

1996-97

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 99

TUESDAY, 24 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—

Paper

Mr K. J. Thomson, in accordance with standing order 321, having called for a document quoted from by Mr Fischer (Acting Prime Minister)—

Mr Fischer presented the following paper:

Government's youth strategy—Acting Prime Minister's brief.

Questions without notice continuing—

Suspension of standing and sessional orders—Motion of censure of Acting Prime Minister

Mr Beazley (Leader of the Opposition) moved—That so much of the standing and sessional orders be suspended as would prevent the Leader of the Opposition moving forthwith—That this House censures the Acting Prime Minister for:

- (1) his failure to ensure that the Minister for Small Business upheld the Prime Minister's ministerial code of conduct;
- (2) his failure to dismiss, or seek the Prime Minister's approval to dismiss, the Minister in the light of the Minister's obvious attempt to use the status of his position to secure advantage for his property investments by taking the outrageous step of contacting a fellow member of the Liberal Party, the Deputy Chairman of Coles-Myer, Mr Greiner, to secure a Target store as a key tenant for his Eaton shopping centre development;
- (3) his failure to dismiss, or seek the Prime Minister's approval to dismiss, the Minister in the light of the fact that the Minister has repeatedly and

- wilfully misled this House and the Australian people over the true nature of his dealings with Deputy Chairman of Coles-Myer, Mr Nick Greiner;
- (4) his failure to dismiss, or seek the Prime Minister's approval to dismiss, the Minister as a result of the Minister's admission that he is involved in the running of his businesses which clearly breaches the Prime Minister's code of ministerial conduct;
 - (5) his failure to dismiss, or seek the Prime Minister's approval to dismiss, the Minister as a result of the Minister's failure to expeditiously correct the record after he misled the House on 19 June 1997 in relation to the Greiner phone call;
 - (6) his failure to ensure that the Minister corrected his misleading and woefully inadequate declaration of pecuniary interests so that the Parliament and the people could have a true understanding of his multiple business interests and how they conflicted with his ministerial responsibilities;
 - (7) his failure to dismiss, or seek the Prime Minister's approval to dismiss, the Minister for the fundamental breach of ministerial responsibility that a Minister should never use his public office for private benefit; and
 - (8) his failure to enforce and uphold the Prime Minister's often stated, but rarely used requirement that Ministers behave with the utmost probity and propriety in the course of performing their ministerial duties.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed, with the concurrence of an absolute majority.

Acting Prime Minister—Motion of censure

Mr Beazley moved—That this House censures the Acting Prime Minister for:

- (1) his failure to ensure that the Minister for Small Business upheld the Prime Minister's ministerial code of conduct;
- (2) his failure to dismiss, or seek the Prime Minister's approval to dismiss, the Minister in the light of the Minister's obvious attempt to use the status of his position to secure advantage for his property investments by taking the outrageous step of contacting a fellow member of the Liberal Party, the Deputy Chairman of Coles-Myer, Mr Greiner, to secure a Target store as a key tenant for his Eaton shopping centre development;
- (3) his failure to dismiss, or seek the Prime Minister's approval to dismiss, the Minister in the light of the fact that the Minister has repeatedly and wilfully misled this House and the Australian people over the true nature of his dealings with Deputy Chairman of Coles-Myer, Mr Nick Greiner;
- (4) his failure to dismiss, or seek the Prime Minister's approval to dismiss, the Minister as a result of the Minister's admission that he is involved in the running of his businesses which clearly breaches the Prime Minister's code of ministerial conduct;
- (5) his failure to dismiss, or seek the Prime Minister's approval to dismiss, the Minister as a result of the Minister's failure to expeditiously correct the

- record after he misled the House on 19 June 1997 in relation to the Greiner phone call;
- (6) his failure to ensure that the Minister corrected his misleading and woefully inadequate declaration of pecuniary interests so that the Parliament and the people could have a true understanding of his multiple business interests and how they conflicted with his ministerial responsibilities;
 - (7) his failure to dismiss, or seek the Prime Minister's approval to dismiss, the Minister for the fundamental breach of ministerial responsibility that a Minister should never use his public office for private benefit; and
 - (8) his failure to enforce and uphold the Prime Minister's often stated, but rarely used requirement that Ministers behave with the utmost probity and propriety in the course of performing their ministerial duties.

