

1996

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 38

MONDAY, 14 OCTOBER 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 TREATIES—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

Mr Taylor (Chair) presented the following papers:

Treaties—Joint Standing Committee—2nd Report—Treaties tabled on 10 and 11 September 1996—

Report, October 1996.

Evidence received by the committee.

Minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Mr Taylor, Mr L. D. T. Ferguson, Mr Bartlett, Mr Adams and Mr A. C. Smith made statements in connection with the report.

Mr Taylor moved—That the House take note of the report.

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

In accordance with standing order 102B, the debate was adjourned and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

3 AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Mr Nugent presented the following paper:

Australian Parliamentary Delegation to the 42nd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, August 1996—Report, 14 October 1996.

Mr Nugent and Mr Price made statements in connection with the report.

4 HONG KONG

Mr Sinclair, for Mr Tuckey, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House wishes the visiting Members of the Hong Kong Legislative Council the very best in

their endeavours to continue the democratic process in Hong Kong after their unification with China next year.

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.

5 UNIFORM TRANSPORT CONCESSION RULES

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

- (1) notes that arrangements under which pensioners and other concession card holders can use public transport concession cards outside their home State vary considerably from State to State;
- (2) acknowledges that this causes considerable confusion and embarrassment, particularly when card holders innocently seek concessions to which they are not entitled; and
- (3) calls on the Australian Government and all State and Territory Governments to develop a uniform reciprocal rights arrangement which ensures that transport concession rules are the same for pensioners and other concession card holders across Australia.

It being 1.45 p.m., the speech was interrupted in accordance with standing order 106A, and Mr Tanner was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

6 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Members' statements were made.

7 MINISTRY AND MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS—PAPER

Mr Howard (Prime Minister) informed the House that, following the resignation on 13 October 1996 of Senator Short (Assistant Treasurer), Senator Kemp had been appointed Assistant Treasurer.

Mr Howard also informed the House that Mr Ronaldson had been appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Transport and Regional Development and Senator Tambling had been appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Social Security. Mr Howard presented the following paper:

Howard Ministry, 14 October 1996.

Mr Howard further informed the House that, during the absence of Dr Kemp (Minister for Schools, Vocational Education and Training), Mr McGauran (Minister for Science and Technology) would answer questions on his behalf.

8 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice being asked—

Paper: Mr Costello (Treasurer) presented the following paper:

Pecuniary interests—Article from the *Herald Sun* entitled "Politicians declare pecuniary interests", 26 June 1996.

Questions without notice continued.

Paper: Mr Costello presented the following paper:

Pecuniary interests—Copy of transcript of interview with Gareth Evans, MP, 12 October 1996.

Questions without notice continued.

9 PETITIONS

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

Mr Albanese, from 175 families and friends of the Betty Spears Child Care Centre, Tempe, NSW; Mr Hockey, from 89 families and friends of Kelly's Place Children's Centre, NSW; Mr McMullan, from 48 families and friends of the Campbell Street Children's Centre, Queanbeyan, NSW; and Mr P. F. Morris, from 111 families and friends of the Belmont Community Child Care Centre, Belmont, NSW, respectively, praying that operational subsidies to community based long day care centres be retained.

Mr Andren, Mr Bevis, Mrs E. J. Grace and Mr Lindsay, from 80, 78, 179 and 24 residents of Queensland, respectively, praying that legislation that would impact upon existing quality, affordable child care not be passed.

Mr Bevis and Mr Entsch, from 17 and 123 petitioners, respectively, in similar terms.

Mr Crean, Mr Jones, Mr Miles and Mr K. J. Thomson, from 164, 135, 30 and 1439 petitioners, respectively, praying that Betaferon be made available as a subsidised drug.

Mr Jones, from 2225 petitioners, in similar terms.

Mr Andren, Mr Barresi and Mr McDougall, from 17, 41 and 21 petitioners, respectively, praying that certain moves to tighten gun laws be supported.

Mr Albanese and Mr Latham, each from 40 residents of New South Wales, praying that the practice of issuing provider numbers only to certain medical practitioners be opposed.

Mr Marek and Mr Neville, from 200 and 288 petitioners, respectively, praying that certain reforms to the Child Support Scheme be implemented.

