

1996

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 34

THURSDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER 1996

1 The House met, at 9.30 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Acting Speaker (Mr Nehl) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

2 **SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS MOVED**

Mr Martin moved—That so much of the standing and sessional orders be suspended as would prevent the Member for Cunningham moving forthwith—That this House:

- (1) calls on the Members for Leichhardt, Capricornia, Dawson, Herbert and Hinkler to explain their opposition to the 500% increase in the reef tax;
- (2) endorses this opposition to the reef tax increase because:
  - (a) the 500% increase poses the greatest danger to the Queensland tourism industry since 1989;
  - (b) the increase in the reef tax will effectively bring about the destruction of the marine reef tour operators on the Great Barrier Reef;
  - (c) the 500% tax increase damages the credibility of both Prime Minister John Howard and the Government because they are breaching an election commitment not to raise taxes;
  - (d) the reef tax hike will cost tourism operators in Queensland millions of dollars and cause job losses;
  - (e) the Howard Government is using the tax hike as a crutch to reduce or stop funding to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority;
  - (f) without question, there will be job reductions, tourists will visit other destinations such as Indonesia, the Solomons, Guam and Hawaii and the impact of this decision on the business community where people in private enterprise are working on very tight margins and on minimum staff needs to be considered; and
- (3) calls on the Government to immediately abandon its plans to impose a 500% increase in the reef tax.

*Closure of Member:* Mr Reith (Leader of the House) moved—That the Member be not further heard.

Question—put.

The House divided (the Acting Speaker, Mr Nehl, in the Chair)—

AYES, 70

Mr Abbott	Mrs Draper	Mr McDougall	Mr Slipper
Mr J. N. Andrew	Mrs Elson	Mr McLachlan	Mr W. L. Smith
Mr K. J. Andrews	Mr Entsch	Mr Marek	Mr Somlyay
Mr Bailey	Mr R. D. C. Evans	Mr Miles	Dr Southcott
Mr R. C. Baldwin	Mrs Gallus	Mr Moore	Mrs Stone
Mr Barresi	Ms Gambaro	Mrs Moylan	Mr Taylor
Mr Bartlett	Mrs Gash	Mr Mutch	Mr A. P. Thomson
Mrs Bishop	Mr Georgiou	Mr Nairn	Mr Tuckey
Mr Bradford	Mrs E. J. Grace	Dr Nelson	Mr M. A. J. Vaile
Mr Broadbent	Mr Hardgrave	Mr Neville	Ms D. S. Vale
Mr Brough	Mr Hicks*	Mr Nugent	Mr Wakelin
Mr Cadman	Mr Hockey	Mr Prosser	Mrs West
Mr E. H. Cameron	Ms Jeanes	Mr Pyne	Mr Williams
Mr R. A. Cameron	Mrs Johnston	Mr Randall	Dr Wooldridge
Mr Charles	Mr Jull	Mr Reith	Ms Worth
Mr Cobb	Dr Kemp	Mr Ruddock	Mr Zammit
Mr Costello	Mr Lloyd	Mr Scott	
Mr Dondas	Mr McArthur*	Mr Sharp	

NOES, 34

Mr Adams	Mr E. L. Grace*	Mr Lee	Mr Quick
Mr Albanese	Mr Hatton	Mr McLeay	Mr Sawford*
Mr P. J. Baldwin	Mr Hollis	Mr Martin	Mr Sercombe
Mr Beddall	Mr Jenkins	Mr A. A. Morris	Mr S. F. Smith
Mr Bevis	Mr Jones	Mr P. F. Morris	Mr Tanner
Mr Crean	Mr Kerr	Mr Mossfield	Mr K. J. Thomson
Mr G. J. Evans	Mr Langmore	Mr O'Connor	Mr Wilton
Mr M. J. Evans	Mr Latham	Mr O'Keefe	
Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Dr Lawrence	Mr Price	

\* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Mr Bevis (seconder) addressing the House—

*Closure of Member:* Mr Jull (Minister for Administrative Services) moved—  
That the Member be not further heard.

Question—put.