Debate ensued.

Paper

Mr Fischer presented the following paper:

Censure of the Minister for Small Business—A wasted afternoon—Copy of statement by Mr Peter Siekmann, Director and Spokesperson, Australian Small Business Association Limited, 20 June 1997.

Debate continued.

Question—put.

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

AYES, 46

Mr Adams	Mr M. J. Evans	Mr Latham	Mr O'Keefe
Mr Albanese	Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Dr Lawrence	Mr Price
Mr P. J. Baldwin	Mr M. J. Ferguson	Mr Lee	Mr Quick
Mr Beazley	Mr Fitzgibbon	Mr McClelland	Mr Sercombe*
Mr Beddall	Mr E. L. Grace*	Mr McLeay	Mr S. F. Smith
Mr Brereton	Mr Griffin*	Mr McMullan	Mr Tanner
Mr Brown	Mr Hatton	Mr Martin	Dr Theophanous
Mr Crean	Mr Holding	Mr Melham	Mr K. J. Thomson
Mrs Crosio	Mr Hollis	Mr A. A. Morris	Mr Willis
Mr Dargavel	Mr Jenkins	Mr P. F. Morris	Mr Wilton
Ms Ellis	Mr Jones	Mr Mossfield	
Mr G. J. Evans	Mr Kerr	Mr O'Connor	

NOES, 85

Mr Abbott	Mrs Draper	Mr Lieberman	Mr Sinclair
Mr Anderson	Mrs Elson	Mr Lindsay	Mr Slipper
Mr J. N. Andrew	Mr Entsch	Mr Lloyd	Mr A. C. Smith
Mr Anthony	Mr R. D. C. Evans	Mr McArthur*	Mr W. L. Smith
Mrs Bailey	Mr Fahey	Mr McDougall	Dr Southcott
Mr R. C. Baldwin	Mr Fischer	Mr McLachlan	Mrs Stone
Mr Barresi	Mr Forrest	Mr Marek	Mrs Sullivan
Mr Bartlett	Ms Gambaro	Mr Miles	Mr Taylor
Mr Billson	Mrs Gash	Mrs Moylan	Mr A. P. Thomson
Mrs Bishop	Mr Georgiou	Mr Mutch	Mr Truss
Mr Bradford	Mrs E. J. Grace	Mr Nairn	Mr Tuckey
Mr Broadbent	Mr Hardgrave	Dr Nelson	Mr M. A. J. Vaile
Mr Brough	Mr Hawker	Mr Nugent	Mrs D. S. Vale
Mr Cadman	Mr Hicks*	Mr Prosser	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 Reid	Dr Wooldridge
Mr Charles	Mr Jull	Mr Reith	Ms Worth*
Mr Cobb	Mr Katter	Mr Rocher	Mr Zammit
Mr Costello	Mrs D. M. Kelly	Mr Ronaldson	
Mr Dondas	Miss J. M. Kelly	Mr Ruddock	
Mr Downer	Dr Kemp	Mr Scott	

* Tellers

And so it was negated.

Questions without notice concluded.

3 AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT—PUBLICATION OF PAPER

The Deputy Speaker presented the following paper:

Audit Act—Auditor-General—Audit report No. 38 of 1996-97—Performance audit—External funds generation: Australian Institute of Marine Science—Follow-up audit.

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

- (1) this House authorises the publication of the Auditor-General's audit report No. 38 of 1996-97; and
- (2) the report be printed.

Question—put and passed.

4 PAPERS

The following papers were presented:

Committee reports—Government responses to parliamentary committee reports—Response to the schedule tabled by the Speaker in the House of Representatives on 12 December 1996.

East Asia Analytical Unit—Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade—A new Japan?: Change in Asia's megamarket—
Report.

Erratum and corrigendum—Appendix 3.3.

Revision—Chapter 12.

Financial statements of Commonwealth Departments—Guidelines issued by the Minister for Finance, June 1997.

Publicity in family law cases—Proposals for amendments to Family Law Act section 121—Report to the Attorney-General by the Honourable I. W. P. McCall, AO, April 1997.

