

1996-97-98

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 161

TUESDAY, 26 MAY 1998

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

2 MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Mr Howard (Prime Minister) informed the House that, during the absence of Mr Moore (Minister for Industry, Science and Tourism), Mr A. P. Thomson (Minister for Sport and Tourism) would answer questions on his behalf.

3 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice being asked—

Paper

Mr Downer (Minister for Foreign Affairs) presented the following paper:

Skase, Christopher—Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade—Copy of passport issue alert, 8 January 1993.

Questions without notice continuing—

Papers

Mr Reith (Minister for Workplace Relations and Small Business) presented the following papers:

Maritime dispute donations—Copies of—
Fax form.

Letter from Gary Gray, National Secretary, Australian Labor Party, 23 April 1998.

Questions without notice continuing—

Member ordered to withdraw

At 2.59 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 warning had been given from the Chair, and he accordingly withdrew from the Chamber.

Questions without notice continued.

4 PAPER

Mr Reith (Minister for Workplace Relations and Small Business) after a personal explanation, presented the following paper:

Waterfront dispute—Labor's Bob Brown says hopes Columbus Canada sinks—
Copy of Australian Associated Press report, 25 May 1998.

5 PAPER

The Speaker in response to a question presented the following paper:

Joint House Department and the Department of the Parliamentary Library—
Indigenous Australia in the nation's Parliament House, May 1998.

6 MEMBER ORDERED TO WITHDRAW

At 3.57 p.m. the Member for Lyons (Mr Adams) was ordered, under standing order 304A, to withdraw from the House for 1 hour for continuing to interject after a general warning had been given by the Chair, and he accordingly withdrew from the Chamber.

7 MEMBER ORDERED TO WITHDRAW

At 3.58 p.m. the Member for Jagajaga (Ms Macklin) was ordered, under standing order 304A, to withdraw from the House for 1 hour for continuing to interject after a general warning had been given by the Chair, and she accordingly withdrew from the Chamber.

8 PAPERS

The following papers were presented:

Australian Science, Technology and Engineering Council Act—Australian Science, Technology and Engineering Council—Report—Environmental research ethics: National principles and guidelines for the ethical conduct of research in protected and environmentally sensitive areas, May 1998.

Equal Employment Opportunity (Commonwealth Authorities) Act—Equal Employment Opportunity Program—ANL Limited—Report for 1996-97.

Financial Institutions and Public Administration—Standing Committee—Reports—

Cultivating competition—Inquiry into aspects of the National Competition Policy reform package, June 1997—Revised government response.

Inquiry into ANAO audit report No. 6 of 1996-97 on Commonwealth guarantees, indemnities and letters of comfort, September 1997—Government response.

Treaties—

Bilateral with national interest analysis—Agreement on Mutual Recognition in relation to Conformity Assessment, Certificates and Markings, between Australia and the European Community.

Multilateral with national interest analysis—Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, done at Oslo on 18 September 1997.

Treaties—Joint Standing Committee—3rd Report—Two international agreements on tuna, November 1996—Government response.

9 NATIONAL PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES FOR THE ETHICAL CONDUCT OF RESEARCH IN PROTECTED AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

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

Australian Science, Technology and Engineering Council Act—Australian Science, Technology and Engineering Council—Report—Environmental research ethics: National principles and guidelines for the ethical conduct of research in protected and environmentally sensitive areas, May 1998.

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

10 NATIONAL SORRY DAY

Mr Beazley (Leader of the Opposition), by leave, moved—

That Members of this House, on the occasion of Australia's first Sorry Day, place on record their concern for the policies enforced by earlier governments that separated Aboriginal children from their parents, producing a fundamental denial of their human rights and causing untold human suffering. Notwithstanding that in some instances these policies were well motivated they nevertheless had the effect of separating children from their parents and deprived them of their right to be reared within their own families, denying them a knowledge of their culture and traditions.

For that, we Members of this Parliament apologise and express the deepest regret for the pain and suffering caused to our fellow Aboriginal citizens. We apologise for the mistakes of the past, believing such an apology is the first step to effective reconciliation.

We also place on record our indebtedness to Sir Ronald Wilson and the members of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission whose painstaking work in their report brought this evidence before the Parliament and the Australian people, and in so doing provided this nation with the opportunity of rectifying past wrongs and building a positive relationship amongst all Australian citizens.

