

1996-97-98

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS**

No. 140

WEDNESDAY, 4 MARCH 1998

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1 The House met, at 9.30 a.m., pursuant to adjournment.

**2 SPEAKER—RESIGNATION—ACCEPTANCE BY GOVERNOR-GENERAL**

The following communication from His Excellency the Governor-General was received, and was read at the Table by the Clerk:

I desire to inform the House of Representatives that I have received a letter dated 3 March 1998 from the Honourable Bob Halverson OBE MP tendering his resignation as Speaker of the House of Representatives, and that I have accepted his resignation.

Accordingly, I invite the House to elect a new Speaker.

WILLIAM DEANE

Governor-General

Government House

Canberra

4 March 1998

**3 ELECTION OF SPEAKER**

Mr J. N. Andrew (Chief Government Whip), addressing himself to the Clerk, proposed to the House for its Speaker Mr Sinclair, and moved—That he do take the Chair of this House as Speaker, which motion was seconded by Mr Anthony.

Mr Sinclair informed the House that he accepted nomination.

Mr Beazley (Leader of the Opposition), addressing himself to the Clerk, proposed to the House for its Speaker Mr Jenkins, and moved—That he do take the Chair of this House as Speaker, which motion was seconded by Mr Crean.

Mr Jenkins informed the House that he accepted nomination.

There being no further proposal—

Debate ensued.

Mr Martin rising to address the House—

*Closure*

Mr Reith (Leader of the House) moved—That the question be now put.

Question—That the question be now put—put.

The House divided—

## AYES, 85

Mr Abbott	Mrs Elson	Mr Lieberman	Mr Sharp
Mr J. N. Andrew	Mr Entsch	Mr Lloyd	Mr Sinclair
Mr K. J. Andrews	Mr R. D. C. Evans	Mr McArthur*	Mr Slipper*
Mr Anthony	Mr Fahey	Mr McDougall	Mr A. C. Smith
Mrs Bailey	Mr Fischer	Mr McGauran	Mr W. L. Smith
Mr R. C. Baldwin	Mr Forrest	Mr McLachlan	Mr Somlyay
Mr Barresi	Ms Gambaro	Mr Marek	Dr Southcott
Mr Bartlett	Mr Georgiou	Mr Miles	Mrs Stone
Mr Billson	Mrs E. J. Grace	Mr Moore	Mr Taylor
Mr Bradford	Mr Halverson	Mr Nairn	Mr A. P. Thomson
Mr Broadbent	Mr Hardgrave	Mr Nehl	Mr Tuckey
Mr Brough	Mr Hawker	Dr Nelson	Mr M. A. J. Vaile
Mr Cadman	Mr Hicks*	Mr Neville	Mrs D. S. Vale
Mr E. H. Cameron	Mr Hockey	Mr Nugent	Mr Wakelin
Mr R. A. Cameron	Mr Howard	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 Reid	Ms Worth
Mr Costello	Mr Katter	Mr Reith	Mr Zammit
Mr Dondas	Mrs D. M. Kelly	Mr Ronaldson	
Mr Downer	Miss J. M. Kelly	Mr Ruddock	
Mrs Draper	Dr Kemp	Mr Scott	

## NOES, 47

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

\* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

And the House proceeded to ballot; and the ballot being concluded, the Clerk reported the result, as follows:

Mr Sinclair ..... 87 votes

Mr Jenkins..... 48 votes

Mr Sinclair was thereupon declared elected as Speaker, and Mr J. N. Andrew and Mr Anthony conducted him to the Chair.

Mr Sinclair returned his acknowledgments to the House for the honour it had been pleased to confer upon him by choosing him to be its Speaker, and thereupon sat down in the Chair.

Then the Mace, which before lay under the Table, was laid upon the Table.

Mr Howard (Prime Minister), Mr Beazley, Mr Fischer (Leader of the National Party of Australia), Mr Jenkins, Mr Nehl and Mr Reith congratulated the Speaker, who expressed his thanks.

#### **4 PRESENTATION OF THE SPEAKER**

Mr Howard (Prime Minister) stated that he had ascertained it would be His Excellency the Governor-General's pleasure to receive the Speaker in the Chamber precincts at 11.05 a.m.