Corporations Legislation (Evidence) Amendment Act—Review of the Derivative Use Immunity Reforms—Report by John Kliver, May 1997.

Treaties—Joint Standing Committee—Government responses to reports—
4th—Treaties tabled on 15 and 29 October 1996, November 1996.

6th—Oakey Agreement: Australia and Singapore, March 1997.

5 PROPOSED DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE— MINISTERIAL CODE OF CONDUCT

The House was informed that Mr Martin had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, “The failure of the Acting Prime Minister to uphold the Prime Minister’s code of conduct regarding the behaviour of ministers”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Martin rising to address the House—

Mr Reith (Leader of the House) moved—That the business of the day be called on.

Question—put and passed.

6 MAIN COMMITTEE—DAY OF NEXT MEETING

The Deputy Speaker reported that Wednesday, 25 June 1997, at 10 a.m., had been fixed for the next meeting of the Main Committee.

7 SELECTION COMMITTEE—REPORT

Mr Nehl (Chair) presented the following paper:

Selection Committee—Report relating to the consideration of committee and delegation reports and private Members’ business on Monday, 25 August 1997.

8 EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION AND TRAINING—STANDING COMMITTEE— STATEMENT BY MEMBER

Mr Charles (Chair), by leave, made a statement concerning the use of video conference facilities by the Standing Committee on Employment, Education and Training.

9 PUBLIC WORKS—PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORTS—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Mr J. N. Andrew (Chairman) presented the following papers:

Public Works—Parliamentary Standing Committee—Reports—

Decontamination for disposal of the former Albion explosives factory site, Deer Park, Vic. (6th report of 1997).

Sydney Airport: International terminal—Olympic upgrading (7th report of 1997).

Severally ordered to be printed.

Mr J. N. Andrew, Mr Hollis and Mr Sercombe, by leave, made statements in connection with the reports.

10 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—BOUNTY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1997

The following message from the Senate was reported:

Message No. 257

Mr Speaker

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the bill for **An Act to amend the *Bounty (Books) Act 1986*, the *Bounty (Computers) Act 1984*, the *Bounty (Machine Tools and Robots) Act 1985* and the *Bounty (Ships) Act 1989***, and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the bill with the amendments indicated by the annexed schedule, in which amendments the Senate requests the concurrence of the House of Representatives.

MARGARET REID

President

The Senate

20 June 1997

Ordered—That the amendments be considered forthwith.

SCHEDULE OF THE AMENDMENTS MADE BY THE SENATE

- (1) Clause 2, page 2 (lines 1 and 2), omit subclause (2), substitute:
 - (2) If this Act does not receive the Royal Assent before 1 July 1997, Schedule 1 is taken to have commenced on that day.
- (2) Page 2 (after line 2), after clause 2, insert:

2A Report to Parliament

Before any change in the rate of a bounty referred to in this Act comes into effect, the Minister must cause to be laid before both Houses of the Parliament a report containing a cost-benefit analysis of the relevant bounty scheme, including an assessment of the impact on employment, exports, investment, growth and international competitiveness of the cessation of the bounty.

- (3) Schedule 1, item 1, page 3 (lines 4 and 5), omit the item.

- (4) Schedule 1, item 2, page 3 (lines 6 to 13), omit the item.
- (5) Schedule 1, item 3, page 3 (lines 14 to 21), omit the item.
- (6) Schedule 1, item 4, page 3 (lines 23 and 24), omit the item.
- (7) Schedule 1, item 5, page 3 (lines 25 and 26), omit the item.
- (8) Schedule 1, items 6 to 9, page 3 (line 28) to page 5 (line 13), omit the items.
- (9) Schedule 1, item 10, page 5 (line 17), omit “31 December 1997”, substitute “30 June 1999”.
- (10) Schedule 1, page 5 (after line 17), after item 10, insert:

10A Subsection 4(2)

Repeal the subsection, substitute:

- (2) The construction or modification of a bountiable vessel is taken, for the purposes of this Act:
 - (a) to have been completed on such date as the CEO determines to be the date on which that construction or modification was completed; or
 - (b) to have been at least 50% completed on 30 June 1999, if the CEO so determines immediately following that date.

