

1996

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 26

THURSDAY, 22 AUGUST 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 PAPERS

Mr R. C. Baldwin, by leave, during a personal explanation presented the following papers:

Alleged actions by Mr R. C. Baldwin, MP—Statutory declarations, dated 22 August 1996, by—

Danielle Harman.

Anthony Phillip McCormack.

3 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Members' statements were made.

4 GRIEVANCE DEBATE

Pursuant to the resolution of the House of 21 August 1996, 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.

5 PUBLIC ACCOUNTS—JOINT COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

Mr Somlyay (Chairman) presented the following paper:

Public Accounts—Joint Committee—Report 345—Advisory report on the Income Tax Assessment Bill 1996, the Income Tax (Transitional Provisions) Bill 1996 and the Income Tax (Consequential Amendments) Bill 1996, August 1996.

Ordered to be printed.

Mr Somlyay, Mr Rocher, Mrs Stone, Mr Griffin and Mr Fitzgibbon, by leave, made statements in connection with the report.

Mr Somlyay, by leave, moved—That the House take note of the paper.

Mr Somlyay was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

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

6 TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 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 Latham, 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 condemns the Government’s betrayal of election promises by its decision to:

- (1) change the tariff concession system so that businesses will have to pay higher taxes on a greater range of their inputs (raising \$300 million in revenue);
- (2) increase the Medicare levy;
- (3) limit the reduction in the uplift factor on provisional tax to 1996-97 alone;
- (4) levy a 15% superannuation surcharge;
- (5) increase tax collections in 1996-97 by \$8.6 billion or 4.5% in real terms and then a further \$7.8 billion or 3.4% in real terms in 1997-98; increase income tax on individuals by \$5,526 million or 9.1% (approximately 6.4% in real terms); increase tax revenue from 23.9% GDP in 1995-96 to 24.3% GDP in 1996-97; and
- (6) introduce major revenue measures in the 1996-97 Budget with net impact of \$979 million and further net impact of \$1,955 million in 1997-98 (costing each Australian taxpayer more than \$260)”—

Debate resumed.

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, 84

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

NOES, 43

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

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole.

Mr Rocher moved the following amendment: Schedule 5, page 99, item 1 (line 6), omit “\$100”, substitute “\$200”.

Debate continued.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

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

AYES, 47

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

NOES, 83

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

* Tellers

And so it was negatived.

Mr Latham moved the following amendment: Schedule 5, page 99 (lines 5 and 6), omit item 1, substitute the following items:

1 Paragraph 58P(1)(e)

Omit "small; and", substitute "less than the sum of \$100, adjusted, subject to paragraph (ea), in accordance with the deflator percentage;".

1A After paragraph 58P(1)(e)

Insert:

(ea) For the purposes of paragraph (e):

(i) the deflator percentage for a year is the annual percentage change in the implicit price deflator for

- Gross Non-farm Product to the June quarter in that year published by the Australian Statistician; and
- (ii) the sum must consist of whole dollars, with amounts ending in 49 cents or less rounded down to the nearest dollar and amounts ending in 50 cents or more being rounded up to the nearest dollar; and.

Debate continued.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

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

AYES, 43

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

NOES, 84

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

* Tellers

And so it was negatived.

Debate continued.

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.

7 FLAGS 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.

It being 2 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with the resolution agreed to on 21 August 1996, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

8 MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Mr Howard (Prime Minister) informed the House that, during the absence of Mr Anderson (Minister for Primary Industries and Energy), Mr Fischer (Minister for Trade) would answer questions on his behalf.

9 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice being asked—

Member ordered to withdraw: At 2.26 p.m. the Member for Hotham (Mr Crean) was ordered, under standing order 304A, to withdraw from the House for 1 hour for continuing to interject after a warning had been given from the Chair, and he accordingly withdrew from the Chamber.

Questions without notice continued.

