

1996-97

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS**

No. 129

THURSDAY, 20 NOVEMBER 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 PARLIAMENTARY ZONE—NATIONAL GALLERY OF AUSTRALIA  
EXTENSION—PROPOSED ADDITIONAL WORKS—APPROVAL OF PROPOSAL**

Mr Somlyay (Minister for Regional Development, Territories and Local Government), pursuant to notice, moved—That, in accordance with section 5 of the *Parliament Act 1974*, the House approves the following proposal for work in the Parliamentary Zone which was presented to the House on 17 November 1997, namely: National Gallery of Australia extension—Proposed additional works.

Question—put and passed.

**3 PARLIAMENTARY ZONE—ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING—LOWERING OF  
PARAPETS—APPROVAL OF PROPOSAL**

Mr Somlyay (Minister for Regional Development, Territories and Local Government), pursuant to notice, moved—That, in accordance with section 5 of the *Parliament Act 1974*, the House approves the following proposal for work in the Parliamentary Zone which was presented to the House on 21 October 1997, namely: Administrative Building—Lowering of parapets.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

**4 SOCIAL SECURITY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (YOUTH ALLOWANCE)  
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 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) condemns the Government for:

- (a) withdrawing support for 18 to 20 year olds in families with incomes as low as \$23,400 per annum; and
  - (b) abolishing payments for 16 and 17 year olds while also slashing education funding, labour market assistance and job opportunities; and
- (2) calls on the Government to introduce education and training opportunities so that every young Australian has access to the education and skills needed for full participation in the workplace and society”—

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.

**5 SAFEGUARDING THE FUTURE: AUSTRALIA'S RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

Mr Howard (Prime Minister), by leave, made a ministerial statement on the Government's response to the issues of global warming and greenhouse gas emissions, and presented the following paper:

Safeguarding the future: Australia's response to climate change—Ministerial statement, 20 November 1997.

Mr Reith (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the paper.

*Suspension of standing and sessional orders—Extended time for speech*

Mr Reith, 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 27 minutes.

Question—put and passed.

Mr Beazley addressed the House.

Debate adjourned (Mr Abbott—Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

**6 SOCIAL SECURITY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (YOUTH ALLOWANCE) 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 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:

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- (2) calls on the Government to introduce education and training opportunities so that every young Australian has access to the education and skills needed for full participation in the workplace and society”—

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.

## 7 MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Mr Howard (Prime Minister) informed the House that, during the absence abroad of Mr Fischer (Minister for Trade), Mr McLachlan (Minister for Defence) would be Acting Minister for Trade and would answer questions on his behalf.

Mr Howard also informed the House that, during his forthcoming absence abroad, Mr Fischer (Minister for Trade) would be Acting Prime Minister and would answer questions on his behalf.

## 8 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice being asked—

*Member ordered to withdraw*

At 2.28 p.m. the Member for Grayndler (Mr Albanese) 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 continuing—

*Paper*

Dr Wooldridge (Minister for Health and Family Services) presented the following paper:

Therapeutic goods—Prices of products covered by the therapeutic group premium policy from 1 February 1998—Table.

Questions without notice continued.

## 9 PRIVILEGE—UNAUTHORISED RELEASE OF COMMITTEE DOCUMENTS—REFERENCE TO COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES

The Speaker referred to the matter of privilege raised by Mr Entsch on 28 October 1997 relating to alleged unauthorised disclosure of information concerning the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Native Title and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Fund's inquiry into the Native Title Amendment Bill 1997 and the report Mr Entsch had made to House on 18 November 1997 concerning the committee's consideration of the matter. The Speaker also referred to the comments of Mr Melham on 18 November 1997 and said that, in such matters, it was neither desirable nor practicable for a Speaker to make an assessment of the validity of any preliminary assessment report to the House. The Speaker stated that as the committee had reported that substantial

interference had occurred he was willing to allow precedence to a motion on the matter.

Mr Entsch then moved—That the following matter be referred to the Committee of Privileges for inquiry and report: Whether there was unauthorised disclosure of the report or the minority report of the Joint Committee on Native Title and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Fund on the Native Title Amendment Bill 1997, or of correspondence or other information concerning the committee's inquiry.

Question—put and passed.

#### 10 PAPERS

The following papers were presented:

Anti-Dumping Authority Act—Anti-Dumping Authority—Report for 1996-97.

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Act—Australian Institute of Health and Welfare—Report—Australia's welfare 1997: Services and assistance.

Committee reports—Government responses to parliamentary committee reports—Response to the schedule tabled on 26 June 1997.

Public Service Act—Department of Administrative Services—Report for 1996-97.