10B Subsection 4(4)

After “modification, is,” insert “or, if the modification were completed, would be,”.

10C Paragraph 5(1)(e)

After “contract for”, insert “, or business plan evidencing a firm commitment to,”.

10D Paragraph 5(1)(f)

After “contract for”, insert “, or business plan evidencing a firm commitment to,”.

10E Paragraph 8(3)(a)

Repeal the paragraph, substitute:

- (a) the construction or modification is carried out as a result of a firm commitment entered into before 1 January 1998; and
- (ab) the construction or modification:
 - (i) is completed on 30 June 1999 or on a day occurring before that day; or
 - (ii) if subparagraph (i) does not apply—is at least 50% completed on 30 June 1999; and

10F After subsection 8(3)

Insert:

- (3A) For the purposes of paragraph (3)(a), the construction or modification of a bountiable vessel by a shipbuilder will not be

treated as having been carried out as a result of a firm commitment entered into before 1 January 1998 unless a business plan covering the period to 30 June 1999 that is lodged, or varied, before 15 January 1998, contains a statement of the kind referred to in subsection 17(7A) indicating that the construction or modification of the particular vessel was a construction or modification committed to before 1 January 1998.

- (3B) For the purposes of paragraph (3)(ab), the construction or modification of the bountiable vessel is taken to be at least 50% completed at a point where the eligible costs of the construction or modification in relation to that vessel amount to at least 50% of the construction or modification costs specified in the contract or business plan relating to the particular vessel.

10G Subsection 8(5)

After “are”, insert “, or would, if the modification were completed, be.”.

- (11) Schedule 1, item 11, page 5 (line 19), omit “1 January 1998”, substitute “1 July 1999”.
- (12) Schedule 1, item 12, page 5 (line 21), omit “31 December 1997”, substitute “30 June 1999”.
- (13) Schedule 1, page 5 (after line 21), at the end of the Schedule, add:

13 At the end of section 10

Add:

- (2) Subsection (1) applies in relation to the payment of bounty in respect of the construction or modification of a vessel that is not completed, but is at least 50% completed within the meaning of subparagraph 8(3)(ab)(ii), at 30 June 1999, as if:
- (a) the vessel were a vessel whose construction or modification was completed before 1 July 1999; and
 - (b) the eligible costs of the construction or modification completed as at 30 June 1999 were the costs of the construction or modification of a completed vessel.

14 Paragraph 11(2)(d)

Omit “completed”, substitute “completed, or, in the case of a vessel whose construction or modification is not completed by 30 June 1999, within 12 months after that day”.

15 Paragraph 13(2)(d)

Omit “modification”, substitute “modification, or, in the case of a vessel whose construction or modification is not completed by 30 June 1999, within 12 months after that day”.

16 After subsection 17(7)

Insert:

- (7A) For the purposes of subsection (7), a business plan that covers the period ending on 30 June 1999 will not be treated as indicating that the construction or modification of a particular vessel was committed to before 1 January 1998 unless the plan includes a statement:
- (a) that sets out the number of the bountiable vessels under construction or modification by the shipbuilder as at 31 December 1997, or whose construction or modification by the shipbuilder is proposed to be commenced after that last-mentioned date and before 1 July 1999, and the vessel is included in that number; and
 - (b) that specifies, in relation to the particular vessel:
 - (i) the specifications of the vessel including the gross construction tonnage worked out according to the formula in subsection 4(3); and
 - (ii) the timetable for carrying out the construction or modification, including the commencement and completion dates; and
 - (iii) the eligible costs of the construction or modification as defined in section 5; and
 - (iv) the place where the construction or modification is being, or will be, carried out; and
 - (v) the name of the owner of the vessel or, where the name is known, of the person intending to purchase the vessel on its completion or modification; and
 - (vi) such other details as are necessary to identify the particular vessel.
- (7B) A person who is a registered shipbuilder immediately before 1 January 1998 may, at any time before 15 January 1998, modify a business plan covering the period to 30 June 1999 by lodging with the Minister:
- (a) if the plan did not contain a statement of the kind set out in subsection (7A)—such a statement; or
 - (b) if the plan did contain such a statement but, at a date before 1 January 1998, particulars of the vessels whose construction or modification is proposed to be commenced before 30 June 1999 have been varied—a statement reflecting the variation; and, if the person does so, the plan as modified will be treated as if it were the plan lodged with the application for registration.
- (7C) If a person who is not a registered shipbuilder immediately before 1 January 1998 wishes to obtain registration with effect from that day or any subsequent day before 1 July 1999, the person must, despite

any other provisions of this Act, lodge with the Minister, before 15 January 1998, a business plan:

- (i) that covers the period from registration until 30 June 1999; and
- (ii) that contains a statement of the kind referred to in subsection (7A).

