

1996-97

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 85

THURSDAY, 15 MAY 1997

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 POSTPONEMENT OF NOTICE

Ordered—That notice No. 1, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.

3 CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION (ELECTION) BILL 1997

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 Beazley (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, recognising that if it is to have the necessary standing and authority, the Constitutional Convention should be based on the most fair and straightforward electoral arrangements practicable, the House:

- (1) is of the view that the Government has exaggerated the cost differential between a postal ballot and a normal attendance ballot and considers that the elections should be made by means of a normal attendance ballot;
- (2) considers that the voting method proposed by the Government will:
 - (a) cause unnecessary confusion, and both of which will distort the results of the vote; and
 - (b) deprive many Australians of their right to vote;
- (3) is of the view that the proposed period of 1 week from the issuing of the notice of the election and the closing of the roll is undemocratic and will deny many Australians participation in the process;
- (4) considers that the Government proposals for the nomination of persons to the convention are undemocratic and will allow the Coalition and its allies to have a disproportionate influence on the process; and

- (5) is of the opinion that a Joint Select Committee should be appointed to nominate community representatives, to advise on the processes and procedures for the Convention and to advise on the appointment of an independent Chair for the Convention”—

Debate resumed.

Debate adjourned (Mr L. D. T. Ferguson), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

4 AGED CARE (CONSEQUENTIAL PROVISIONS) BILL 1997

Mrs Moylan (Minister for Family Services), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to enact transitional provisions, and make consequential amendments, in connection with the enactment of the *Aged Care Act 1997*, and for other purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mrs Moylan moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Paper

Mrs Moylan presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

5 AGED CARE (COMPENSATION AMENDMENTS) BILL 1997

Mrs Moylan (Minister for Family Services) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Health and Other Services (Compensation) Care Charges Act 1995*.

Bill read a first time.

Mrs Moylan moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Paper

Mrs Moylan presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

6 CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION (ELECTION) BILL 1997

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 Beazley (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, recognising that if it is to have the necessary standing and authority, the Constitutional Convention should be based on the most fair and straightforward electoral arrangements practicable, the House:

- (1) is of the view that the Government has exaggerated the cost differential between a postal ballot and a normal attendance ballot and considers that the elections should be made by means of a normal attendance ballot;
- (2) considers that the voting method proposed by the Government will:

- (a) cause unnecessary confusion, and both of which will distort the results of the vote; and
- (b) deprive many Australians of their right to vote;
- (3) is of the view that the proposed period of 1 week from the issuing of the notice of the election and the closing of the roll is undemocratic and will deny many Australians participation in the process;
- (4) considers that the Government proposals for the nomination of persons to the convention are undemocratic and will allow the Coalition and its allies to have a disproportionate influence on the process; and
- (5) is of the opinion that a Joint Select Committee should be appointed to nominate community representatives, to advise on the processes and procedures for the Convention and to advise on the appointment of an independent Chair for the Convention”—

Debate resumed.

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

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

AYES, 84

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

NOES, 41

Mr Adams	Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Mr McClelland	Mr Quick
Mr Albanese	Mr M. J. Ferguson	Ms Macklin	Mr Sawford*
Mr Andren	Mr Fitzgibbon	Mr McLeay	Mr Sercombe*
Mr P. J. Baldwin	Mr E. L. Grace*	Mr McMullan	Mr S. F. Smith
Mr Bevis	Mr Hatton	Mr Melham	Mr Tanner
Mr Brereton	Mr Hollis	Mr A. A. Morris	Dr Theophanous
Mr Brown	Mr Jones	Mr P. F. Morris	Mr K. J. Thomson
Mr Crean	Mr Kerr	Mr Mossfield	Mr Wilton
Mrs Crosio	Mr Latham	Mr O'Connor	
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.

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.

On the motion of Mr Jull (Minister for Administrative Services), by leave, the following amendments were made together:

Clause 15, page 7 (line 24), omit “10”, substitute “9”.

Clause 44, page 22 (lines 13 and 14), omit “at the *hour of nomination, attend at the *place of nomination”, substitute “24 hours after the *hour of nomination, attend at the *place of nomination or at another place specified in writing by the AEO for the purpose of this section”.

Clause 46, page 23 (line 7), omit “date of election”, substitute “*close of the poll”.

Clause 52, page 26 (lines 7 and 8), omit all the words after “heading”.

Clause 58, page 30 (lines 1 and 2), omit “immediately after the *hour of nomination, at the place of nomination”, substitute “24 hours after the *hour of nomination, at the *place of nomination or at another place specified in writing by the AEO for the purpose of this section,”.

Clause 59, page 32 (line 4), omit “24 hours”, substitute “48 hours”.

Clause 60, page 33 (line 16), omit “24 hours”, substitute “48 hours”.

