

1996

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 50

MONDAY, 18 NOVEMBER 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 PROCEDURE—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

Mr J. N. Andrew presented the following papers:

Procedure—Standing Committee—Conduct of divisions—

Report, incorporating a dissenting report, 6 November 1996.

Evidence received by the committee.

Minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Mr J. N. Andrew, Mr Martin and Mr Tuckey made statements in connection with the report.

The time allotted for making statements on the report having expired—

Mr J. N. Andrew moved—That the House take note of the report.

Mr J. N. Andrew 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 TREATIES—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

Mr Bartlett presented the following papers:

Treaties—Joint Standing Committee—3rd Report—Two international agreements on tuna—

Report, November 1996.

Evidence received by the committee.

Minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

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

The time for consideration of committee and delegation reports having expired—

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

Mr Bartlett 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.

4 TIMBER INDUSTRY

Mr Nehl, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House expresses its concern for the future of the timber industry and rural communities dependent on it.

Debate ensued.

At 1.45 p.m., the time allotted for the debate having expired, the debate was interrupted in accordance with standing order 106A, Mr Mossfield was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed and the resumption of the debate was made an order of the day for the next sitting.

5 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Members' statements were made.

6 MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Mr Howard (Prime Minister) informed the House that, during the respective absences abroad of Mr Anderson (Minister for Primary Industries and Energy) and Mr McGauran (Minister for Science and Technology), Mr Scott (Minister for Veterans' Affairs) would answer questions on behalf of Mr Anderson and Mr Moore (Minister for Industry, Science and Tourism) would answer questions on behalf of Mr McGauran.

7 RUSSIAN SPACE PROBE—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Mr Howard (Prime Minister), by indulgence, referred to the re-entry into the earth's atmosphere today of a Russian space probe and the emergency procedures that had been instituted by the Department of Defence.

Mr Beazley (Leader of the Opposition), by indulgence, also referred to the matter.

8 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

9 ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA—TIME OF ADDRESS

The Speaker, in accordance with the resolution agreed to on 17 October 1996, advised the House that Mr William Clinton, President of the United States of

America, would address Members and Senators in the House of Representatives Chamber at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, 20 November 1996.

10 PETITIONS

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

Mr Fitzgibbon, from 66 families and friends of Kurri Early Childhood Centre Inc., NSW; Mr Lloyd, from 71 families and friends of Woy Woy Peninsular Community Childcare Centre, NSW and Mr Price, from 59 families and friends of Margaret Druitt Day Care Centre, NSW, respectively, praying that operational subsidies to community based long day care centres be retained.

Mr Fitzgibbon, Mr A. A. Morris and Mr Ruddock, from 180, 1424 and 10 residents of New South Wales, respectively, praying that the practice of issuing provider numbers only to certain medical practitioners be opposed.

Mr Lee, from 20 friends of the ABC, and Mr Lee, from 14 petitioners, respectively, praying that the current level of funding to the ABC be maintained.

Mr P. J. Baldwin, from 852 petitioners, praying that proposed changes to the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement be opposed.

Mr Cadman, from 56 petitioners, praying that certain action be taken to promote the recognition of human rights in Sudan.

Mr Causley, from 2202 citizens and business proprietors of the Northern Rivers Region, NSW, praying that the Copyright Act be amended to exclude business from the requirement to hold copyright music licences for the playing of background music.

Mr Causley, from 15 residents of the Northern Rivers Region, NSW, praying that funding to the ABC not be decreased and advertising not be introduced.

Mr Dondas, from 228 petitioners, praying that certain action be taken to reduce the tax on fuel.

Mr Dondas, from 183 residents of the Northern Territory, praying that the operational subsidy to community based child care centres be maintained.

Mr Holding, from 97 residents of Victoria, praying that funding cuts to the ABC be reversed.

Mr Jones, from 41 residents of Victoria, praying that the outcomes of the 1996 Budget in relation to child care be reversed and certain other action be taken in relation to child care.

Mr Lee, from 86 petitioners, praying that the proposed removal of operational assistance from Family Day Care not be endorsed.

Mr Lee, from 18 petitioners, in similar terms.

Mr Lee, from 21 petitioners, praying that ABC services' funding arrangements be retained and that its services be free of commercial sponsorship and advertising.

Mr Marek, from 38 petitioners, praying that the weekly pension be increased by ten dollars above the Consumer Price Index.

Mr Ronaldson, from 1085 residents of Victoria, praying that the decision to terminate the book bounty be reversed.

Mr Williams, from 5190 petitioners, praying that the national gun law measures be supported and expedited.