The House divided (the Acting Speaker, Mr Nehl, in the Chair)—

AYES, 72

Mr Abbott	Mr Dondas	Mr McArthur*	Mr Sharp
Mr J. N. Andrew	Mrs Draper	Mr McDougall	Mr Slipper
Mr K. J. Andrews	Mrs Elson	Mr McLachlan	Mr A. C. Smith
Mrs Bailey	Mr Entsch	Mr Marek	Mr W. L. Smith
Mr R. C. Baldwin	Mr R. D. C. Evans	Mr Miles	Mr Somlyay
Mr Barresi	Mrs Gallus	Mr Moore	Dr Southcott
Mr Bartlett	Ms Gambaro	Mrs Moylan	Mrs Stone
Mr Billson	Mrs Gash	Mr Mutch	Mr Taylor
Mrs Bishop	Mr Georgiou	Mr Nairn	Mr A. P. Thomson
Mr Bradford	Mrs E. J. Grace	Dr Nelson	Mr Tuckey
Mr Broadbent	Mr Hardgrave	Mr Neville	Mr M. A. J. Vaile
Mr Brough	Mr Hicks*	Mr Nugent	Ms D. S. Vale
Mr Cadman	Mr Hockey	Mr Prosser	Mr Wakelin
Mr E. H. Cameron	Ms Jeanes	Mr Pyne	Mrs West
Mr R. A. Cameron	Mrs Johnston	Mr Randall	Mr Williams
Mr Charles	Mr Jull	Mr Reith	Dr Wooldridge
Mr Cobb	Dr Kemp	Mr Ruddock	Ms Worth
Mr Costello	Mr Lloyd	Mr Scott	Mr Zammit

NOES, 34

Mr Adams	Mr E. L. Grace*	Mr Lee	Mr Quick
Mr Albanese	Mr Hatton	Mr McLeay	Mr Sawford*
Mr P. J. Baldwin	Mr Hollis	Mr Martin	Mr Sercombe
Mr Beddall	Mr Jenkins	Mr A. A. Morris	Mr S. F. Smith
Mr Bevis	Mr Jones	Mr P. F. Morris	Mr Tanner
Mr Crean	Mr Kerr	Mr Mossfield	Mr K. J. Thomson
Mr G. J. Evans	Mr Langmore	Mr O'Connor	Mr Wilton
Mr M. J. Evans	Mr Latham	Mr O'Keefe	
Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Dr Lawrence	Mr Price	

\* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the motion for the suspension of standing and sessional orders be agreed to—put.

The House divided (the Acting Speaker, Mr Nehl, in the Chair)—

## AYES, 34

Mr Adams	Mr E. L. Grace*	Mr Lee	Mr Quick
Mr Albanese	Mr Hatton	Mr McLeay	Mr Sawford*
Mr P. J. Baldwin	Mr Hollis	Mr Martin	Mr Sercombe
Mr Beddall	Mr Jenkins	Mr A. A. Morris	Mr S. F. Smith
Mr Bevis	Mr Jones	Mr P. F. Morris	Mr Tanner
Mr Crean	Mr Kerr	Mr Mossfield	Mr K. J. Thomson
Mr G. J. Evans	Mr Langmore	Mr O'Connor	Mr Wilton
Mr M. J. Evans	Mr Latham	Mr O'Keefe	
Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Dr Lawrence	Mr Price	

## NOES, 74

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

\* Tellers

And so it was negatived.

**3 PUBLIC WORKS—PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORKS—DEVELOPMENT OF FACILITIES FOR ARMY LOGISTICS TRAINING CENTRE AND BANDIANA LOGISTICS GROUP AT BANDIANA AND BONEGILLA, VIC.**

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 works be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for consideration and report: Development of facilities for the Army Logistics Training Centre and the Bandiana Logistics Group at Bandiana and Bonegilla, Vic.

Question—put and passed.

**4 LEAVE OF HOUSE FOR PRODUCTION OF RECORDS IN COURT PROCEEDINGS**

Mr Reith (Leader of the House), pursuant to notice, moved—That the House grants leave for the following submissions received by the Standing Committee on Primary Industries, Resources and Rural and Regional Affairs to be adduced in evidence in proceedings before the Federal Court of Australia:

- (1) submission from Mr O. Harasymiw, dated 21 August 1996;
- (2) submission from Dr G. L. Kesteven, dated 26 August 1996.

Question—put and passed.

**5 SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT**

Mr Reith (Leader of the House) moved—That the House, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday, 8 October 1996, at 2 p.m., unless the Speaker fixes an alternative day or hour of meeting.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

**6 STATES GRANTS (GENERAL PURPOSES) 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 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:

- (1) condemns the Government’s mishandling of the Premiers’ Conference;
- (2) notes with concern the impact this Bill will have on reduced State Government services and/or higher State taxes;
- (3) condemns the Government’s breach of its promise, given before and after the election, that State general revenue assistance would not be cut; and
- (4) condemns the Government’s cuts to public hospitals implicit in this Bill (around \$450 million) and explicit in the 1996 Budget (\$312 million)”—

Debate resumed.