Clause 114, page 81 (line 7), after “nomination”, insert “or at another place specified in writing by the AEO for the purpose of this section”.

Clause 115, page 81 (line 19), after “nomination”, insert “or at another place specified in writing by the AEO for the purpose of this section”.

Clauses 116 and 117, page 82 (line 4) to page 83 (line 20), omit the clauses, substitute:

116 Casual vacancy to be filled under this Part

- (1) If a person elected as a *delegate dies or resigns before the Convention ends, the vacancy caused by the death or resignation of

the person (the *former delegate*) may be filled as set out under this Part.

- (2) A delegate may resign by giving the Chairman of the Convention a signed notice of resignation.

117 Candidate from same group may be declared elected

- (1) If the former delegate was, at the time of his or her election, a *grouped candidate, the Chairman of the Convention may request the Electoral Commissioner to determine whether the vacancy can be filled under this section.
- (2) A vacancy may be filled under this section if:
 - (a) another candidate, or other candidates, in the *group to which the former delegate belonged was not elected; and
 - (b) the candidate, or one of those candidates (as the case requires), is available and willing to fill the vacancy.
- (3) If the Electoral Commissioner determines that the vacancy may be filled under this section, he or she must declare elected the candidate ascertained under subsection (4).
- (4) The candidate ascertained for the purposes of subsection (3) is:
 - (a) if there is only one candidate who, in the opinion of the Electoral Commissioner, meets the requirements of paragraphs (2)(a) and (b)—that candidate; and
 - (b) if there is more than one such candidate—the candidate whose name appeared higher in the *list of candidates than all the other such candidates.
- (5) The Electoral Commissioner must give written notice to the Chairman of the Convention of:
 - (a) the name of the candidate who has been declared elected under this section; or
 - (b) the fact that the vacancy cannot be filled under this section.

117A Chairman may appoint or otherwise fill vacancy

- (1) If the vacancy is not filled under section 117, it may be filled under this section.
- (2) If the former delegate:
 - (a) has resigned; and
 - (b) after resigning, nominates a person to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation; and
 - (c) the nomination is in writing and is given to the Chairman of the Convention; and
 - (d) the nominated person was a candidate at the election at which the former delegate was elected, but is not a *delegate; and

- (e) the nominated person is available and willing to fill the vacancy left by the former delegate;
the Chairman must appoint the nominated person to fill the vacancy.
- (3) If the Chairman does not appoint a person under subsection (2), the vacancy may be filled in a manner to be determined by the Chairman.

Clause 139—

Page 100 (lines 14 and 15), omit “, proof whereof is to lie upon the person”.

Page 100 (lines 21 and 22), omit “ proof whereof is to lie upon the person,”.

Page 101 (lines 1 and 2), omit “(proof whereof is to lie upon the person)”.

Clause 147, page 107 (lines 16 and 17), omit all the words after “the date”, substitute “on which the Electoral Commissioner gives the Minister a copy of the notice under paragraph 114(2)(a) in respect of the election”.

Page 123 (after line 24), at the end of Part 12, add:

180 Repeal

This Act is repealed at the end of 2 years after its commencement, unless repealed earlier.

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

Consideration in detail concluded.

On the motion of Mr Jull, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

7 SOCIAL SECURITY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (WORK FOR THE DOLE) BILL 1997

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 P. J. Baldwin, 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) is of the view that the Bill is unacceptable in its present form because it will:
- (a) displace existing workers;
 - (b) lead to below award payments, particularly in the community services industry;
 - (c) not guarantee participants accredited on or off the job training;
 - (d) not provide appropriate case management and supervision to participants to assist them to make decisions about taking up any opportunities under the proposed arrangements;
 - (e) not provide appropriate legislative coverage and financial support for workers’ compensation, superannuation, occupational health and safety and industrial relations protection;
 - (f) not guarantee placements for the minimum required period of 6 months;

- (g) not require organisations contracting to provide employment projects:
 - (i) to state the proportion of people who will obtain permanent employment following the placement; and
 - (ii) measure future contracts against performance in this respect; and
 - (h) waste time and effort on further trials instead of replicating and building upon the successful aspects of real labour market and training programs under Working Nation such as LEAP and New Work Opportunities; and further
- (2) also calls on the Government to apply the concept of reciprocal obligation to other public sector outlays, especially financial assistance to large private sector corporations”—

Debate resumed.

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 AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORTS—PUBLICATION OF PAPERS—REFERENCE TO COMMITTEE

The Speaker presented the following papers:

Audit Act—Auditor-General—Audit reports of 1996-97—Performance audits—

No. 32—Administration of grants in the Australian Public Service.

No. 33—The administration of the 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 reports Nos. 32 and 33 of 1996-97;
- (2) the reports be printed; and
- (3) report No. 33 be referred to the Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs.

