1996-97

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 91

TUESDAY, 3 JUNE 1997

1 The House met, at 2 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (the Honourable Bob Halverson) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

2 **QUESTIONS**

Questions without notice being asked—

Member ordered to withdraw

At 2.32 p.m. the Member for North Sydney (Mr Hockey) was ordered, under standing order 304A, to withdraw from the House for one hour for continuing to interject after a general warning had been given by the Chair, and he accordingly withdrew from the Chamber.

Questions without notice continued.

3 **PRIVILEGE—COMPLAINT OF BREACH**

Mr Bevis raised a matter of privilege in connection with an article published in the *Australian* of 3 June 1997 concerning the presidency of the Queensland Liberal Party and reports that Members of the House had had their pre-selections threatened.

Mr Bevis presented a copy of the article.

Mr Howard (Prime Minister), by indulgence, also addressed the matter.

The Speaker stated that he would consider the matter and report to the House at a later time.

4 **AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT—PUBLICATION OF PAPER**

The Speaker presented the following paper:

Audit Act—Auditor-General—Audit report No. 35 of 1996-97—Performance audit—1996 Census of Population and Housing: Australian Bureau of Statistics.

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

(1) this House authorises the publication of the Auditor-General's audit report No. 35 of 1996-97; and

PAPER

The following paper was deemed to have been presented on 3 June 1997:

Sydney Airport Curfew Act—Dispensation 1997 No. 5.

ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr P. J. Baldwin, Mr Fischer, Mr Kerr, Mr Tanner and Mr Williams.

L. M. BARLIN
Clerk of the House of Representatives

1996-97

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SUPPLEMENT TO VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 91

MAIN COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

TUESDAY, 3 JUNE 1997

1 The Main Committee met at 4.30 p.m.

2 **PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND ENERGY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 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 **POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY**

Ordered—That order of the day No. 2, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.

4 **VETERANS' AFFAIRS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (BUDGET AND SIMPLIFICATION MEASURES) 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.

Paper

Mr Scott (Minister for Veterans' Affairs) presented a supplementary explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

Message from the Governor-General

Message No. 144, dated 9 April 1997, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation for the purposes of the Bill.

Consideration in detail

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole.

On the motion of Mr Scott, by leave, the following amendments were made together:

Schedule 1—

Item 140—

Page 24 (line 23) omit "section", substitute "clause".

Page 25 (line 3) omit "section", substitute "clause".

Page 25 (line 27) omit "section", substitute "clause".

Page 26 (after line 16), at the end of the item, add:

11 Saving provisions applicable to certain people who cease to be service pensioners on 1 January 1998

(1) Subject to subclause (2), this clause applies to a person at a particular time (the ***relevant time***) if:

   (a) a service pension is not payable to the person; and

   (b) a service pension was payable to the person immediately before 1 January 1998 at a rate that included one or more pension child-related amounts in respect of a child or children; and

   (c) a service pension would have been payable to the person at the relevant time at a rate that included one or more pension child-related amounts in respect of that child or those children if the amendments made by Schedule 1 to the *Veterans' Affairs Legislation Amendment (Budget and Simplification Measures) Act 1997* had not been made.

(2) This clause ceases to apply to a person, and does not afterwards again apply to the person, if:

   (a) the service pension referred to in paragraph (1)(c) would have ceased to be payable to the person; or

   (b) family payment under the Social Security Act is no longer payable to the person or the person's partner or is no longer payable to the person or the person's partner at a rate higher than the minimum family payment rate; or

   (c) service pension becomes payable to the person.

(3) A person to whom this clause applies is taken for the purposes of subsection 85(7) to be in receipt of a service pension under Part III.

(4) In this clause:

pension child-related amount, at any relevant time, means an amount that would be required at that time to be included in a service pension under Module C or Module D (as Module C or Module D was affected by Module DAA) of the Service Pension

Rate Calculator at the end of section 42 of the *Veterans'
Entitlements Act 1986* as in force immediately before 1 January
1998.

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

Consideration in detail concluded.

Ordered—That the Bill be reported to the House with amendments.

5 **INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND TOURISM LEGISLATION AMENDMENT 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.

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.

6 **MIGRATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 3) 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.

7 **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.

Question—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the question—put and not being resolved—Bill to be returned to the House.

8 ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Mr Scott (Minister for Veterans' Affairs), the Main Committee adjourned at 10.11 p.m.

The Deputy Speaker fixed tomorrow, at 9.45 a.m., for the next meeting of the Main Committee.

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I. C. HARRIS
Clerk of the Main Committee