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

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

## AYES, 76

Mr Anderson	Mrs Draper	Mr Lloyd	Mr Scott
Mr J. N. Andrew	Mr Elson	Mr McArthur*	Mr Sharp
Mr K. J. Andrews	Mr Entsch	Mr McDougall	Mr Slipper
Mr Anthony	Mr R. D. C. Evans	Mr McGauran	Mr A. C. Smith
Mrs Bailey	Mr Filing	Mr McLachlan	Mr W. L. Smith
Mr R. C. Baldwin	Mrs Gallus	Mr Marek	Mr Somlyay
Mr Barresi	Ms Gambaro	Mr Miles	Dr Southcott
Mr Bartlett	Mrs Gash	Mr Moore	Mrs Stone
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 Tuckey
Mr Broadbent	Mr Hicks*	Dr Nelson	Mr M. A. J. Vaile
Mr Brough	Mr Hockey	Mr Neville	Ms D. S. Vale
Mr Cadman	Ms Jeanes	Mr Nugent	Mr Wakelin
Mr E. H. Cameron	Mrs Johnston	Mr Prosser	Mrs West
Mr R. A. Cameron	Mr Jull	Mr Pyne	Mr Williams
Mr Causley	Mr Katter	Mr Randall	Dr Wooldridge
Mr Charles	Dr Kemp	Mr Reith	Ms Worth
Mr Dondas	Mr Lindsay	Mr Ruddock	Mr Zammit

## NOES, 33

Mr Adams	Mr E. L. Grace*	Mr McLeay	Mr Sawford*
Mr Albanese	Mr Hatton	Mr Martin	Mr Sercombe
Mr P. J. Baldwin	Mr Hollis	Mr Melham	Mr S. F. Smith
Mr Beddall	Mr Jones	Mr P. F. Morris	Mr Tanner
Mr Bevis	Mr Kerr	Mr Mossfield	Mr K. J. Thomson
Mr Crean	Mr Langmore	Mr O'Connor	Mr Wilton
Mr G. J. Evans	Mr Latham	Mr O'Keefe	
Mr M. J. Evans	Dr Lawrence	Mr Price	
Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Mr Lee	Mr Quick	

\* 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.

*Message from the Governor-General:* Message No. 43, dated 17 September 1996, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation for the purposes of the Bill.

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.

## 7 INCOME TAX RATES AMENDMENT (FAMILY TAX INITIATIVE) 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 by Mr G. J. Evans (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) 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:

- (1) notes that only a limited proportion of family types receive the full benefits of the so-called Family Tax Initiative;
- (2) expresses its concerns that other Budget measures leave the average Australian family substantially worse off;
- (3) notes with concern that the Government is only returning to PAYE taxpayers a small proportion of bracket creep/fiscal drag revenue collections via this Bill; and
- (4) expresses its concern that this and other Budget-related measures have established very high effective marginal tax rates for non-working parents returning to the workforce”.

Debate continued.

It being 2 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 a later hour this day.

## 8 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

## 9 SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS MOVED

Mr Martin moved—That so much of the standing and sessional orders be suspended as would prevent the Member for Cunningham moving forthwith—That this House censures the Government for its failure to address the problems of the Queensland tourism industry, and:

- (1) notes the vocal opposition in their own electorates of the Members for Leichhardt, Capricornia, Dawson, Herbert and Hinkler to the 500% increase in the reef tax;
- (2) endorses the opposition to the Government’s massive reef tax increase because:
  - (a) the 500% increase poses the greatest danger to the Queensland tourism industry ever;
  - (b) the increase in the reef tax will effectively bring about the destruction of the marine reef tour operators on the Great Barrier Reef;
  - (c) the 500% tax increase damages the credibility of both Prime Minister John Howard and the Government because they are breaching an election commitment not to raise taxes;
  - (d) the reef tax hike will cost tourism operators in Queensland millions of dollars and cause job losses;
  - (e) the Howard Government is using the tax hike as a crutch to reduce or stop funding to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority;
  - (f) without question, there will be job reductions, tourists will visit other destinations such as Indonesia, the Solomons, Guam and Hawaii and

the impact of this decision on the business community where people in private enterprise are working on very tight margins and on minimum staff needs to be considered;

- (3) condemns the Government for this very bad policy decision which will cause so much damage to the Queensland tourism industry and cost jobs; and
- (4) calls on the Government to abandon immediately its plans to impose a 500% increase of the reef tax.

*Closure of Member:* Mr McGauran (Minister for Science and Technology) moved—That the Member be not further heard.

Question—put.