Question—put and passed.

10 PAPERS

The following papers were presented:

Allegations of paedophile activity within the Foreign Affairs Portfolio—Management response—

Media release by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, 15 May 1997.

Report to the Public Service Commissioner by Pamela O'Neil, May 1997.

Constitutional Convention (Election) Bill 1997—Supplementary explanatory memorandum.

Equal Employment Opportunity (Commonwealth Authorities) Act—Equal Employment Opportunity Program—Reports—ANL Limited—1995-96.

Australian National Railways Commission (Australian National)—1995-96.

Long Term Strategies—Standing Committee—Report—Australia as an information society: The role of libraries/information networks, September 1991—Government response.

Taxation Laws Amendment Bill (No. 4) 1996—Supplementary explanatory memorandum.

11 ALLEGATIONS OF PAEDOPHILE ACTIVITY WITHIN THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO—PAPERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS—PUBLICATION OF PAPERS

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

Allegations of paedophile activity within the Foreign Affairs Portfolio—Management response—

Media release by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, 15 May 1997.

Report to the Public Service Commissioner by Pamela O’Neil, May 1997.

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

Mr Reith, by leave, moved—That this House authorises the publication of the report and the media release.

Question—put and passed.

12 SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

Mr Reith (Leader of the House) moved—That the House, at its rising, adjourn until Monday, 26 May 1997, at 12.30 p.m., unless the Speaker fixes an alternative day or hour of meeting.

Question—put and passed.

13 SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS—PRIVATE MEMBERS’ BUSINESS

Mr Reith (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That so much of the standing and sessional orders be suspended as would prevent notices Nos. 1 and 3, private Members’ business, given by Mr Beazley (Leader of the Opposition) and accorded priority for Monday, 26 May 1997, being moved, in the event of his absence, by Mr Crean.

Question—put and passed.

14 PRIME MINISTER—VISIT TO SINGAPORE AND CHINA—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

Mr Howard (Prime Minister), by leave, made a ministerial statement concerning his recent visit to Singapore and China and presented the following paper:

Prime Minister—Visit to Singapore and China—Ministerial statement, 15 May 1997.

Dr Kemp (Minister for Schools, Vocational Education and Training) moved—That the House take note of the paper.

Suspension of standing and sessional orders—Extended time for speech

Dr Kemp, by leave, moved—That so much of the standing and sessional orders be suspended as would prevent Mr Beazley (Leader of the Opposition) speaking for a period not exceeding 17 minutes.

Question—put and passed.

Mr Beazley addressed the House.

Debate adjourned (Mr Downer—Minister for Foreign Affairs), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

15 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—JOBS

The House was informed that Mr M. J. Ferguson had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, “The failure of the Government to address in the Budget the need to find jobs for the 802,300 unemployed Australians, including 246,400 long term unemployed”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr M. J. Ferguson addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

16 ELECTORAL MATTERS—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE

The House was informed that the Chief Opposition Whip had nominated Mr McClelland to be a member of the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters in place of Mr Griffin.

17 MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

Messages from the Senate, dated 15 May 1997, were reported returning the following Bills and acquainting the House that the Senate had agreed to the Bills as amended by the House at the request of the Senate:

Message—

No. 224—Superannuation Contributions Tax Imposition 1997.

No. 225—Termination Payments Tax Imposition 1997.

18 MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

Messages from the Senate, dated 15 May 1997, were reported returning the following Bills without amendment:

Message—

No. 226—Export Finance and Insurance Corporation Amendment 1997.

No. 227—Education Legislation Amendment 1997.

19 PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE—10TH REPORT

Mr Lieberman (Chair) presented the following paper:

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE 10TH 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 25 March 1997, recommends that the following be printed:

Aboriginal Land Commissioner—Reports and recommendations to the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs and to the Administrator of the Northern Territory—

No. 49—Warnarrwarnarr-Barranyi (Borroloola No. 2): Land claim No. 30.

No. 50—Malngin and Nyinin claim to Mistake Creek: Land claim No. 133.

Industry Commission Act—Industry Commission—Report No. 57: Private health insurance, 28 February 1997.

Maritime College Act—Australian Maritime College—Report for 1996.

LOU LIEBERMAN

Chair

15 May 1997

Mr Lieberman, by leave, moved—That the report be agreed to.

Question—put and passed.

20 PUBLIC WORKS—PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORKS—REDEVELOPMENT OF FACILITIES FOR 51ST BATTALION FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND THROUGHOUT FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND AND THE TORRES STRAIT

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: Redevelopment of facilities for the 51st Battalion Far North Queensland throughout Far North Queensland and the Torres Strait.

Question—put and passed.