Mr Abbott, from 302 petitioners, praying that users of cardiac rehabilitation services be re-imbursed for fees paid in connection with these services.

Mr Abbott, from 214 petitioners, praying that the current level of funding to the ABC be maintained.

Mr Albanese, from 153 residents of New South Wales, praying that funding cuts to the Home and Community Care Program be reversed.

Mr Albanese, from 15 residents of the Canterbury City Council area, NSW, praying that the six mile limit on departures from Sydney (Kingsford-Smith) Airport over residential areas be reinstated and construction of a second airport be proceeded with urgently.

Mr Andren, from 159 residents of NSW, praying that the use of landmines be opposed.

Mr Andren, from 35 electors of the Division of Rankin, praying that the operational subsidy remain for community based child care centres and certain other action be taken in relation to child care.

Mrs Sullivan, from 32 residents of Queensland, in similar terms.

Mr Bevis, from 126 petitioners, praying that funding of certain services for pensioners and senior citizens be maintained and extended.

Mr Bevis, from 70 petitioners, praying that certain action be taken to ensure the future provision of affordable, appropriate and quality public housing.

Mr Bevis, from 46 residents of Queensland, praying that the decision to cut funding to the ABC be rescinded.

Mr Cadman, from 2980 petitioners, praying that certain action be taken to promote the recognition of human rights in Sudan.

Mr E. H. Cameron, from 149 residents of Western Australia, praying that Medicare funding of D & X abortions be opposed.

Mr Crean, from 4569 petitioners, praying that action be taken to prevent the closure of the Clayton, Vic., Medicare Office.

Mr M. J. Ferguson, from 130 residents of Victoria, praying that certain action be taken to exempt certain refugees from immigration law waiting periods.

Mr M. J. Ferguson, from 104 petitioners, praying that proposed cuts to labour market programs be rejected.

Mr M. J. Ferguson, from 27 residents of Tasmania, praying that SkillShare programs be retained.

Mr M. J. Ferguson, from 17 petitioners, praying that the SkillShare program be defended against funding cuts.

Mr Fitzgibbon, from 1953 electors of the Division of Hunter, praying that the Muswellbrook, NSW, Medicare Office remain open.

Mr Hatton, from 8 petitioners, praying that Holsworthy be opposed as a site for Sydney's second international airport.

Mr Jull, from 79 residents of Queensland, praying that the Euthanasia Laws Bill be supported.

Mrs D. M. Kelly, from 565 petitioners, praying that certain action be taken with respect to the portrayal of violence on television, video and video games.

Mr Latham, from 194 residents of Campbelltown and Liverpool, NSW, praying that any plan to construct an airport at Holsworthy, NSW, be abandoned.

Mr Lee, from 997 residents of the Northern Rivers Region, NSW, praying that funding to the ABC not be decreased and advertising not be introduced.

Mr Lee, from 97 petitioners, in similar terms.

Mr Lieberman, from 2358 petitioners, praying that the decision to withdraw Commonwealth funding to dental clinics be reconsidered.

Mr Lloyd, from 52 petitioners, praying that the proposed removal of operational assistance from children's services not be endorsed.

Ms Macklin, from 503 petitioners, praying that the current funding level to radio station Triple J be retained.

Ms Macklin, from 311 residents of Victoria, praying that full funding for the Special Intervention Program for Literacy be retained.

Mr McLachlan, from 650 electors of the Division of Barker, praying that no action be taken to close the Medicare Office in Mt Gambier, SA, and other country areas.

Mr McLeay, from 21 residents of Bathurst and district, NSW, praying that funding be made available to continue ABC services to rural residents.

Mr Miles, from 176 electors of the Division of Braddon, praying that funding for family day care schemes and child care assistance payment systems be maintained.

Mr P. F. Morris, from 474 electors of the Division of Shortland, praying that the Belmont, NSW, Commonwealth Employment Service Office remain open.

Mr P. F. Morris, from 348 electors of the Division of Shortland, praying that the Belmont, NSW, Medicare Office remain open.

Mr A. A. Morris, from 975 petitioners, praying that funding to public universities be increased.

Mrs Sullivan, from 53 parents and staff of Southport Tiny Tots Childcare Centre, Qld, praying that proposed funding cuts and changes to child care benefits be opposed.