The House divided (the Acting Speaker, Mr Nehl, in the Chair)—

AYES, 76

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

NOES, 36

Mr Adams	Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Dr Lawrence	Mr O'Keefe
Mr Albanese	Mr E. L. Grace*	Mr Lee	Mr Price
Mr P. J. Baldwin	Mr Hatton	Mr McLeay	Mr Quick
Mr Beazley	Mr Hollis	Mr Martin	Mr Sawford*
Mr Beddall	Mr Jenkins	Mr Melham	Mr Sercombe
Mr Bevis	Mr Jones	Mr A. A. Morris	Mr S. F. Smith
Mr Crean	Mr Kerr	Mr P. F. Morris	Mr Tanner
Mr G. J. Evans	Mr Langmore	Mr Mossfield	Mr K. J. Thomson
Mr M. J. Evans	Mr Latham	Mr O'Connor	Mr Wilton

\* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Mr Bevis (seconder) addressing the House—



*Closure of Member:* Mr McGauran moved—That the Member be not further heard.

Question—put.

The House divided (the Acting Speaker, Mr Nehl, in the Chair)—

AYES, 75

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

NOES, 35

Mr Adams	Mr E. L. Grace*	Mr Lee	Mr Price
Mr Albanese	Mr Hatton	Mr McLeay	Mr Quick
Mr P. J. Baldwin	Mr Hollis	Mr Martin	Mr Sawford*
Mr Beazley	Mr Jenkins	Mr Melham	Mr Sercombe
Mr Beddall	Mr Jones	Mr A. A. Morris	Mr S. F. Smith
Mr Bevis	Mr Kerr	Mr P. F. Morris	Mr Tanner
Mr Crean	Mr Langmore	Mr Mossfield	Mr K. J. Thomson
Mr M. J. Evans	Mr Latham	Mr O'Connor	Mr Wilton
Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Dr Lawrence	Mr O'Keefe	

\* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Mr Reith (Leader of the House) addressing the House—

*Closure of Member:* Mr Lee moved—That the Member be not further heard.

Question—put and passed.

*Closure:* Mr Reith moved—That the question be now put.

Question—That the question be now put—put.

The House divided (the Acting Speaker, Mr Nehl, in the Chair)—

## AYES, 73

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

## NOES, 36

Mr Adams	Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Dr Lawrence	Mr O'Keefe
Mr Albanese	Mr E. L. Grace*	Mr Lee	Mr Price
Mr P. J. Baldwin	Mr Hatton	Mr McLeay	Mr Quick
Mr Beazley	Mr Hollis	Mr Martin	Mr Sawford*
Mr Beddall	Mr Jenkins	Mr Melham	Mr Sercombe
Mr Bevis	Mr Jones	Mr A. A. Morris	Mr S. F. Smith
Mr Crean	Mr Kerr	Mr P. F. Morris	Mr Tanner
Mr G. J. Evans	Mr Langmore	Mr Mossfield	Mr K. J. Thomson
Mr M. J. Evans	Mr Latham	Mr O'Connor	Mr Wilton

\* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

And the question—That the motion for the suspension of standing and sessional orders be agreed to—being accordingly put—

The House divided (the Acting Speaker, Mr Nehl, in the Chair)—

## AYES, 36

Mr Adams	Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Dr Lawrence	Mr O'Keefe
Mr Albanese	Mr E. L. Grace*	Mr Lee	Mr Price
Mr P. J. Baldwin	Mr Hatton	Mr McLeay	Mr Quick
Mr Beazley	Mr Hollis	Mr Martin	Mr Sawford*
Mr Beddall	Mr Jenkins	Mr Melham	Mr Sercombe
Mr Bevis	Mr Jones	Mr A. A. Morris	Mr S. F. Smith
Mr Crean	Mr Kerr	Mr P. F. Morris	Mr Tanner
Mr G. J. Evans	Mr Langmore	Mr Mossfield	Mr K. J. Thomson
Mr M. J. Evans	Mr Latham	Mr O'Connor	Mr Wilton

## NOES, 74

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

\* Tellers

And so it was negated.

**10 PAPERS**

The following papers were presented:

Australian Government's international human rights policy and activities for period 1 January 1994 to 31 December 1995—Submission by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, September 1996.

Primary Industry Councils Act—Australian Pig Industry Council—Report for 1995-96.

**11 REFERENCE OF REPORT TO JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE**

Mr Reith (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That the Australian Government's international human rights policy and activities for period 1 January 1994 to 31 December 1995—Submission by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, be referred to the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade.

Question—put and passed.

**12 PAPERS**

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

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

Opposition to Holsworthy as Sydney's second international airport (Mr Beazley, 47 petitioners).

Opposition to the proposed airport at Holsworthy (Mr Beazley, 203 petitioners).

