

1996-97-98

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 150

MONDAY, 30 MARCH 1998

1 The House met, at 12.30 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (the Right Honourable Ian Sinclair) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

2 **INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

Mr Reid (Chair) presented the following papers:

Industry, Science and Technology—Standing Committee—A sea of indifference: Australian industry participation in the North West Shelf project—Report, 30 March 1998.

Evidence received by the committee.

Minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Mr Reid, Mr Beddall, Mr R. D. C. Evans and Mr A. A. Morris made statements in connection with the report.

The time allotted for making statements on the report having expired—

Mr Reid moved—That the House take note of the report.

Mr Reid was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

In accordance with standing order 102B, the debate was adjourned, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

3 **CHILD LABOUR**

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr A. C. Smith—That the House:

- (1) condemns the practice of child labour and calls on governments around the world to do all in their power to outlaw this evil practice; and
- (2) calls on governments and the private sector to boycott products from countries that use children in this shameful way—

Debate resumed.

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

4 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Mr E. H. Cameron, pursuant to notice, moved—That the House:

- (1) expresses its abhorrence of domestic violence;
- (2) notes that children are as much victims of domestic violence as women;
- (3) welcomes the Government's initiative, "Partnerships on Domestic Violence", to further address the consequences of domestic violence and prevent it from happening in the future;
- (4) notes that children who are exposed to domestic violence suffer psychological, behavioural, developmental and physical problems, as a result, and that many children who are exposed to domestic violence unfortunately grow up accepting it as a fact of life;
- (5) urges greater consideration of children in seeking solutions to domestic violence and providing resources to protect victims of domestic violence and prevent domestic violence in the future;
- (6) encourages the federal and State governments to maintain funding to prevent domestic violence and protect victims of it; and
- (7) urges all Australians to be open in their revulsion of domestic violence by speaking out against it, reporting it and assisting victims of it.

Debate ensued.

At 1.45 p.m., the time allotted for the debate having expired, the debate was interrupted in accordance with standing order 106A, Ms Macklin was granted leave to continue her speech when the debate is resumed, and the resumption of the debate was made an order of the day for the next sitting.

5 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Members' statements were made.

6 MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Mr Howard (Prime Minister) informed the House that, during the absence of Mr Anderson (Minister for Primary Industries and Energy), Mr Scott (Minister for Veterans' Affairs) would answer questions on his behalf.

Mr Howard also informed the House that, during the absence of Mr Fischer (Minister for Trade), Mr Downer (Minister for Foreign Affairs) would answer questions on his behalf.

7 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice being asked—

Paper

Mr Pyne, in accordance with standing order 321, having called for documents quoted from by Mr Howard (Prime Minister)—

Mr Howard presented the following paper:

Interest rates—Business overdraft base rate v. variable housing rate, September 1994 to March 1998—Graph.

Questions without notice continued.

8 PETITIONS

The Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:

Mr Andren and Mr Lee, from 25 and 53 petitioners, respectively, praying that legislation to implement a proposed therapeutic goods advertising code be rejected.

Mr Andren, from 546 pensioners, superannuants and retirees, praying that funding be provided to the Australian Pensioners' and Superannuants' Federation.

Mr Beddall, from 1028 residents of Queensland, praying that the House endorse the former Prime Ministers' joint declaration in support of multiculturalism and encourage the current Prime Minister to sign it.

Mr Bevis, from 536 residents of Queensland, praying that the House ensure that the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme does not discriminate against those with the greatest incapacity to pay for prescription medicines.

Mr E. H. Cameron, from 1435 petitioners, praying that action be taken to establish an Embassy of the Republic of Macedonia in Australia.

Mrs Crosio, from 758 petitioners, praying that the Badgerys Creek airport project not proceed and such an airport be built outside the Sydney Basin.

Mrs Draper, from 72 members of the Golden Grove Primary School and Pedare Christian College Primary Campus School communities and users of Cobbler Creek Before School/After School and Vacation Care Services, praying that the implementation of changes to child care assistance be delayed or ongoing funding be provided for child care service administration.

Mr Hicks, from 260 petitioners, praying that radiotherapy services be established at Wagga Wagga and Albury-Wodonga.

Mr Hollis, from 202 residents of New South Wales, praying that a more equitable child support system be introduced.

Ms Jeanes, from 8333 residents of South Australia, praying that Commonwealth funded expenditure by past Prime Ministers be restricted to a maximum of \$1000 per week.

Mr Latham, from 7 residents of south west Sydney, praying that the recommendations of the Fair Trading Inquiry be implemented.

Mr P. F. Morris, from 74 electors of the Division of Shortland, praying that all families have access to affordable and quality child care.