Mr Taylor, from 138 residents of Queensland, praying that the decision by Australia Post to withdraw the ability of country mail agents to accept payments of several different accounts at local postal agents be investigated.

Mr K. J. Thomson, from 171 students of the electoral Division of Wills, praying that tertiary operating grants not be cut.

Mr Wakelin, from 51 residents of rural areas of South Australia, praying that access to mobile phone networks be provided to rural areas of South Australia.

Mr Wakelin, from 20 petitioners, praying that the recommendations of the Prices Surveillance Authority be effected to allow parallel importing of compact discs to reduce costs to consumers.

Petitions received.

10 UNIFORM TRANSPORT CONCESSION RULES

Mr Tanner completed his speech on the motion—That this House:

- (1) notes that arrangements under which pensioners and other concession card holders can use public transport concession cards outside their home State vary considerably from State to State;

- (2) acknowledges that this causes considerable confusion and embarrassment, particularly when card holders innocently seek concessions to which they are not entitled; and
- (3) calls on the Australian Government and all State and Territory Governments to develop a uniform reciprocal rights arrangement which ensures that transport concession rules are the same for pensioners and other concession card holders across Australia (*see* entry No. 5)—

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.

11 RETENTION OF CENSUS DATA

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

- (1) notes that:
 - (a) the 1996 Census forms are to be destroyed after they have been processed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics;
 - (b) there is substantial and growing concern about the continuing practice of destroying census forms; and
 - (c) Unesco, the Advisory Council on Australian Archives, historians, geneticists, genealogists and others have recommended that census material be retained permanently; and
- (2) calls on the Government to:
 - (a) resolve in principle to retain census forms after each census has been taken; and
 - (b) establish a public inquiry within 12 months of the 1996 Census to examine and recommend on:
 - (i) the central purposes and other valuable benefits of the census data, including its use for medical, historic, cultural, demographic and genealogical research; and
 - (ii) the appropriate means of achieving retention of the census data at minimum cost without compromising the integrity of the census and personal privacy.

Debate ensued.

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

12 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.

Question—That grievances be noted—put and passed.

13 MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

Messages from the Senate, dated 10 October 1996, were reported returning the following Bills without amendment:

Message—

No. 71—Australian Animal Health Council (Live-stock Industries) Funding 1996.

No. 72—Cattle Export Charges Amendment (AAHC) 1996 (*without requests*).

No. 73—Cattle Transaction Levy Amendment (AAHC) 1996 (*without requests*).

No. 74—Laying Chicken Levy Amendment (AAHC) 1996 (*without requests*).

No. 75—Live-stock Export Charge Amendment (AAHC) 1996 (*without requests*).

No. 76—Live-stock Slaughter Levy Amendment (AAHC) 1996 (*without requests*).

No. 77—Meat Chicken Levy Amendment (AAHC) 1996.

No. 78—Pig Slaughter Levy Amendment (AAHC) 1996 (*without requests*).

No. 79—Australian Capital Territory Government Service (Consequential Provisions) Amendment 1996.

No. 80—Bankruptcy Legislation Amendment 1996.

14 SOCIAL SECURITY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (BUDGET AND OTHER MEASURES) 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 Reith—Leader of the House), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

15 PAPER

Mr Moore (Minister for Industry, Science and Tourism), by indulgence, added to an answer given during question time and presented the following paper:

Bligh Ventures Ltd shares held by Mr Moore—Copy of letter from Simon Gamble, Director, Wilson HTM Ltd to Mr Moore, 14 October 1996.

16 SOCIAL SECURITY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (BUDGET AND OTHER MEASURES) 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.

Message from the Governor-General: Message No. 45, dated 17 September 1996, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation for the purposes of the Bill.

Consideration in detail

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2 postponed until after schedule 24.

Clause 3 agreed to.

Schedules 1 and 2, by leave, taken together, and agreed to.

Schedule 3 debated.

Question—That the schedule be agreed to—put.