Support for continuing operational subsidy to non-profit children's services (Mr Beazley, 65 petitioners).

Objection to any reduction in Federal Government funding to children's services (Mr Beazley, 6 petitioners).

Opposition to the proposed removal of operational assistance from family day care and recommendation for consultation on any changes to child care funding (Mr Beazley, 12 petitioners).

Request for maintenance of the family day care scheme in its present form (Mr Beazley, 38 petitioners).

Request to the Federal Government not to cut funding to children's services (Mr Beazley, 54 petitioners).

Request for maintenance of the current system of children's services funding (Mr Beazley, 44 petitioners).

Request to reconsider the cuts to operational funding of the family day care scheme (Mr Beazley, 533 petitioners).

Opposition to cuts to community based child care services (Mr Beazley, 695 petitioners).

Changes to operational subsidy and child care assistance (Mr Beazley, 106 petitioners).

Opposition to proposed cuts to child care services (Mr Beazley, 31 petitioners).

Support for a total international ban on landmines (Mr Beazley, 49 petitioners).

Support for gun control (Mr Beazley, 32 petitioners).

Support for gun reform (Mr Beazley, 53 petitioners).

Support for gun control (Mr Beazley, 46 petitioners).

Support for banning of possession of automatic and semi-automatic guns in Australia (Mr Beazley, 37 petitioners).

Support for gun control (Mr Beazley, 73 petitioners).

Support for control of ownership of assault firearms and the escalation of violence in our nation (Mr Beazley, 30 petitioners).

Request for stringent laws for the ownership and use of firearms (Mr Beazley, 2410 petitioners).

Support for triennial funding and services of the ABC (Mr Nehl, 52 petitioners).

Request for consideration of the ramifications of the Industrial Relations Bill (Mr Reith, 18 petitioners).

Support for gun control (Mr Nugent, 414 petitioners).

### **13 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—INDUSTRIAL ACTION BY TRADE UNIONS**

The House was informed that both Mr R. A. Cameron and Mr Martin had proposed that definite matters of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion today. In accordance with the provisions of standing order 107, the Acting Speaker had given priority to the matter proposed by Mr R. A. Cameron, namely, "The urgent need for the Government to take measures to alleviate the substantial damage being suffered by the Australian economy as a result of irresponsible industrial action by trade unions".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr R. A. Cameron addressing the House—

*Closure of Member moved:* Mr McLeay moved—That the Member be not further heard.

Question—put.

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

AYES, 31

Mr Albanese	Mr E. L. Grace*	Mr Martin	Mr Quick
Mr P. J. Baldwin	Mr Hatton	Mr Melham	Mr Sawford*
Mr Beddall	Mr Hollis	Mr A. A. Morris	Mr Sercombe
Mr Bevis	Mr Kerr	Mr P. F. Morris	Mr S. F. Smith
Mr Crean	Mr Langmore	Mr Mossfield	Mr Tanner
Mr G. J. Evans	Dr Lawrence	Mr O'Connor	Mr K. J. Thomson
Mr M. J. Evans	Mr Lee	Mr O'Keefe	Mr Wilton
Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Mr McLeay	Mr Price	

NOES, 72

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

\* Tellers

And so it was negated.

Mr R. A. Cameron continued his speech.

Mr Reith (Leader of the House) moved—That Mr R. A. Cameron be granted an extension of time.

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

## AYES, 70

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

## NOES, 30

Mr Adams	Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Mr McLeay	Mr Quick
Mr Albanese	Mr E. L. Grace*	Mr Melham	Mr Sawford*
Mr P. J. Baldwin	Mr Hatton	Mr A. A. Morris	Mr Sercombe
Mr Beddall	Mr Hollis	Mr P. F. Morris	Mr Tanner
Mr Bevis	Mr Kerr	Mr Mossfield	Mr K. J. Thomson
Mr Crean	Mr Langmore	Mr O'Connor	Mr Wilton
Mr G. J. Evans	Dr Lawrence	Mr O'Keefe	
Mr M. J. Evans	Mr Lee	Mr Price	

## \* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Mr R. A. Cameron continued his speech.

Mr Reith moved—That the business of the day be called on.

Question—put.