10 AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT—PUBLICATION OF PAPER

The Speaker presented the following paper:

Audit Act—Auditor-General—Audit report No. 4 of 1996-97—Performance audit—Use of Justice Statement funds and financial position: Family Court of Australia.

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

- (1) this House authorises the publication of the Auditor-General's audit report No. 4 of 1996-97; and
- (2) the report be printed.

Question—put and passed.

11 PAPER

The Speaker presented the following paper:

Reserve Bank Act—Reserve Bank of Australia—Report for 1995-96.

12 PAPERS

The following papers were presented:

Community Affairs—Standing Committee—Report—A fair go for all: Report on migrant access and equity, 24 January 1996—Government response.

Higher Education Funding Act—Report detailing determinations made in 1995.
National Common Police Services—Australasian Police Ministers' Council—
Report for 1994-95.

Review of the regulatory regime for patent attorneys—Report to the Minister
for Science and Technology, June 1996.

Science and technology budget statement 1996-97.

**13 SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY BUDGET STATEMENT 1996-97—REPORT—
MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

Mr Reith (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the
following paper:

Science and technology budget statement 1996-97.

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

14 PAPERS

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

Petitions not in accord with standing and sessional orders of the House—

Support for proposed new gun laws (Mr Lee, 285 petitioners).

Support for continuing funding of the ABC (Mr McDougall, 22 petitioners).

Retention of triennial funding of the ABC (Mr M. A. J. Vaile, 6965 petitioners).

Support for Special Assistance Category Cambodia (Mr Ruddock, 160
petitioners).

15 SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

Mr Reith (Leader of the House) moved—That the House, at its rising, adjourn
until Monday, 9 September 1996, at 12.30 p.m., unless the Speaker fixes an
alternative day or hour of meeting.

Question—put and passed.

16 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—UNEMPLOYMENT

The House was informed that Mr G. J. Evans (Deputy Leader of the
Opposition) had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be
submitted to the House for discussion, namely, “The failure of the Government
in its Budget strategy to give priority to the reduction of unemployment and
support to the unemployed”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr G. J. Evans addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

17 FLAGS 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 Lee), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

18 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill without amendment:

22 August 1996—Message No. 59—National Firearms Program Implementation 1996.

19 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—EDUCATION SERVICES FOR OVERSEAS STUDENTS (REGISTRATION OF PROVIDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATION) AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 1) 1996

Message No. 60, dated 22 August 1996, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for an Act to amend the *Education Services for Overseas Students (Registration of Providers and Financial Regulation) Act 1991*.

Bill read a first time.

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

20 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—HEALTH AND OTHER SERVICES (COMPENSATION) AMENDMENT BILL 1996 [NO. 2]

Message No. 61, dated 22 August 1996, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for an Act to amend the *Health and Other Services (Compensation) Act 1995*.

Bill read a first time.

Mrs Moylan (Minister for Family Services) moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Paper: Mrs Moylan presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Debate, by leave, ensued.

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

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mrs Moylan, the Bill was read a third time.

21 POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY

Ordered—That order of the day No. 4, government business, be postponed until the next sitting.

22 FLAGS 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 (Dr Kemp—Minister for Schools, Vocational Education and Training), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

23 APPROPRIATION 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 Reith—Minister for Industrial Relations), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

24 ADJOURNMENT

Mr Reith (Leader of the House) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 7.59 p.m., adjourned until Monday, 9 September 1996, at 12.30 p.m., in accordance with the resolution agreed to this day.

PAPERS

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 22 August 1996:

Civil Aviation Act—Civil Aviation Regulations—Civil Aviation Orders—Exemptions—1996 Nos. 169/FRS/181/1996, 170/FRS/182/1996.

Lands Acquisition Act—Statement under section 40.

ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Anderson, Mr Downer, Mrs D. M. Kelly, Mr Melham, Mr Nugent, Mr Price, Mr Prosser and Mr Sercombe.

L. M. BARLIN

Clerk of the House of Representatives