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

AYES, 77

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

NOES, 40

Mr Adams	Mr M. J. Evans	Mr Kerr	Mr P. F. Morris
Mr Albanese	Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Mr Langmore	Mr Mossfield
Mr P. J. Baldwin	Mr M. J. Ferguson	Mr Latham	Mr O'Connor
Mr Beddall	Mr Fitzgibbon	Mr Lee	Mr Price
Mr Bevis	Mr E. L. Grace*	Ms Macklin	Mr Quick
Mr Brereton	Mr Griffin	Mr McLeay*	Mr S. F. Smith
Mr Brown	Mr Hatton	Mr McMullan	Mr Tanner
Mr Campbell	Mr Holding	Mr Martin	Dr Theophanous
Mr Crean	Mr Hollis	Mr Melham	Mr K. J. Thomson
Ms Ellis	Mr Jenkins	Mr A. A. Morris	Mr Wilton

* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Schedules 4 to 9, by leave, taken together, and agreed to, after debate.

Schedules 10 and 11, by leave, taken together, and debated.

Question—That the schedules be agreed to—put.

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

AYES, 79

Mr Abbott	Mr Downer	Mr Lindsay	Mr Sharp
Mr Anderson	Mrs Draper	Mr Lloyd	Mr Sinclair
Mr J. N. Andrew	Mrs Elson	Mr McArthur	Mr Slipper
Mr K. J. Andrews	Mr Entsch	Mr McDougall	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	Mr Forrest	Mr Miles	Dr Southcott
Mr Barresi	Ms Gambaro	Mrs Moylan	Mrs Stone
Mr Bartlett	Mr Georgiou	Mr Mutch	Mrs Sullivan
Mr Billson	Mrs E. J. Grace	Mr Nairn	Mr Taylor
Mrs Bishop	Mr Hardgrave	Dr Nelson	Mr Truss
Mr Bradford	Mr Hawker	Mr Neville	Mr M. A. J. Vaile
Mr Broadbent	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 Causley	Mr Jull	Mr Reith	Dr Wooldridge
Mr Charles	Mr Katter	Mr Ronaldson	Ms Worth*
Mr Cobb	Mrs D. M. Kelly	Mr Ruddock	Mr Zammit
Mr Dondas	Mr Lieberman	Mr Scott	

NOES, 40

Mr Adams	Mr M. J. Evans	Mr Kerr	Mr P. F. Morris
Mr Albanese	Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Mr Langmore	Mr Mossfield
Mr P. J. Baldwin	Mr M. J. Ferguson	Mr Latham	Mr O'Connor
Mr Beddall	Mr Fitzgibbon	Mr Lee	Mr Price
Mr Bevis	Mr E. L. Grace*	Ms Macklin	Mr Quick
Mr Brereton	Mr Griffin	Mr McLeay*	Mr S. F. Smith
Mr Brown	Mr Hatton	Mr McMullan	Mr Tanner
Mr Campbell	Mr Holding	Mr Martin	Dr Theophanous
Mr Crean	Mr Hollis	Mr Melham	Mr K. J. Thomson
Ms Ellis	Mr Jenkins	Mr A. A. Morris	Mr Wilton

* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

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

Mr Ruddock (Minister representing the Minister for Social Security) requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate—

Question—put and negated.

Ordered—That further consideration of the Bill be made an order of the day for the next sitting.

17 MEMBERS' INTERESTS COMMITTEE

The House was informed that the Chief Government Whip had nominated Mr K. J. Andrews and Mr Taylor to be members of the Committee of Members' Interests in place of Mr Ronaldson (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Transport and Regional Development) and Mr Reid.

18 ADJOURNMENT

Mr Ruddock (Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Paper: Mr Abbott (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs), by leave, presented the following paper:

Purchase of laptop computer by Ms J. M. Kelly—Copy of letter from Terry Wilde, General Manager, Southmark Computer Systems to Mr Tony Nutt, State Director, Liberal Party of Australia (NSW Division), 10 October 1996.

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 14 October 1996: Australian Bureau of Statistics Act—Australian Bureau of Statistics—Proposal for the collection of information 1996 No. 14.

Defence Act—Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal—Determination 1996 No. 20.

**ATTENDANCE**

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mrs Gash, Ms Hanson, Mr Jones, Dr Kemp, Mr McClelland, Mr O'Keefe, Mr Reid, Mr Sercombe, Mr A. P. Thomson, Mr Tuckey and Mr Willis.



L. M. BARLIN

Clerk of the House of Representatives