

1996

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 16

MONDAY, 17 JUNE 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 SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS—ROUTINE OF BUSINESS FOR THIS SITTING

Mr Reith (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That so much of the standing and sessional orders be suspended as would prevent the routine of business for this sitting being as follows, unless otherwise ordered:

1. Statements by the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Prime Minister on the Defence helicopter tragedy.
2. Presentation of, and statements on, reports from parliamentary committees and delegations.
3. Private Members' business (debate to be interrupted at 1.45 p.m.): Provided that any division called for in the House during the consideration of private Members' business on a question, other than a motion moved by a Minister, shall stand deferred until after the conclusion of the Grievance debate.
4. Members' statements (at approximately 1.45 p.m.).
5. Questions without notice (at 2 p.m.).
6. Presentation of petitions.
7. Private Members' business (in continuation until a total of 1 hour and 55 minutes for private Members' business at this sitting has expired).
8. Grievance debate (debate to continue for 1 hour and 20 minutes).
9. Notices and orders of the day, government business.

Question—put and passed.

3 DEFENCE HELICOPTER TRAGEDY AT TOWNSVILLE—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Mr Howard (Prime Minister) made a ministerial statement on the Defence helicopter tragedy at Townsville.

Mr Beazley (Leader of the Opposition), Mr Fischer (Leader of the National Party of Australia) and, by indulgence, Mr Rocher also made statements on the matter.

As a mark of respect to the victims of the tragedy, all Members present stood, in silence.

4 INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION—ISTANBUL CONFERENCE, 1996—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Mr Martin presented the following paper:

Inter-Parliamentary Union—95th Conference, Istanbul, April 1996—Report of the Australian delegation—

and made a statement in connection with the report.

Mr Taylor also made a statement in connection with the report.

5 AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION—REPORTS—STATEMENT BY MEMBER

Mrs Sullivan presented the following papers:

Australian Parliamentary Delegation to—

Sri Lanka, 3 to 6 October 1995—Report.

41st Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, Colombo, Sri Lanka, October 1995—Report—

and made a statement in connection with the reports.

6 TRADE PRACTICES AMENDMENT (BETTER BUSINESS CONDUCT) BILL 1996

Mr Beazley (Leader of the Opposition), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to trade practices to promote better business conduct, and for related purposes.

Mr Beazley made a statement in relation to the Bill.

Paper: Mr Beazley, by leave, presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Bill read a first time.

Ordered—That the second reading be made an order of the day for the next sitting, in accordance with standing order 104A.

7 CARE SERVICES FOR DISABLED DEPENDANTS

Mrs Stone, pursuant to notice, moved—That the House:

- (1) expresses concern that the increasing numbers of ageing parents who are sole carers of adult children with disabilities, including physical, intellectual, psychiatric and sensory disabilities, and those with acquired brain injury should have better access to respite and permanent residential or in-house care services for their dependants;
- (2) calls upon the negotiators who will meet at the time of the midyear review of the three-year Commonwealth-State Disability Agreement to give

particular attention to the level of service now provided to those persons and to their needs; and

- (3) calls upon the governments involved to urgently implement an appropriate action plan following these negotiations.

Debate ensued.

It being 1.45 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with standing order 101, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

8 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Members' statements were made.

9 DEATH OF FORMER SENATOR (MR T. J. TEHAN)

The Speaker informed the House of the death, on 1 June 1996, of Mr Thomas Joseph Tehan, a Senator for the State of Victoria from 1975 to 1978.

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

10 MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Mr Howard (Prime Minister) informed the House that, during the absence of Mr Scott (Minister for Veterans' Affairs), Mrs Bishop (Minister for Defence Industry, Science and Personnel) would answer questions on his behalf.

11 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice being asked—

Papers: Mr K. J. Thomson, in accordance with standing order 321, having called for documents quoted from by Mr Fischer (Minister for Trade)—

Mr Fischer presented the following papers:

Cairns Group—

Briefing notes.

Meeting, Cartagena, Columbia, 13 to 14 June 1996—Joint communique.

Questions without notice continued.

12 SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS—STATEMENT BY SPEAKER

The Speaker made a statement on supplementary questions in response to a question raised by the Member for Moncrieff on 29 May 1996.

13 PETITIONS

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

Mr Causley, Mr Martin, Mr Sharp and Mrs West, from 33, 51, 60 and 81 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.

Dr Kemp and Mr Ruddock, from 252 and 19 petitioners, and Mr Slipper, from 69 electors of the Division of Fisher, respectively, praying that certain moves to tighten gun laws be supported.