And the sitting of the House having been suspended at 10.47 a.m. until 11.15 a.m.—

The Speaker reported that he had presented himself to His Excellency the Governor-General as the choice of the House of Representatives as its Speaker and that His Excellency had been kind enough to congratulate him.

#### **5 AUTHORITY TO ADMINISTER OATH OR AFFIRMATION OF ALLEGIANCE TO MEMBERS**

The Speaker announced that he had received from His Excellency the Governor-General the following authority:

I, WILLIAM PATRICK DEANE, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, acting under section 42 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia, authorise IAN McCAHON SINCLAIR, Speaker of the House of Representatives, to administer the oath or affirmation of allegiance to those Members of the House of Representatives who have not already made and subscribed that oath or affirmation since their election or last election to the House of Representatives.

Dated 4 March 1998

WILLIAM DEANE  
Governor-General

By His Excellency's Command

JOHN HOWARD

Prime Minister

#### **6 SPEAKER'S PANEL**

The following warrant nominating members of the Speaker's panel, pursuant to standing order 18, was laid upon the Table:

##### **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Pursuant to the provisions of standing order 18, I nominate—

Dick Godfrey Harry Adams,  
Kevin James Andrews  
Janice Ann Crosio,  
Nicholas Manuel Dondas,  
John Alexander Forrest,  
Colin Hollis,  
De-Anne Margaret Kelly,  
Frank William Mossfield,  
Harry Vernon Quick, and  
Nicholas Bruce Reid,

to be members of the Speaker's panel to assist the Chair when requested to do so by the Speaker or Deputy Speaker.

Given under my hand on 4 March 1998.

I. McC. SINCLAIR  
Speaker

**7 MANAGED INVESTMENTS 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.

Debate adjourned (Mr A. P. Thomson—Minister for Sport and Tourism), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

**8 TRADE OUTCOMES AND OBJECTIVES—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT AND PAPER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS**

Mr Fischer (Minister for Trade), by leave, made a ministerial statement concerning trade policy and presented the following papers:

Trade policy—

Ministerial statement, 4 March 1998.

Trade outcomes and objectives statement, March 1998.

Mr Beazley (Leader of the Opposition), by leave, also made a statement with reference to the matter.

Mr A. P. Thomson (Minister for Sport and Tourism) moved—That the House take note of the papers.

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

**9 MANAGED INVESTMENTS 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 Miles (Parliamentary Secretary (Cabinet) to the Prime Minister), the Bill was read a third time.

**10 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE**

Message No. 428, 3 March 1998, from the Senate was reported acquainting the House of a resolution agreed to by the Senate referring the provisions of the Company Law Review Bill 1997 and the Managed Investments Bill 1997 to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Corporations and Securities for inquiry and report by 23 March 1998.

**11 COMPANY LAW REVIEW 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.

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.

**12 QUESTIONS**

Questions without notice being asked—

Mrs Crosio having asked a question without notice—

*Speaker's ruling*

The Speaker ruled that the question was out of order.

*Dissent from ruling moved*

Mr Crean moved—That the ruling be dissented from.

Debate ensued.

*Closure*

Mr Reith (Leader of the House) moved—That the question be now put.

Question—That the question be now put—put.

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

## AYES, 87

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

## NOES, 46

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

\* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

And the question—That the ruling be dissented from—being accordingly put—  
The House divided (the Speaker, Mr Sinclair, in the Chair)—

## AYES, 46

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

## NOES, 87

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

\* Tellers

And so it was negatived.

Questions without notice continuing—

*Paper*

Mr Crean, in accordance with standing order 321, having called for documents quoted from by Dr Kemp (Minister for Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs)—

Dr Kemp presented the following paper:

Job network services and sites—Tables, 25 February 1998.

Questions without notice continued.

**13 PAPERS**

The following papers were presented:

Fisheries Management Act—Northern Territory Fisheries Joint Authority—  
Report for—  
Period 1 January to 30 June 1995.  
1995-96.

**14 PROPOSED DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—  
WATERFRONT PRODUCTIVITY**

The House was informed that Mr Tanner had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, “The Government’s approach to improving waterfront productivity”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Tanner rising to address the House—

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

Question—put.