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

## AYES, 69

Mr Anderson	Mrs Elson	Mr McArthur*	Mr A. C. Smith
Mr J. N. Andrew	Mr Entsch	Mr McDougall	Mr Somlyay
Mr K. J. Andrews	Mr R. D. C. Evans	Mr Marek	Dr Southcott
Mr Anthony	Mr Fahey	Mr Miles	Mrs Stone
Mrs Bailey	Mrs Gallus	Mr Moore	Mr Taylor
Mr R. C. Baldwin	Ms Gambaro	Mrs Moylan	Mr A. P. Thomson
Mr Barresi	Mrs Gash	Mr Mutch	Mr Tuckey
Mr Bartlett	Mr Georgiou	Mr Nairn	Mr M. A. J. Vaile
Mr Billson	Mrs E. J. Grace	Dr Nelson	Ms D. S. Vale
Mrs Bishop	Mr Hardgrave	Mr Neville	Mr Wakelin
Mr Brough	Mr Hicks*	Mr Prosser	Mrs West
Mr Cadman	Mr Hockey	Mr Pyne	Mr Williams
Mr E. H. Cameron	Ms Jeanes	Mr Randall	Dr Wooldridge
Mr R. A. Cameron	Mrs Johnston	Mr Reith	Ms Worth
Mr Causley	Mr Jull	Mr Ruddock	Mr Zammit
Mr Charles	Mr Katter	Mr Scott	
Mr Cobb	Mr Lindsay	Mr Sharp	
Mrs Draper	Mr Lloyd	Mr Slipper	

## NOES, 29

Mr Adams	Mr Hatton	Mr Melham	Mr Sawford*
Mr Albanese	Mr Hollis	Mr A. A. Morris	Mr Sercombe
Mr Beddall	Mr Kerr	Mr P. F. Morris	Mr Tanner
Mr Bevis	Mr Langmore	Mr Mossfield	Mr K. J. Thomson
Mr Crean	Dr Lawrence	Mr O'Connor	Mr Wilton
Mr M. J. Evans	Mr Lee	Mr O'Keefe	
Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Mr McLeay	Mr Price	
Mr E. L. Grace*	Mr Martin	Mr Quick	

\* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

**14 PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE—2ND REPORT**

Mr R. D. C. Evans presented the following paper:

**PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE 2ND REPORT**

The Publications Committee reports that it has met in conference with the Publications Committee of the Senate.

The Committee, having considered petitions and documents presented to the Parliament since 26th June 1996, recommends that the following be printed:

Australian Land Transport Development Act—Australian Land Transport Development Program—Progress report for 1994-95.

Australian Security Intelligence Organization Act—Security Appeals Tribunal—Report period 1 July to 16 December 1995 (Final report).

Defence Act—Army and Air Force Canteen Service Regulations—Army and Air Force Canteen Service Board of Management—Report for period 30 January 1995 to 29 January 1996.

Defence Force Discipline Act—Judge Advocate General—Reports for 1995.

Finance—Advance to the Minister for Finance—Statement of heads of expenditure and the amounts charged thereto pursuant to section 36A of the *Audit Act 1901*, for the year ended 30 June 1996.

Higher Education Funding Act—Report for 1995 detailing determinations made under the Act.

Horticultural Policy Council Act—Horticultural Policy Council—Report for 1995-96 (Final report).

Industry Commission Act—Industry Commission—Report No. 51—The pharmaceutical industry—

Volume 1—Report.

Volume 2—Appendices.

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

Science and Technology Budget Statement 1996-97.

Telecommunications (Interception) Act—Report for 1994-95.

R. D. C. EVANS

19 September 1996

Mr R. D. C. Evans, by leave, moved—That the report be agreed to.

Question—put and passed.

#### 15 POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY

Ordered—That order of the day No. 3, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.

#### 16 BOUNTY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1996

Mr Prosser (Minister for Small Business and Consumer Affairs), for Mr Moore (Minister for Industry, Science and Tourism), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Bounty (Books) Act 1986*, the *Bounty (Companies) Act 1984*, the *Bounty (Machine Tools and Robots) Act 1985* and the *Bounty (Ships) Act 1989*.

Bill read a first time.

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

*Paper:* Mr Prosser presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

#### 17 CFM SALE BILL 1996

Mr Fahey (Minister for Finance), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act relating to the sale of Commonwealth Funds Management Limited, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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



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*Absence of quorum:* Mr Albanese called the attention of the Deputy Speaker to the fact that a quorum of Members was not present.

The bells having been rung, and a quorum not having been obtained within the prescribed time, the Deputy Speaker at 5.15 p.m., in accordance with standing order 45, announced that the Chair would be resumed at 5.20 p.m.

At 5.20 p.m., the Acting Deputy Speaker resumed the Chair, and a quorum of Members was present.

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Mr Fahey completed his second reading speech.

*Paper:* Mr Fahey presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

#### 18 STATES GRANTS (PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ASSISTANCE) BILL 1996

Mr Reith (Minister for Industrial Relations), for Dr Kemp (Minister for Schools, Vocational Education and Training), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to grant financial assistance to the States, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory to maintain stability in funding for the 1997-2000 quadrennium for primary and secondary education, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Reith moving—That the Bill be now read a second time—

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*Adjournment negatived:* It being 5.30 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

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

Question—put and negatived.