Mr P. F. Morris, from 73 electors of the Division of Shortland, praying that the decision to close the Medicare office in Belmont, NSW, be reversed and dismantling of the Medicare services cease.

Mr W. L. Smith, from 67 residents of Collinsvale, Tas., praying that the installation of a repeater station or a similar solution be adopted to rectify television reception problems in the area of Collinsvale.

Mr Zammit, from 657 residents of New South Wales, praying that a commission of inquiry or judicial inquiry be established to investigate all aspects of the long term operating plan for Sydney (Kingsford-Smith) Airport including the part played by senior members of the Government.

Mr Zammit, from 103 residents of New South Wales, in similar terms.

Petitions received.

9 AUSTRALIAN WATERFRONT

Mr Sawford, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House:

- (1) notes that the current dispute between Patrick's Stevedoring Company and the Maritime Union of Australia is not in the national interest; and
- (2) calls upon the Government to urgently bring together all the players on the Australian waterfront, namely exporters and importers, stevedoring companies, the Maritime Union of Australia, the shipping companies and the port authorities to constructively and collaboratively recommend actions required to achieve world's best practice.

Debate ensued.

The time allotted for private Members' business having expired, the debate was interrupted, the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting, and Mr J. N. Andrew was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

10 GRIEVANCE DEBATE

Pursuant to the provisions of standing order 106, the order of the day having been read—

Question proposed—That grievances be noted.

Debate ensued.

The time allotted for the debate having expired—

Question—That grievances be noted—put and passed.

11 TELSTRA (TRANSITION TO FULL PRIVATE OWNERSHIP) BILL 1998

Mr Fahey (Minister for Finance and Administration), for Mr W. L. Smith (Minister representing the Minister for Communications, the Information Economy and the Arts), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Telstra Corporation Act 1991*, and for other purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

Paper

Mr Fahey presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

12 TAXATION LAWS (TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS) 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.

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.

13 ORDERS OF THE DAY RETURNED TO THE HOUSE

On the motion of Mr Miles (Parliamentary Secretary (Cabinet) to the Prime Minister), the following Main Committee orders of the day, government business, to be returned to the House for further consideration and the resumption of each debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day:

National Residue Survey Administration Amendment Bill 1998;

National Residue Survey (Customs) Levy Bill 1998; and

National Residue Survey (Excise) Levy Bill 1998.

14 NATIONAL RESIDUE SURVEY ADMINISTRATION AMENDMENT BILL 1998

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.

15 NATIONAL RESIDUE SURVEY (CUSTOMS) LEVY BILL 1998

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.

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.

16 NATIONAL RESIDUE SURVEY (EXCISE) LEVY BILL 1998

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.

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.

17 POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY

Ordered—That orders of the day Nos. 2 to 15, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.

18 SOCIAL SECURITY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (YOUTH ALLOWANCE) BILL 1997—SENATE'S REQUESTS

The order of the day having been read for the consideration of the amendments requested by the Senate—

On the motion of Mr Ronaldson (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Transport and Regional Development) the requested amendments were made, after debate.

19 SOCIAL SECURITY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (YOUTH ALLOWANCE CONSEQUENTIAL AND RELATED MEASURES) BILL 1998

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 by Ms Macklin who moved, as an amendment—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 condemns the Government for:

- (1) forcing poor families on as little as \$23,500 per annum to support their young unemployed adults following the introduction of a parental income test on unemployment benefits for those aged between 18 and 21 from 1 July 1998;
- (2) completely abolishing unemployment benefits for young unemployed adults living in families earning more than \$42,000 per annum and forcing parents to find an extra \$87 a week to support their adult offspring;
- (3) adding insult to injury by labelling families caught in the parental income test, ‘well-off’;
- (4) cutting funding to the nation’s secondary schools at the same time as young people under 18 will be forced back to school to receive the Youth Allowance;
- (5) failing to provide the same incentives for young unemployed people to work part-time as it has provided to students;
- (6) failing to reduce youth unemployment; and
- (7) handing responsibility for the costs of youth unemployment back onto the nation’s parents making them pay the price for unacceptable levels of youth unemployment”.

Debate continued.

20 **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 2 p.m.



PAPERS

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 30 March 1998:

Australian Bureau of Statistics Act—Australian Bureau of Statistics—Proposal 1998 No. 3.

Social Security Act—Determination 1998 Child Disability Assessment.

Telecommunications Act 1997—Declaration—Carrier Licence Conditions (Telstra Corporation Limited) 1997 (Amendment 1998 No. 1).



ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Anderson, Mr Fitzgibbon, Mr Holding, Mr Jones, Mr Latham, Mr McGauran, Mr Martin, Mr O'Connor, Mr Quick, Mr S. F. Smith and Mr Wilton.



I. C. HARRIS

Clerk of the House of Representatives