Mr Anderson, from 5 petitioners, praying that a classification system be applied to all audio tapes and compact discs and that certain items be restricted from sale to minors.

Mr Filing, from 854 petitioners, praying that certain action be taken to stop the use of "how to vote" cards at federal and State elections.

Mr Fischer, from 338 petitioners, praying that the voice of the people of Australia be heeded and democracy upheld.

Mr Fischer, from 17 residents of New South Wales, praying that the Treasurer be instructed to overturn the decision of the Commissioner of Taxation to close the Wagga Wagga Regional Taxation Office.

Mr Hockey, from 1 petitioner, praying that thiamine hydrochloride be restored to the schedule of pharmaceutical benefits.

Mr Hockey, from 1 petitioner, praying that the medication Rocaltrol be listed under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

Mr Lieberman, from 2247 petitioners, praying that Betaferon be made available as a subsidised drug.

Mr Lieberman, from 63 electors of the Division of Indi, praying that reference to God not be removed from the preamble of the Constitution and that the daily use of the Lord's Prayer continue in the Australian Parliament.

Mr Marek, from 36 petitioners, praying that certain action be taken with respect to the portrayal of violence on television, video and video games.

Mr Martin, from 365 petitioners, praying that the drug Betaferon be subsidised under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

Mr Melham, from 160 petitioners, praying that Indonesia be asked to withdraw its troops from East Timor and that East Timorese self determination be supported.

Mr Reid, from 1138 residents of Victoria, praying that the Treasurer be instructed to overturn the decision of the Commissioner of Taxation to close the Bendigo Regional Taxation Office.

Mr Reid, from 306 staff members of LaTrobe University, Bendigo, Vic., praying that foreshadowed cuts to higher education be reconsidered and that a response be given to the wage claim of the National Tertiary Education Union.

Mr Truss, from 124 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 Truss, from 38 petitioners, praying that the high cost of private health insurance cover be addressed.

Petitions received.

14 CARE SERVICES FOR DISABLED DEPENDANTS

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mrs Stone—That the House:

- (1) expresses concern that the increasing numbers of ageing parents who are sole carers of adult children with disabilities, including physical, intellectual, psychiatric and sensory disabilities, and those with acquired brain injury should have better access to respite and permanent residential or in-house care services for their dependants;
- (2) calls upon the negotiators who will meet at the time of the midyear review of the three-year Commonwealth-State Disability Agreement to give particular attention to the level of service now provided to those persons and to their needs; and
- (3) calls upon the governments involved to urgently implement an appropriate action plan following these negotiations—

Debate resumed.

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

15 NATIONAL WAGE-EARNER PROTECTION FUND SCHEME

Mrs Crosio, pursuant to notice, moved—That the House:

- (1) gives consideration to the adoption of a national wage-earner protection fund scheme as is similarly found in Japan, the United Kingdom, Belgium, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Spain, Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Italy, Israel, Greece, Ireland, Portugal, the Canadian provinces of Manitoba and Quebec and the state of Oregon in the United States of America to insure and protect Australian workers from company insolvency;
- (2) recognises that Australian employees should never be left in arrears of wages or of other entitlements due to the insolvency of the company for which they work; and
- (3) conducts an inquiry through the relevant parliamentary standing committee into the viability of, and the benefits associated with, the adoption of a national wage-earner protection fund scheme for all Australians.

Debate ensued.

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

16 GUN CONTROL

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Ms Worth—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 resumed.

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

17 MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

Messages from the Senate, dated 31 May 1996, were reported returning the following Bills without amendment:

Message—

No. 25—Supply (Parliamentary Departments) 1996-97.

No. 26—Supply (No. 1) 1996-97 (*without requests*).

No. 27—Supply (No. 2) 1996-97.

No. 28—Education and Training Legislation Amendment 1996.

No. 29—Housing Loans Insurance Corporation (Transfer of Assets and Abolition) 1996.

No. 31—Customs Tariff (Miscellaneous Amendments) 1996.

18 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 debate having expired—

Question—That grievances be noted—put and passed.

19 AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORTS—PUBLICATION OF PAPERS

The Deputy Speaker presented the following papers:

Audit Act—Auditor-General—Audit reports of 1995-96—

No. 26—Performance audit—Defence export facilitation and controls: Department of Defence.

No. 27—Financial control and administration audit—Asset management.

Mr A. P. Thomson (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs), by leave, moved—That:

- (1) this House authorises the publication of the Auditor-General's audit reports Nos. 26 and 27 of 1995-96; and
- (2) the reports be printed.

Question—put and passed.