(7D) The lodgment of a plan in the circumstances set out in subsection (7C):

- (a) is to be treated as complying with the requirements of subsections (7) and (7A) when an application for registration is subsequently made; and
- (b) does not prevent the person making that application indicating, at the time of the application for registration, a modification of the plan as long as that modification does not:
 - (i) increase the number of vessels proposed to be constructed or modified; or
 - (ii) vary the requirements of any such construction or modification otherwise than by deletion of a requirement.

17 Section 28

After “subsection” (wherever occurring), insert “12(2), 12(3),”.

18 Before paragraph 31(1)(a)

Insert:

- (aa) a decision of the CEO under paragraph 4(2)(b) that the construction or modification of a bountiable vessel is not at least 50% completed on 30 June 1999;

On the motion of Mr Prosser (Minister for Small Business and Consumer Affairs), Senate amendments (1) and (8) to (13) were agreed to, after debate.

On the motion of Mr Prosser, Senate amendment (2) was disagreed to, after debate.

Mr Prosser moved—That Senate amendments (3), (4) and (5) be disagreed to.

Debate ensued.

Question—put.

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

AYES, 80

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

NOES, 44

Mr Adams	Mr G. J. Evans	Mr Jones	Mr A. A. Morris
Mr Albanese	Mr M. J. Evans	Mr Kerr	Mr P. F. Morris
Mr Andren	Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Mr Latham	Mr Mossfield
Mr P. J. Baldwin	Mr M. J. Ferguson	Dr Lawrence	Mr O'Connor
Mr Beddall	Mr Fitzgibbon	Mr Lee	Mr Price
Mr Brereton	Mr E. L. Grace*	Mr McClelland	Mr Quick
Mr Brown	Mr Griffin*	Ms Macklin	Mr Sercombe*
Mr Crean	Mr Hatton	Mr McLeay	Dr Theophanous
Mrs Crosio	Mr Holding	Mr McMullan	Mr K. J. Thomson
Mr Dargavel	Mr Hollis	Mr Martin	Mr Willis
Ms Ellis	Mr Jenkins	Mr Melham	Mr Wilton

* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Mr Prosser moved—That Senate amendments (6) and (7) be disagreed to.

Debate ensued.

Question—put.

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

AYES, 79

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

NOES, 45

Mr Adams	Mr M. J. Evans	Mr Latham	Mr O'Connor
Mr Albanese	Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Dr Lawrence	Mr Price
Mr Andren	Mr M. J. Ferguson	Mr Lee	Mr Sercombe*
Mr P. J. Baldwin	Mr Fitzgibbon	Mr McClelland	Mr S. F. Smith
Mr Beddall	Mr E. L. Grace*	Ms Macklin	Mr Tanner
Mr Breerton	Mr Griffin*	Mr McLeay	Dr Theophanous
Mr Brown	Mr Hatton	Mr McMullan	Mr K. J. Thomson
Mr Crean	Mr Holding	Mr Martin	Mr Willis
Mrs Crosio	Mr Hollis	Mr Melham	Mr Wilton
Mr Dargavel	Mr Jenkins	Mr A. A. Morris	
Ms Ellis	Mr Jones	Mr P. F. Morris	
Mr G. J. Evans	Mr Kerr	Mr Mossfield	

* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Mr Prosser moved—That Mr R. D. C. Evans, Mr Hockey and the mover be appointed a committee to draw up reasons for the House of Representatives disagreeing to amendments (2) to (7) of the Senate.

Question—put and passed.

