

1996

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 19

THURSDAY, 20 JUNE 1996

1 The House met, at 9.30 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (the Honourable Bob Halverson) 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.

Question—put and passed.

Presentation of Address in Reply: The Speaker informed the House that he had ascertained that His Excellency the Governor-General would be pleased to receive the Address in Reply at Government House at 5.20 p.m. on Monday, 24 June 1996. The Speaker said he would be glad if the mover and seconder, together with other Members, would accompany him to present the Address.

3 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

4 AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT—PUBLICATION OF PAPER

The Speaker presented the following paper:

Audit Act—Auditor-General—Audit report No. 30 of 1995-96—Performance audit—Implementation of competition in case management—Employment Services Regulatory Authority: Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs.

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

- (1) this House authorises the publication of the Auditor-General's audit report No. 30 of 1995-96; and
- (2) the report be printed.

Question—put and passed.

5 PAPERS

The following papers were presented:

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Act—Australian Institute of Health and Welfare—Report—Australia's health 1996.

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade—Joint Standing Committee—Report—Visit of Defence Subcommittee to Exercise Kangaroo 95, 8-11 August 1995, September 1995—Government response.

6 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—HEALTH AND AGED CARE

The House was informed that Mr Lee had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The widespread concern and confusion caused by the Government's failure to rule out cuts in Medicare rebates and the Government's plans for the wholesale transfer of health and aged care programs to the states".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Lee addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Paper: Dr Wooldridge (Minister for Health and Family Services), by leave, presented the following paper:

Health issues—Letter from Dr Wooldridge to residents in the electoral division of Chisholm, 21 February 1996.

Discussion continued.

Discussion concluded.

7 SYDNEY 2000 GAMES (INDICIA AND IMAGES) PROTECTION BILL 1996—REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE

The Second Deputy Speaker reported that the Sydney 2000 Games (Indicia and Images) Protection Bill 1996 had been fully considered by the Main Committee and agreed to without amendment, and presented a certified copy of the Bill.

Bill agreed to.

On the motion of Mr Sharp (Minister for Transport and Regional Development), by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

8 AUSTRALIAN SPORTS DRUG AGENCY AMENDMENT BILL 1996—REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE

The Second Deputy Speaker reported that the Australian Sports Drug Agency Amendment Bill 1996 had been fully considered by the Main Committee and agreed to without amendment, and presented a certified copy of the Bill.

Bill agreed to.

On the motion of Mr Sharp (Minister for Transport and Regional Development), by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

9 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—EXPORT MARKET DEVELOPMENT GRANTS AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 1) 1996

Message No. 36, dated 19 June 1996, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for an Act to amend the *Export Market Development Grants Act 1974*, 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.

10 AUSTRALIAN LAW REFORM COMMISSION BILL 1996

Mr Williams (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to establish the Australian Law Reform Commission, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

Paper: Mr Williams presented an explanatory memorandum to the following Bills:

Australian Law Reform Commission 1996; and
Australian Law Reform Commission (Repeal, Transitional and Miscellaneous) 1996.

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

11 AUSTRALIAN LAW REFORM COMMISSION (REPEAL, TRANSITIONAL AND MISCELLANEOUS) BILL 1996

Mr Williams (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to repeal the *Law Reform Commission Act 1973* and to deal with transitional and consequential matters arising from the repeal of that Act and the enactment of the *Australian Law Reform Commission Act 1996*, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

12 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

Message No. 39, dated 20 June 1996, from the Senate was reported agreeing to the amendments made by the House in the Customs and Excise Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 1) 1996.

13 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—HOUSING ASSISTANCE BILL 1996

The following message from the Senate was reported:

Message No. 38

Mr Speaker

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the bill for **An Act to assist people to obtain access to housing that is affordable and appropriate to their needs, and for related purposes**, and acquaints the House that the Senate has considered message no. 52 of the House relating to the bill.

The Senate does not press its request for an amendment which the House has not made and has agreed to the bill with the amendments indicated by the annexed schedule.

The Senate requests the concurrence of the House in the amendments made by the Senate.

MICHAEL BEAHAN

President

The Senate

20 June 1996

Ordered—That the amendments be considered forthwith.