*Telecommunications Act 1991*—Australian Telecommunications Authority—Carrier performance—Report for 1996-97.

#### 11 ANTI-DUMPING AUTHORITY—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

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

Anti-Dumping Authority Act—Anti-Dumping Authority—Report for 1996-97.

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

#### 12 FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT ON AUSTRALIA'S RELATIONS WITH SOUTHERN AFRICA—GOVERNMENT RESPONSE—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

Mr Reith (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That the House take note of the following paper:

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade—Joint Standing Committee—Report, November 1996—Australia's relations with Southern Africa—Government response.

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

#### 13 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—DR EKKART ARBEIT

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 crisis

in Australian sport surrounding the appointment of Dr Ekkart Arbeit to head coach of Athletics Australia”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Martin addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

**14 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND FOOD AUTHORITY AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1997**

Message No. 381, 19 November 1997, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for an Act to amend the *Australia New Zealand Food Authority Act 1991*.

Bill read a first time.

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

**15 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—PUBLIC SERVICE BILL 1997**

A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill with amendments:

19 November 1997—Message No. 382—Public Service 1997.

Ordered—That the amendments be considered at the next sitting.

**16 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT (CONSEQUENTIAL AND TRANSITIONAL) AMENDMENT BILL 1997**

A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill with amendments:

19 November 1997—Message No. 383—Public Employment (Consequential and Transitional) Amendment 1997.

Ordered—That the amendments be considered at the next sitting.

**17 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE BILL 1997**

A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill with amendments:

19 November 1997—Message No. 384—Parliamentary Service 1997.

Ordered—That the amendments be considered at the next sitting.

**18 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE**

A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill without amendment:

19 November 1997—Message No. 385—Parliamentary Service (Consequential Amendments) 1997.

**19 JUDICIARY AMENDMENT BILL 1997**

Mr Williams (Attorney-General), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Judiciary Act 1903*, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Williams moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

*Paper*

Mr Williams presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

**20 COPYRIGHT AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1997**

Mr Williams (Attorney-General), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Copyright Act 1968*, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Williams moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

*Paper*

Mr Williams presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

**21 SOCIAL SECURITY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (YOUTH ALLOWANCE) 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 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:

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Debate resumed.

Mr Charles addressing the House—

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## 22 ADJOURNMENT

It being 5.30 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until 6 p.m.—The Speaker adjourned the House until Monday next at 12.30 p.m.

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## PAPERS

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 20 November 1997:

Civil Aviation Act—Civil Aviation Regulations—Civil Aviation Orders—Instruments 1997 Nos. CASA 284, CASA 285.

Migration Act—Notices under section 502 9 (3), 25 July 1997.

National Health Act—Determination under subsection 85B 18 November 1997.

Public Service Act—Determinations 1997 Nos. SESROB 128, SESROB 129, SESROB 130, SESROB 131, SESROB 132.

Quarantine Act—Determinations 1997 No. 3.

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## ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Anthony, Mr Bradford, Mr Downer, Mr Fischer, Mr Forrest, Mr Georgiou, Mr Lindsay, Ms Macklin, Dr Southcott and Dr Theophanous.

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**I. C. HARRIS**

Clerk of the House of Representatives

1996-97

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

No. 129

**MAIN COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

THURSDAY, 20 NOVEMBER 1997

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1 The Main Committee met at 10 a.m.

**2 PRIMARY INDUSTRIES, RESOURCES AND RURAL AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS—STANDING COMMITTEE—REVIEW OF AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT NO. 32 OF 1995-96—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mrs Bailey—That the House take note of the paper (*presented on 23 June 1997*), viz.:

Primary Industries, Resources and Rural and Regional Affairs—Standing Committee—Managing Commonwealth fisheries: The last frontier—Report, June 1997—

Debate resumed.

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

**3 ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AFFAIRS—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT ON GREATER AUTONOMY FOR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Lieberman—That the House take note of the paper (*presented on 26 August 1997*), viz.:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs—Standing Committee—Torres Strait Islanders: A new deal—Greater autonomy for Torres Strait Islanders—Report, August 1997—

Debate resumed.

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



**4 AUSTRALIA'S FOREIGN AND TRADE POLICY—PAPER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Downer—That the House take note of the paper (*presented on 28 August 1997*), viz.:

In the national interest: Australia's foreign and trade policy—White paper—  
Debate resumed.

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

**5 ADJOURNMENT**

On the motion of Mr Nugent, the Main Committee adjourned at 1.05 p.m.

The Deputy Speaker fixed Wednesday, 26 November 1997, at 10 a.m., for the next meeting of the Main Committee.



**B. C. WRIGHT**

Clerk of the Main Committee