20 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—CRIMES AMENDMENT (CONTROLLED OPERATIONS) BILL 1996

Message No. 24, dated 30 May 1996, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for an Act to amend the *Crimes Act 1914* to exempt from criminal liability certain law enforcement officers who engage in unlawful conduct to obtain evidence of offences relating to narcotic goods, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

21 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE AMENDMENT BILL 1996

Message No. 30, dated 31 May 1996, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for an Act to amend the *Australian Federal Police Act 1979*.

Bill read a first time.

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

22 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:

6 June 1996—Message No. 16—

Dairy Produce Amendment 1996.

Dairy Produce Levy (No. 1) Amendment 1996.

Excise Tariff Amendment 1996.

11 June 1996—Message No. 17—

Therapeutic Goods Amendment 1996.

Hazardous Waste (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Amendment 1996.

23 MEDICARE LEVY AMENDMENT BILL 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.

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

24 PUBLIC WORKS—PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORK—IMPLEMENTATION OF ROCKFALL RISK REDUCTION STRATEGIES ON CHRISTMAS ISLAND

Mr Jull (Minister for Administrative Services), pursuant to notice, moved—That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, the following proposed work be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for consideration and report: Implementation of rockfall risk reduction strategies on Christmas Island.

Question—put and passed.

25 MEDICARE LEVY AMENDMENT BILL 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.

Paper: Mrs Sullivan, by leave, presented the following paper:

Secretive British cult plots mass job cuts, union-busting, drugs—Copy of article in *New Citizen*, May 1996.

Debate continued.

Mr Miles (Parliamentary Secretary (Cabinet) to the Prime Minister) addressing the House—

Adjournment negatived: It being 10.30 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Mr Miles requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate—

Question—put and negatived.

Debate continued.

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

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Miles, the Bill was read a third time.

26 INCOME TAX ASSESSMENT AMENDMENT BILL 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—

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

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

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

27 ADJOURNMENT

Mr Miles (Parliamentary Secretary (Cabinet) to the Prime Minister) 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 2 p.m.

PAPERS

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 17 June 1996:

Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1996 No. 83.

Air Services Act—Direction 23 May 1996.

Aircraft Noise Levy Act and Aircraft Noise Levy Collection Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1996 No. 86.

Australian Citizenship Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1996 No. 78.

Australian Postal Corporation Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1996 No. 72.

Civil Aviation Act—

Civil Aviation Regulations—Civil Aviation Orders—

Exemptions 1995—Nos. 141/FRS/153/1996, 142/FRS/154/1996.

Part—

20—Amendment 12 June 1996.

105—Amendments 3, 6, 7, 22(3), 27, 29(2), 31(4) May 1996.

Regulations—Statutory Rules 1996 No. 88.

Coarse Grains Levy Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1996 No. 61.

Corporations Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1996 Nos. 55, 90.

Customs Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1996 Nos. 58, 59, 68, 69, 91.

Export Inspection (Establishment Registration Charges) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1996 Nos. 81, 82.

Family Law Act—

Regulations—Statutory Rules 1996 Nos. 71, 74.

Rules of Court—Statutory Rules 1996 No. 60.

Fisheries Management Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1996 No. 67.

Health Insurance Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1996 No. 54.

Income Tax Assessment Act—

Regulations—Statutory Rules 1996 No. 56.

RHQ company determinations 1996 Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5.

Industrial Relations Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1996 No. 80.

Lands Acquisition Act—Statement under section 40.
Life Insurance Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1996 No. 89.
Migration Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1996 Nos. 75, 76, 79.
Migration Act and Migration Reform Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1996 No. 77.
National Health Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1996 No. 70.
National Residue Survey Administration Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1996 No. 66.
Offshore Minerals Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1996 No. 85.
Petroleum Excise (Prices) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1996 No. 84.
Primary Industries Levies and Charges Collection Act and National Residue Survey Administration Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1996 Nos. 62, 63, 64, 65.
Public Service Act—Determination 1996—No. LEC Butterworth 1 and agreement.
Remuneration Tribunal Act—Remuneration Tribunal—
Determination—1996 No. 4.
Report—1996 No. 1.
Ships (Capital Grants) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1996 No. 87.
Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1996 No. 57.
Taxation Administration Act—
Determinations Nos. TD 93/114 (addendum), TD 96/25, TD 96/26, TD 96/27, TD 96/28, TD 96/29.
Rulings Nos. TR 95/10 (addendum), TR 95/13 (addendum), TR 95/15 (addendum), TR 95/16 (addendum), TR 95/17 (addendum), TR 95/19 (addendum), TR 96/20.
Telecommunications Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1996 No. 73.

ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Bradford, Mr R. D. C. Evans, Mrs Gallus, Mr O'Connor and Mr Scott.

L. M. BARLIN

Clerk of the House of Representatives