SCHEDULE OF THE AMENDMENTS MADE BY THE SENATE

- (1) Preamble, page 2 (line 6), after “adequate”, insert “and ecologically appropriate”.
- (2) Preamble, page 3 (line 10), after “assistance”, insert “and between different types of housing and between different areas in which housing is located”.
- (3) Preamble, page 3 (line 23), after “bodies”, insert “, as appropriate, in view of the regulatory and other functions of those bodies with respect to the design, planning and management of cities and towns”.
- (4) Preamble, page 3 (line 27), after “including”, insert “environmentally oriented groups concerned with conservation, transport and urban form, and”.
- (5) Clause 4, page 6 (line 10), after “assistance”, insert “, between different types of housing and between different areas in which housing is located”.
- (6) Clause 4, page 6 (line 13), after “amenity”, insert “, is of ecologically appropriate design”.

On the motion of Mr Ruddock (Minister representing the Minister for Social Security), the amendments were agreed to, after debate.

14 MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

Messages from the Senate, dated 20 June 1996, were reported returning the following Bills without amendment:

Message—

No. 40—Medicare Levy Amendment 1996 (*without requests*).

No. 41—Income Tax Assessment Amendment 1996.

15 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 1) 1996

The following message from the Senate was reported:

Message No. 37

Mr Speaker

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the bill for **An Act to amend the law relating to taxation**, and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the bill with the amendment indicated by the annexed schedule, in which amendment the Senate requests the concurrence of the House of Representatives.

MICHAEL BEAHAN

President

The Senate

19 June 1996

Ordered—That the amendment be considered at the next sitting.

16 WORKPLACE RELATIONS AND OTHER LEGISLATION 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—*And on the amendment moved thereto by Mr McMullan, 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 is of the opinion that the Bill should not be proceeded with, for the following reasons:*

- (1) it breaches the Prime Minister’s ‘rock solid guarantee’ that no-one will be worse off;
- (2) it opens the door to cutting youth wages and introducing a \$3.00 per hour youth wage;
- (3) it removes the fairness which is entrenched in the existing industrial relations system;
- (4) it does not recognise the legitimacy and desirability of employees organising and bargaining collectively;
- (5) it proceeds from a fundamentally flawed assumption that the parties to the employment relationship have equal bargaining power;

- (6) it severely restricts the central role of the Australian Industrial Relations Commission in the industrial relations system;
- (7) it undermines the award system as the dynamic framework for the protection and advancement of wages and conditions;
- (8) it removes workplace and enterprise bargaining from the protections of the Australian Industrial Relations Commission;
- (9) it will aggravate problems of inequality for women, young people and those most vulnerable in the labour market;
- (10) it fails to provide a core framework for the prevention and settlement of industrial disputes;
- (11) it emphasises the punishment of industrial action rather than its resolution; and
- (12) it fails to ensure that Australia's labour standards meet our international obligations"—

Debate resumed.

Mr Slipper addressing the House—

17 ADJOURNMENT

It being 5.30 p.m.—The question was proposed—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 20 June 1996:

Australian Bureau of Statistics Act—Australian Bureau of Statistics—Proposal 1996 No. 4.

Veterans' Entitlements Act—Instruments 1996 Nos. 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96.

ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Bradford, Mr Brereton, Mrs Gallus, Mr McLachlan, Mr Marek and Mr O'Connor.

L. M. BARLIN

Clerk of the House of Representatives

1996

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SUPPLEMENT TO VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 19

MAIN COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

THURSDAY, 20 JUNE 1996

1 The Main Committee met at 10 a.m.

2 SYDNEY 2000 GAMES (INDICIA AND IMAGES) PROTECTION BILL 1996

The order of the day having been read for the second reading—Mr Moore (Minister for Industry, Science and Tourism) moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

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

Debate ensued.

Mr W. L. Smith (Minister for Sport, Territories and Local Government), who had already spoken, again addressed the Main Committee, by leave.

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

Leave granted for the question on the report to be put forthwith.

Question—That the Bill be reported to the House without amendment—put and passed.

3 AUSTRALIAN SPORTS DRUG AGENCY 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.

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

Leave granted for the question on the report to be put forthwith.

Question—That the Bill be reported to the House without amendment—put and passed.

4 CRIMES AMENDMENT (CONTROLLED OPERATIONS) BILL 1996

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

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

Debate ensued.

Paper: Mr A. C. Smith, by leave, presented the following paper:

R. v Venn-Brown—Copy of law report, 1 QdR, 1991.

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

5 ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Mr Williams (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice), the Main Committee adjourned at 1.13 p.m.

The Deputy Speaker fixed Wednesday, 26 June 1996, at 10 a.m., for the next meeting of the Main Committee.

I. C. HARRIS
Clerk of the Main Committee