Mr Prosser, on behalf of the committee, brought up reasons, which were circulated, and are as follows:

Reasons of the House of Representatives for disagreeing to amendments (2) to (7) of the Senate

Senate amendment (2)

- This amendment requires the Minister to present to both Houses of Parliament, for any proposed change in rates or cessation of bounties covered by this Act, a cost-benefit analysis of relevant bounties, including assessments of the impact on employment, exports, investments, growth and international competitiveness.
- Processes already exist whereby this type of information and analysis is available—for example, through reviews requested by the Government from the Industry Commission and other review panels on specific industries and on broad industry policy directions.
- The House of Representatives therefore opposes the proposed amendment.

Senate amendments (3), (4) and (5)

- These amendments remove the provision for early termination of the book bounty (on 30 June 1997) such that termination reverts to 31 December 1997 as provided for under the *Bounty (Books) Act 1986*. The early termination of the bounty was announced by the Government in the 1996-97 Budget as part of its strategy of fiscal consolidation.
- While the book printing and publishing sectors have derived significant benefits from the bounty in the past, this has been within an environment of declining rates of assistance—for example, the bounty has declined from 20% in 1987 to 4.5% on 1 January 1997. Over this period, bountiable production has increased. Removal of the 4.5% bounty six months ahead of time should not have significant adverse impacts on the printing and publishing sectors. Accordingly, the House of Representatives opposes amendments (3), (4) and (5).

Senate amendments (6) and (7)

- These amendments remove the provision for early termination of the computer bounty (on 30 June 1997) such that the termination date reverts to 31 December 2000 as provided for under the *Bounty (Computers) Act 1984*. The early termination of the bounty was announced by the Government in the 1996-97 Budget as part of its strategy of fiscal consolidation.
- Significant savings accrue to the Budget arising from the decision to terminate the bounty early. The Government has also initiated a major review of the information technology industry. The Information Industries Taskforce has been asked to advise on measures that will ensure that the information industries sector will be able to take advantage of emerging opportunities, including in the context of the early termination of the computer bounty.
- Given that the bounty has been paid at a gradually declining rate (currently at 5%), that its impact on achieving industry development objectives has declined in importance and that the Government's priority is to undertake a more comprehensive review of future strategies for the information technology industry, the computer bounty should be terminated on 30 June

1997. The House of Representatives therefore opposes amendments (6) and (7).

On the motion of Mr Prosser, the committee's reasons were adopted.

11 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate was reported returning the Social Security Legislation Amendment (Work for the Dole) Bill 1997 and acquainting the House that the Senate does not insist upon its amendments disagreed to by the House of Representatives—Message No. 260, dated 24 June 1997.

12 CARRIAGE OF GOODS BY SEA 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 third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Ronaldson (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Transport and Regional Development), the Bill was read a third time.

13 MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

Messages from the Senate, dated 24 June 1997, were reported returning the following Bills without amendment:

Message—

No. 261—Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) 1997-98.

No. 262—Appropriation (No. 1) 1997-98 (*without requests*).

No. 263—Appropriation (No. 2) 1997-98.

14 HEALTH INSURANCE 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.

Paper

Dr Wooldridge (Minister for Health and Family Services) presented a corrigendum to the explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Dr Wooldridge, the Bill was read a third time.

15 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 9.30 a.m.

PAPERS

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 24 June 1997:

Proclamations by His Excellency the Governor-General fixing the dates on which the following Act and provisions of an Act shall come into operation—

Retirement Savings Accounts Act 1997—2 June 1997.

Transport Legislation Amendment Act 1995—Items 37 to 54 and 58 of Part H of Schedule 1—9 June 1997.

Public Service Act—Determinations 1997 Nos. SESROB 25, SESROB 26, SESROB 27, SESROB 28, SESROB 29, SESROB 30, SESROB 31, SESROB 32, SESROB 33, SESROB 34, SESROB 35, SESROB 36, SESROB 37.

Seafarers Rehabilitation and Compensation Act—Seacare Authority notice 1997 No. 1.

ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr K. J. Andrews, Mr Bevis, Mr Filing, Mrs Gallus, Mr Howard, Mr Moore, Mr Neville, Mr Sawford, Mr Sharp and Mr Somlyay.

L. M. BARLIN

Clerk of the House of Representatives