dr Southcott
Mr Billson	Mrs Gash	Mr Moore	Mrs Stone
Mrs Bishop	Mr Georgiou	Mrs Moylan	Mrs Sullivan
Mr Bradford	Mrs E. J. Grace	Mr Mutch	Mr Taylor
Mr Brough	Ms Hanson	Mr Nairn	Mr A. P. Thomson
Mr Cadman	Mr Hardgrave	Mr Nehl	Mr Truss
Mr E. H. Cameron	Mr Hawker	Dr Nelson	Mr Tuckey
Mr R. A. Cameron	Mr Hicks*	Mr Nugent	Ms D. S. Vale
Mr Causley	Mr Hockey	Mr Prosser	Mr Wakelin
Mr Charles	Ms Jeanes	Mr Pyne	Mrs West
Mr Cobb	Mrs Johnston	Mr Randall	Mr Williams
Mr Costello	Mr Jull	Mr Reid	Dr Wooldridge
Mr Dondas	Mr Katter	Mr Reith	Ms Worth
Mr Downer	Miss J. M. Kelly	Mr Rocher	Mr Zammit
Mrs Draper	Dr Kemp	Mr Ronaldson	
Mrs Elson	Mr Lieberman	Mr Ruddock	

NOES, 43

Mr Adams	Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Dr Lawrence	Mr O'Connor
Mr Albanese	Mr M. J. Ferguson	Mr Lee	Mr Price
Mr P. J. Baldwin	Mr Fitzgibbon	Mr McClelland	Mr Quick
Mr Beddall	Mr E. L. Grace*	Ms Macklin	Mr Sawford*
Mr Bevis	Mr Griffin	Mr McLeay	Mr Sercombe
Mr Brereton	Mr Hollis	Mr McMullan	Mr Tanner
Mr Brown	Mr Jenkins	Mr Martin	Dr Theophanous
Mr Crean	Mr Jones	Mr Melham	Mr K. J. Thomson
Mrs Crosio	Mr Kerr	Mr A. A. Morris	Mr Willis
Ms Ellis	Mr Langmore	Mr P. F. Morris	Mr Wilton
Mr M. J. Evans	Mr Latham	Mr Mossfield	

* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

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

Consideration in detail

Clauses 1 to 4, by leave, taken together, and agreed to.

Schedule 1—

Mr Rocher moved the following amendment: Item 1, page 3 (line 9), omit “6%”, substitute “4%”.

Amendment negated.

Mr Latham moved the following amendment: Item 1, page 3 (subsection 221YA(1) (definition of **provisional tax uplift factor**)):

Omit the definition, substitute:

“**provisional tax uplift factor**, in relation to the 1996-97 year of income and in relation to a later year of income, until the Parliament otherwise provides—means 6%.”.

Debate continued.

Question—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the schedule—put.

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

AYES, 86

Mr Anderson	Mr Entsch	Mr Lloyd	Mr Sharp
Mr J. N. Andrew	Mr R. D. C. Evans	Mr McArthur*	Mr Slipper
Mr K. J. Andrews	Mr Fahey	Mr McDougall	Mr A. C. Smith
Mr Anthony	Mr Fischer	Mr McGauran	Mr W. L. Smith
Mrs Bailey	Mr Forrest	Mr McLachlan	Mr Somlyay
Mr R. C. Baldwin	Mrs Gallus	Mr Marek	Dr Southcott
Mr Barresi	Ms Gambaro	Mr Miles	Mrs Stone
Mr Bartlett	Mrs Gash	Mr Moore	Mrs Sullivan
Mr Billson	Mr Georgiou	Mrs Moylan	Mr Taylor
Mrs Bishop	Mrs E. J. Grace	Mr Mutch	Mr A. P. Thomson
Mr Bradford	Mr Hardgrave	Mr Nairn	Mr Truss
Mr Brough	Mr Hicks*	Mr Nehl	Mr Tuckey
Mr Cadman	Mr Hockey	Dr Nelson	Mr M. A. J. Vaile
Mr E. H. Cameron	Ms Jeanes	Mr Nugent	Ms D. S. Vale
Mr R. A. Cameron	Mrs Johnston	Mr Prosser	Mr Wakelin
Mr Causley	Mr Jull	Mr Pyne	Mrs West
Mr Charles	Mr Katter	Mr Randall	Mr Williams
Mr Cobb	Mrs D. M. Kelly	Mr Reid	Dr Wooldridge
Mr Costello	Miss J. M. Kelly	Mr Reith	Ms Worth
Mr Dondas	Dr Kemp	Mr Ronaldson	Mr Zammit
Mr Downer	Mr Lieberman	Mr Ruddock	
Mrs Elson	Mr Lindsay	Mr Scott	

NOES, 47

Mr Adams	Mr M. J. Ferguson	Mr Latham	Mr O'Connor
Mr Albanese	Mr Filing	Dr Lawrence	Mr O'Keefe
Mr P. J. Baldwin	Mr Fitzgibbon	Mr Lee	Mr Price
Mr Beddall	Mr E. L. Grace*	Mr McClelland	Mr Rocher
Mr Bevis	Mr Griffin	Ms Macklin	Mr Sawford*
Mr Brereton	Ms Hanson	Mr McLeay	Mr Sercombe
Mr Brown	Mr Holding	Mr McMullan	Mr Tanner
Mr Crean	Mr Hollis	Mr Martin	Dr Theophanous
Mrs Crosio	Mr Jenkins	Mr Melham	Mr K. J. Thomson
Ms Ellis	Mr Jones	Mr A. A. Morris	Mr Willis
Mr M. J. Evans	Mr Kerr	Mr P. F. Morris	Mr Wilton
Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Mr Langmore	Mr Mossfield	

* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Schedule agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill agreed to.

Consideration in detail concluded.

On the motion of Mr Miles (Parliamentary Secretary (Cabinet) to the Prime Minister), by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

13 SUPPLY BILL (NO. 1) 1996-97

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.

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

14 BILLS REFERRED TO MAIN COMMITTEE

Mr Cadman (Chief Government Whip), by leave, moved—That the following Bills be referred to the Main Committee for further consideration:

Supply (No. 1) 1996-97;

Supply (No. 2) 1996-97;

Supply (Parliamentary Departments) 1996-97;

Customs Tariff (Miscellaneous Amendments) 1996;

Telecommunications (Carrier Licence Fees) Amendment 1996; and

Therapeutic Goods Amendment 1996.

Question—put and passed.

15 ADJOURNMENT

Mr W. L. Smith (Minister for Sport, Territories and Local Government) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 11 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 2 p.m.

PAPERS

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 27 May 1996:

Civil Aviation Act—Civil Aviation Regulations—Civil Aviation Orders—Exemption 1996 No. 140/FRS/152/1996.

Native Title Act—Native Title (Notices) Determination No. 1 of 1993—Amendment No. 1.

Public Service Act—Determinations 1996 Nos. 62, 63, 64, 66, LES 3, LES 4, LES 5, LES 6, LES 7, LES 8.

Remuneration Tribunal Act—Remuneration Tribunal—Determination 1996 No. 3.

ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Neville and Mr S. F. Smith.



L. M. BARLIN

Clerk of the House of Representatives