21 PUBLIC WORKS—PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORKS—DEVELOPMENT OF OPERATIONAL FACILITIES, RAAF BASE LEARMONTH, WA

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 operational facilities at RAAF Base Learmonth, WA.

Question—put and passed.

**22 INTERNATIONAL TAX AGREEMENTS AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 1) 1997—
REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE**

The Second Deputy Speaker reported that the International Tax Agreements Amendment Bill (No. 1) 1997 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 Ruddock (Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs), by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

**23 CRIMES AMENDMENT (FORENSIC PROCEDURES) BILL 1997—REPORT
FROM MAIN COMMITTEE**

The Second Deputy Speaker reported that the Crimes Amendment (Forensic Procedures) Bill 1997 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 Ruddock (Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs), by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

**24 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—THERAPEUTIC GOODS AMENDMENT BILL
1997**

Message No. 228, dated 15 May 1997, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for an Act to amend the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989* to make provision relating to the listing of therapeutic goods and the supply of therapeutic goods not conforming to standards and to give effect to Australia's obligations regarding therapeutic goods under an Agreement on Mutual Recognition with the European Community.

Bill read a first time.

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

**25 SOCIAL SECURITY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (WORK FOR THE DOLE)
BILL 1997**

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 P. J. Baldwin, 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) is of the view that the Bill is unacceptable in its present form because it will:
 - (a) displace existing workers;
 - (b) lead to below award payments, particularly in the community services industry;

- (c) not guarantee participants accredited on or off the job training;
 - (d) not provide appropriate case management and supervision to participants to assist them to make decisions about taking up any opportunities under the proposed arrangements;
 - (e) not provide appropriate legislative coverage and financial support for workers' compensation, superannuation, occupational health and safety and industrial relations protection;
 - (f) not guarantee placements for the minimum required period of 6 months;
 - (g) not require organisations contracting to provide employment projects:
 - (i) to state the proportion of people who will obtain permanent employment following the placement; and
 - (ii) measure future contracts against performance in this respect; and
 - (h) waste time and effort on further trials instead of replicating and building upon the successful aspects of real labour market and training programs under Working Nation such as LEAP and New Work Opportunities; and further
- (2) also calls on the Government to apply the concept of reciprocal obligation to other public sector outlays, especially financial assistance to large private sector corporations"—

Debate resumed.

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

26 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1997-98—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—

Debate resumed.

Debate adjourned (Mr Williams—Attorney-General and Minister for Justice), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

27 ADJOURNMENT

Mr Williams (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 8 p.m., adjourned until Monday, 26 May 1997, at 12.30 p.m., in accordance with the resolution agreed to this sitting.

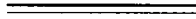
PAPERS

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 15 May 1997:

Acts Interpretation Act—Statement relating to failure to furnish reports within specified period—Queensland Fisheries Joint Authority—Reports for 1994-95 and 1995-96.

Fisheries Management Act—Record of decision pursuant to section 69, 12 May 1997.

Health Insurance Act—Order under section 6, 28 April 1997.



ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Miles, Mr Pyne and Mr Willis.



L. M. BARLIN

Clerk of the House of Representatives

1996-97

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

No. 85

MAIN COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

THURSDAY, 15 MAY 1997

1 The Main Committee met at 10 a.m.

2 INTERNATIONAL TAX AGREEMENTS AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 1) 1997

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.

3 CRIMES AMENDMENT (FORENSIC PROCEDURES) BILL 1997

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.

Suspension of sitting

At 11.03 a.m., a division having been called in the House, the proceedings were suspended.

Resumption of sitting

At 11.16 a.m., the proceedings were resumed.

Debate continued.

Paper

Mr Williams (Attorney General and Minister for Justice) presented a replacement explanatory memorandum.

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 CHILD SUPPORT LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 1) 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) expresses concern at the failure of the Howard Government, after 12 months in office, to respond to the recommendations of the report of the Joint Select Committee into Certain Family Law Issues entitled ‘Child Support Scheme: An Examination of the Operation and Effectiveness of the Scheme’;
- (2) believes the Government should be concerned about the well-being and welfare of all families: whether they be intact families, separated families, single parent families or serial families;
- (3) notes with concern the failure to implement some of the report’s recommendations has caused parents and their children to suffer needless hardship;
- (4) believes that there is important and urgent need to improve and strengthen the Child Support Scheme; and
- (5) considers that much time has been lost and therefore the Government should respond to the recommendations of the report concerned with changing the child support formula as soon as possible and introduce legislation within six months to this effect”—

Debate resumed.

Mr Billson 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.

5 ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Mr. M. A. J. Vaile, the Main Committee adjourned at 1 p.m.

The Deputy Speaker fixed Wednesday, 28 May 1997, at 10 a.m., for the next meeting of the Main Committee.

I. C. HARRIS
Clerk of the Main Committee