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

AYES, 78

Mr J. N. Andrew	Mr R. D. C. Evans	Mr McArthur*	Mr Scott
Mr K. J. Andrews	Mr Fahey	Mr McDougall	Mr Sharp
Mr Anthony	Mr Fischer	Mr McGauran	Mr Slipper*
Mrs Bailey	Mr Forrest	Mr McLachlan	Mr A. C. Smith
Mr R. C. Baldwin	Mr Georgiou	Mr Marek	Mr W. L. Smith
Mr Barresi	Mrs E. J. Grace	Mr Miles	Mr Somlyay
Mr Bartlett	Mr Halverson	Mr Moore	Dr Southcott
Mr Billson	Mr Hardgrave	Mrs Moylan	Mrs Stone
Mr Broadbent	Mr Hawker	Mr Mutch	Mr Taylor
Mr Brough	Mr Hicks*	Mr Nairn	Mr A. P. Thomson
Mr Cadman	Mr Hockey	Mr Nehl	Mr Truss
Mr E. H. Cameron	Ms Jeanes	Dr Nelson	Mr Tuckey
Mr Causley	Mrs Johnston	Mr Neville	Mr M. A. J. Vaile
Mr Charles	Mr Jull	Mr Nugent	Mrs D. S. Vale
Mr Cobb	Mr Katter	Mr Prosser	Mr Wakelin
Mr Costello	Mrs D. M. Kelly	Mr Pyne	Mrs West
Mr Dondas	Miss J. M. Kelly	Mr Randall	Mr Williams
Mrs Draper	Dr Kemp	Mr Reid	Ms Worth
Mrs Elson	Mr Lieberman	Mr Reith	
Mr Entsch	Mr Lloyd	Mr Ronaldson	



## NOES, 46

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

\* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

**15 POSTPONEMENT OF NOTICES**

Ordered—That notices Nos. 1 and 2, government business, be postponed until the next sitting.

**16 CHILD CARE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1998**

Mr W. L. Smith (Minister for Family Services), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend legislation relating to child care, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mr W. L. Smith moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

*Paper*

Mr W. L. Smith 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.

**17 NATIONAL RESIDUE SURVEY ADMINISTRATION AMENDMENT BILL 1998**

Mr Scott (Minister for Veterans' Affairs), for Mr Anderson (Minister for Primary Industries and Energy), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *National Residue Survey Administration Act 1992*, and for other purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

*Paper*

Mr Scott presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

**18 NATIONAL RESIDUE SURVEY (CUSTOMS) LEVY BILL 1998**

Mr Scott (Minister for Veterans' Affairs) presented a Bill for an Act to impose National Residue Survey Levies that are duties of customs.

Bill read a first time.

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

*Paper*

Mr Scott presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

**19 NATIONAL RESIDUE SURVEY (EXCISE) LEVY BILL 1998**

Mr Scott (Minister for Veterans' Affairs) presented a Bill for an Act to impose National Residue Survey Levies that are duties of excise.

Bill read a first time.

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

*Paper*

Mr Scott presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

**20 MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE**

Messages from the Senate, 4 March 1998, were reported:

- (a) transmitting a resolution agreed to by the Senate approving, in accordance with section 5 of the *Parliament Act 1974*, the proposal for installation of drinking fountains in the public gardens and on the tennis court pavilions of Parliament House—No. 429; and
- (b) returning the following Bills without amendment:
  - No. 430—Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) (No. 2) 1997-98.
  - No. 431—Appropriation (No. 3) 1997-98 (*without requests*).
  - No. 432—Appropriation (No. 4) 1997-98.

**21 INSURANCE LAWS AMENDMENT BILL 1997—REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE**

The Deputy Speaker reported that the Main Committee had been unable to complete consideration of the Bill and returned the Bill for further consideration, and presented a certified copy of the Bill.

Debate resumed on the question—That the Bill be now read a second time.

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

*Message from the Governor-General*

Message No. 231, 25 February 1998, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation for the purposes of the Bill.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

Mr Miles (Parliamentary Secretary (Cabinet) to the Prime Minister) moved—  
That the Bill be now read a third time.