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Mr Reith continuing his speech—

*Closure of Member moved:* Mr McLeay moved—That the Member be not further heard.

Question—put.

The House divided (the Acting Speaker, Mr Nehl, in the Chair)—

## AYES, 32

Mr Adams	Mr E. L. Grace*	Dr Lawrence	Mr O'Connor
Mr Albanese	Mr Hatton	Mr Lee	Mr O'Keefe
Mr P. J. Baldwin	Mr Hollis	Mr McLeay	Mr Price
Mr Beddall	Mr Jenkins	Mr Martin	Mr Quick
Mr Bevis	Mr Jones	Mr Melham	Mr Sawford*
Mr Crean	Mr Kerr	Mr A. A. Morris	Mr Tanner
Mr M. J. Evans	Mr Langmore	Mr P. F. Morris	Mr K. J. Thomson
Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Mr Latham	Mr Mossfield	Mr Wilton

## NOES, 67

Mr J. N. Andrew	Mrs Elson	Mr Lloyd	Mr Slipper
Mr K. J. Andrews	Mr Entsch	Mr McArthur*	Mr A. C. Smith
Mr Anthony	Mr R. D. C. Evans	Mr McDougall	Mr W. L. Smith
Mrs Bailey	Mr Fahey	Mr Marek	Mr Somlyay
Mr R. C. Baldwin	Mrs Gallus	Mr Miles	Dr Southcott
Mr Barresi	Ms Gambaro	Mrs Moylan	Mrs Stone
Mr Bartlett	Mrs Gash	Mr Mutch	Mr Taylor
Mr Billson	Mr Georgiou	Mr Nairn	Mr A. P. Thomson
Mrs Bishop	Mrs E. J. Grace	Dr Nelson	Mr M. A. J. Vaile
Mr Brough	Mr Hardgrave	Mr Neville	Ms D. S. Vale
Mr Cadman	Mr Hicks*	Mr Nugent	Mr Wakelin
Mr E. H. Cameron	Mr Hockey	Mr Pyne	Mrs West
Mr R. A. Cameron	Ms Jeanes	Mr Randall	Mr Williams
Mr Causley	Mrs Johnston	Mr Reith	Dr Wooldridge
Mr Charles	Mr Jull	Mr Ruddock	Ms Worth
Mr Cobb	Mr Katter	Mr Scott	Mr Zammit
Mrs Draper	Mr Lindsay	Mr Sharp	

\* Tellers

And so it was negated.

Mr Reith concluded his speech.

*Paper:* Mr Reith presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

## 19 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 6 p.m.—The Acting Speaker adjourned the House until Tuesday, 8 October, at 2 p.m., in accordance with the resolution agreed to this day.

**ATTENDANCE**

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Brereton, Mr Brown, Mrs Crosio, Mr Downer, Ms Ellis, Mr M. J. Ferguson, Mr Fitzgibbon, Mr Forrest, Mr Griffin, Mr Halverson, Ms Hanson, Mr Hawker, Mr Holding, Mr Howard, Mrs D. M. Kelly, Mr Lieberman, Mr McClelland, Ms Macklin, Mr McMullan, Mr Reid, Mr Ronaldson, Mr Sinclair, Mrs Sullivan, Dr Theophanous and Mr Truss.

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**I. C. HARRIS**  
Acting Clerk of the House of Representatives

1996

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**SUPPLEMENT TO VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS**

No. 34

**MAIN COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**THURSDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER 1996**

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1 Due to a division having been called in the House, the Main Committee met at 10.10 a.m.

**2 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1996-97—BUDGET DEBATE**

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 G. J. Evans (Deputy Leader of the Opposition), 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 notes that:*

- (1) the Budget betrays the Australian promise of working towards a more fair, just, inclusive and united society;
- (2) the Budget is both mindless and heartless, and its prescriptions are not what the Australian economy needs at present;
- (3) the Budget will have a savagely contractionary impact on economic growth and make impossible the job creation necessary to reduce Australia’s still unacceptably high level of unemployment;
- (4) with stronger economic growth the Budget could be restored to underlying balance over the life of this Parliament through a much more moderate program of fiscal consolidation;
- (5) the spending cuts and tax increases contained in the Budget are, on the evidence of the Government’s own Budget Papers, not necessary to reduce the Commonwealth Government’s debt-to-GDP ratio and will not produce a significant improvement in the current account deficit;
- (6) the Budget not only offers no hope to the unemployed but actively harms their prospects of finding a job by cutting labour market programs and privatising the previously publicly provided employment service function of the CES;