Mr Williams, from 495 petitioners, praying that certain moves to tighten gun laws be supported.

Petitions received.

11 SYDNEY AIRPORT (REGULATION OF MOVEMENTS) BILL 1996

The order of the day having been read for the second reading—Mr Albanese moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Debate ensued.

Mr Albanese, by leave, again addressed the House without closing the debate.

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.

12 BURMA-THAILAND RAILWAY—PRISONER OF WAR MEMORIAL

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

- (1) acknowledges the great heroism and sacrifice of Australia's prisoners of war, in particular those who worked on the Burma-Thailand railway;
- (2) commends the Government on its initiative to construct a museum and memorial to prisoners of war near Hellfire Pass in Thailand;
- (3) commends Mr Rod Beattie and his associates for their work in clearing a 4km walking trail along the Burma-Thailand railway at Hellfire Pass; and
- (4) calls on Australian companies, ex-service organisations and other countries whose service personnel also worked on the railway to support the Prisoner of War Memorial project.

Debate ensued.

The time allotted for private Members' business having expired, the debate was interrupted, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

13 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.

14 AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT—PUBLICATION OF PAPER

The Deputy Speaker presented the following paper:

Audit Act—Auditor-General—Audit report No. 13 of 1996-97—Performance audit—Tax debt collection: Australian Taxation Office.

Mr Ruddock (Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs), by leave, moved—That:

- (1) this House authorises the publication of the Auditor-General's audit report No. 13 of 1996-97; and
- (2) the report be printed.

Question—put and passed.

15 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:

8 November 1996—Message—

No. 60—Health Insurance Amendment 1996.

No. 61—

Veterans' Affairs Legislation Amendment (No. 1) 1996.

Defence Legislation Amendment (No. 1) 1996.

16 NATIVE TITLE AND THE ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER LAND FUND—PARLIAMENTARY JOINT COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Mr Causley presented the following papers:

Native Title and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Fund—Parliamentary Joint Committee—Native Title Amendment Bill 1996—

Report, incorporating a dissenting report, November 1996.

Supplement to report—Responses to adverse mentions pursuant to resolution of the Senate.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Mr Causley and Mr Melham, by leave, made statements in connection with the report.

17 CORPORATIONS AND SECURITIES—PARLIAMENTARY JOINT COMMITTEE—REPORT

Mr McLeay presented the following papers:

Corporations and Securities—Parliamentary Joint Committee—Draft Second Corporate Law Simplification Bill 1996—

Report, November 1996.

Evidence received by the committee.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

18 TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 3) 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 Latham 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 is of the opinion that:

- (1) the Government has substantially increased the tax burden on ordinary PAYE taxpayers;
- (2) the Government’s tax and transfer policies substantially disadvantage women who choose to have both a family and paid work;
- (3) the Bill will substantially reduce industry research and development in Australia, thereby eroding our competitive advantages, economic growth and employment creation;
- (4) the Bill will damage co-operative companies and especially damage employment, investment and local ownership in regional Australia at a time when the Government has flattened growth and economic activity; and
- (5) the Bill further erodes the universal health safety net provisions associated with Medicare and further leads to the creation of a two tier health system in Australia”.

Debate continued.

Mr Hardgrave addressing the House—

19 ADJOURNMENT

It being 10.30 p.m.—The question was proposed—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 18 November 1996:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act—Rules—Zone Election Rules Amendment No. 3.

Civil Aviation Act—Civil Aviation Regulations—Civil Aviation Orders—Exemption No. 186/FRS/198/1996.

Part 105—Amendments 10, 23(2), 24(3), 28(3) October, 1, 2, 7(2) November 1996.

Part 106—Amendments 23, 29 October 1996.

Part 107—Amendment 5 November 1996.

Copyright Act—Declaration under section 10A, 15 October 1996.

Defence Act—Determination under section 58B 1996 No. 39.

Health Insurance Act—Determination 1996 No. HS/4.

Lands Acquisition Act—Statement under section 40.

National Health Act—

Determination 1996 No. PHI 17.

Isolated Nursing Home Principles 1992—1996 Amendment No. 1.

Navigation Act—Marine Orders 1996 No. 4.

Public Service Act—Determinations 1996 Nos. 207, LES 36, LES 37, LES 38, LES 39, LES 40.

Taxation Administration Act—

Notice under section 17, 13 November 1996.

Ruling 1996 No. TR 96/25.

ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Anderson, Mr Campbell, Mrs Crosio, Mr Fischer, Mr Jones, Mr McArthur, Mr McGauran, Mr Pyne, Mr Reid* and Mr Willis*.

* On leave

L. M. BARLIN

Clerk of the House of Representatives