Question—put and passed—

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*Absence of quorum:* Mr Price called the attention of the Deputy Speaker to the fact that a quorum of Members was not present.

The bells having been rung, and a quorum not having been obtained within the prescribed time, the Deputy Speaker at 4.35 p.m., in accordance with standing order 45, announced that the Chair would be resumed at 4.45 p.m.

At 4.45 p.m., the Deputy Speaker resumed the Chair, and a quorum of Members was present.

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Bill read a third time.

**22 TELECOMMUNICATIONS AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1997—REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE**

The Deputy Speaker reported that the Bill had been fully considered by the Main Committee, a Governor-General's message recommending an appropriation had been reported, and the Bill had been agreed to without amendment, and presented a certified copy of the Bill.

Bill agreed to.

On the motion of Mr Miles (Parliamentary Secretary (Cabinet) to the Prime Minister), by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

**23 NRS LEVY IMPOSITION BILL 1997—REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE**

The Deputy Speaker reported that the Bill 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 Miles (Parliamentary Secretary (Cabinet) to the Prime Minister), by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

**24 CUSTOMS AND EXCISE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 3) 1997—REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE**

The Deputy Speaker reported that the Bill had been fully considered by the Main Committee and agreed to with an amendment (*see item No. 5, Minutes of Proceedings of the Main Committee*), and presented a certified copy of the Bill together with a schedule of the amendment.

Amendment made by the Main Committee agreed to.

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

On the motion of Mr Miles (Parliamentary Secretary (Cabinet) to the Prime Minister), by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

**25 COMPANY LAW REVIEW 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.

*Consideration in detail*

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole, and agreed to, after debate.

Consideration in detail concluded.

On the motion of Mr Miles (Parliamentary Secretary (Cabinet) to the Prime Minister), by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

**26 CHARTER OF BUDGET HONESTY BILL 1996 [NO. 2]**

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.

Mr O'Connor addressing the House—

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**27 ADJOURNMENT**

It being 7.30 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until 8 p.m.—The Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 9.30 a.m.

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**PAPERS**

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 4 March 1998:

Customs Act and Excise Act—Instruments of approval 1997 Nos. 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38.

National Health Act—Determination 1998 No. HIG 1.

Public Service Act—Determinations—  
1997 Nos. FAT6, FAT8, FAT9.

1998 No. FAT1.

Regulations—Statutory Rules 1998 No. 23.

Taxation Administration Act—Determinations 1998 TD 2, TD 3.

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**ATTENDANCE**

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Anderson, Mrs Bishop, Mrs Gash, Dr Lawrence, Mr Lindsay and Mrs Sullivan.



**I. C. HARRIS**

Clerk of the House of Representatives

1996-97-98

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

No. 140

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

WEDNESDAY, 4 MARCH 1998

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1 The Main Committee met at 11.16 a.m.

*Suspension of sitting*

At 11.16 a.m., the Deputy Speaker left the Chair due to the lack of a quorum.

*Resumption of sitting*

At 11.18 a.m., the Deputy Speaker resumed the Chair, and a quorum being present—

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**2 INSURANCE LAWS 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.

On the motion of Mr Anthony, further proceedings to be conducted in the House.

**3 TELECOMMUNICATIONS 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.

*Message from the Governor-General*

Message No. 232, 2 December 1997, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation for the purposes of the Bill.

Question—That the Bill be reported to the House without amendment—put and passed.

**4 NRS LEVY IMPOSITION 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—

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

Question—That the Bill be reported to the House without amendment—put and passed.

**5 CUSTOMS AND EXCISE 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.

*Consideration in detail*

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole.

Mr Truss (Minister for Customs and Consumer Affairs) moved the Government amendment as circulated.

*Paper*

Mr Truss presented a supplementary explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Amendment agreed to.

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

Consideration in detail concluded.

Ordered—That the Bill be reported to the House with an amendment.

**6 ADJOURNMENT**

On the motion of Mr Truss (Minister for Customs and Consumer Affairs), the Main Committee adjourned at 1.09 p.m.

The Deputy Speaker fixed tomorrow at 9.40 a.m. for the next meeting of the Main Committee.

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**B. C. WRIGHT**  
Clerk of the Main Committee