- (7) the Budget will have unfair and unjust consequences for the struggling and disadvantaged in our midst—the poor, the old, the sick, indigenous Australians and newly-arrived migrants;
- (8) the many spending cuts concerned with education and training, research and development, trade development (including breaches of promise with respect to EMDG, ITES and IAMP), production bounties, and other business support, will be counter-productive in their longer term consequences;
- (9) there is deception involved in the family tax package contained in the Budget, whereby what the Prime Minister appears to be putting into one pocket is for most middle Australian families being taken right out of the other by the Treasurer in higher education fees, Austudy changes, higher nursing home charges, higher fees and charges;
- (10) there are many breaches of Coalition election promises contained in this Budget, which amount to over \$17 billion over four years, and which will cause hardship, insecurity and dismay for millions of Australians;
- (11) the Budget involves a massive betrayal of regional Australia through the abolition of the \$150 million regional development program, large cuts to road funding, the closure of regional Government offices such as Medicare and CES offices, and the cuts to the ABC and university funding;
- (12) the mean-spirited decision to introduce large, up-front entry fees and massively increased daily fees for nursing homes, and increase user-charges will harm elderly Australians;
- (13) the abolition of Childcare Operational Subsidies will impact heavily upon community based child care centres;
- (14) the reduction of \$800 million over four years in public hospital funding will cause longer waiting lists for the sick and reduce the quality of hospital and medical assistance for millions of people;
- (15) the Budget involves a breaking of the Government's so called 'core' commitment to maintain Medicare in its entirety through cuts to rebates for numerous items under Medicare;
- (16) the cruel decision to abolish the Commonwealth Dental Health Programme will cause serious problems for the less well off;
- (17) harsh and promise-breaking decisions will force Australian families to pay substantially more for the cost of their prescription medicines;
- (18) the massive funding cuts to education, the increased HECS charges and AUSTUDY changes will penalise the less well-off;
- (19) the Budget's comprehensive and ideological assault on the public sector will cost 10 500 jobs in 1996-97 alone;
- (20) the Government has failed to honour its election commitment to maintain the environment budget and to provide an additional \$84 million in the

- 1996-97 Budget, instead cutting by 13 per cent the environmental budget and forward estimates;
- (21) the reckless decision to reduce funding for the National Highway by \$622 million over four years, breaches a clear Coalition election commitment at the 1996 election, and with other decisions will reduce the level of public infrastructure investment, especially in regional Australia;
  - (22) the decision to impose a 500 per cent increase in the taxation arrangements for visits to the Great Barrier Reef will discourage tourism and cost jobs in Queensland;
  - (23) the Government has failed to honour its promise to not cut Australia's foreign aid beyond the election commitment to abolish the DIFF program, and in doing so will allow the estimated ODA/GDP ratio for Australia in 1996-97 to fall to 0.29 per cent;
  - (24) the Government has failed to honour its election promise that Defence expenditure would not be cut, whilst cutting \$165 million from the 1995 Defence Budget estimates for 1996-97, and reducing Defence expenditure as a percentage of GDP to its lowest level since 1939;
  - (25) the mean-spirited and discriminatory approach to migrants and ethnic communities will harm outworkers, hurt newly-arrived migrants and refugees, cut humanitarian aid and penalise asylum seekers;
  - (26) the substantial cuts to ATSIC and to indigenous-related Commonwealth programs represent a massive setback to the process of reconciliation in Australia;
  - (27) the savage cuts to the ABC, of \$209 million over four years, are in complete breach of the Coalition's solemn election promise to maintain existing levels of Commonwealth funding to the ABC;
  - (28) the Budget has failed to honour the promise to maintain levels of arts funding and spend an additional \$60 million over three years; and
  - (29) the Government's plan to substantially increase Commonwealth court and tribunal fees, coupled with deep cuts to legal aid, will result in a severe curtailment of access to justice by many Australians"—

Debate resumed.

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*Suspension of sitting:* At 11.19 a.m., a division having been called in the House, the proceedings were suspended.

*Resumption of sitting:* At 11.34 a.m., the proceedings were resumed.

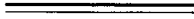
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Debate continued.

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

**3 ADJOURNMENT**

On the motion of Mr M. A. J. Vaile, the Main Committee adjourned at 1.32 p.m. The Acting Deputy Speaker fixed Tuesday, 8 October 1996, at 4.30 p.m., for the next meeting of the Main Committee.



**B. C. WRIGHT**  
Clerk of the Main Committee