Mr W. L. Smith (Minister for Family Services) moved, as an amendment—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “this House:

- (1) recognises the need for the legislative and other powers of the Commonwealth to be used to address the profound economic and social disadvantage continuing to be suffered by indigenous Australians—with specific emphasis on health, housing, education and employment;
- (2) notes that this Government is spending almost \$1.9 billion in 1998-99 on indigenous specific programmes particularly targeted at these priority areas;

- (3) supports the reconciliation process as being important to all Australians and recognises the need to acknowledge past injustices, and emphasises the value of a cooperative effort to build a better future for all Australians; and
- (4) notes this Government's commitment to addressing the recommendations of the *Bringing them home* report through a \$63m package of initiatives to assist in family reunion".

Debate continued.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

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

AYES, 81

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

NOES, 52

Mr Adams	Ms Ellis	Mr Kerr	Mr O'Connor
Mr Albanese	Mr G. J. Evans	Mr Latham	Mr O'Keefe
Mr Andren	Mr M. J. Evans	Dr Lawrence	Mr Price
Mr P. J. Baldwin	Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Mr Lee	Mr Quick
Mr Beazley	Mr M. J. Ferguson	Mr McClelland	Mr Sawford*
Mr Beddall	Mr Fitzgibbon	Ms Macklin	Mr Sercombe
Mr Bevis	Mr E. L. Grace*	Mr McLeay	Mr S. F. Smith
Mr Bradford	Mr Griffin*	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 A. A. Morris	Mr Willis
Mrs Crosio	Mr Jenkins	Mr P. F. Morris	Mr Wilton
Mr Dargavel	Mr Jones	Mr Mossfield	Mr Zammit

* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question proposed—That the motion, as amended, be agreed to.

Mr Crean moved the following further amendment—That the following paragraphs be added:

- “(5) records its concern for the policies that separated Aboriginal children from their parents, noting that this produced a basic denial of their human rights and caused great suffering;
- (6) and its Members apologise and record their deep regret for the pain and suffering endured by Aboriginal citizens;
- (7) and its Members apologise for the mistakes of the past in respect of Aboriginal citizens; and
- (8) records its gratitude to the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, led by Sir Ronald Wilson, for their work in this area”.

Debate continued.

Question—That the paragraphs proposed to be added be so added—put.

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

AYES, 52

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

NOES, 83

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

* Tellers

And so it was negatived.

Motion, as amended, agreed to.

11 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, 1 June 1998.

12 PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT—JOINT COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENT BY MEMBER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

Mr Charles (Chairman) presented the following paper:

Public Accounts and Audit—Joint Committee—Report—Draft budget estimates for the Australian National Audit Office for 1998-99, May 1998.

Ordered to be printed.

Mr Charles, by leave, made a statement in connection with the report.

Mr Charles, by leave, moved—That the House take note of the paper.

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

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

13 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—SOCIAL SECURITY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (YOUTH ALLOWANCE CONSEQUENTIAL AND RELATED MEASURES) BILL 1998

A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill with requests for amendments and informing the House that the amendments indicated by schedule B annexed had been made by the Senate:

25 May 1998—Message No. 486—Social Security Legislation Amendment (Youth Allowance Consequential and Related Measures) 1998.

Ordered—That the amendments requested by the Senate be considered at the next sitting.

14 BILL REFERRED TO MAIN COMMITTEE

Mr J. N. Andrew (Chief Government Whip), pursuant to notice, moved—That the Telecommunications (Carrier Licence Charges) Amendment Bill 1998 be referred to the Main Committee for further consideration.

Question—put and passed.

15 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1998-99—BUDGET DEBATE

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 G. J. Evans (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) 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 notes that the Budget:

- (1) does nothing to redress the pain caused to ordinary Australian families, and those doing it hardest in our community, by the impact of successive Budget cuts on health, education, job programs, aged care, child care and many other government programs and services;
- (2) by seeking to achieve surplus on the basis of savage Budget cuts, rather than on growth and job creation, does nothing to give hope to the unemployed and underemployed;
- (3) confirms that the Opposition’s alternative Budget strategy, as originally announced in 1996, would have returned the Budget to surplus in 1998-99—on the basis of putting growth and jobs first, with much more moderate outlays reductions;
- (4) lacks credibility in its growth, employment and current account deficit forecasts;
- (5) confirms that Australia has a private rather than public saving problem—and the stupidity of the Coalition’s promise-breaking decision in 1997 to abandon Labor’s superannuation co-contribution; and
- (6) is incomplete and misleading in its projections of future revenue and outlays, in that it makes no provision for election-driven new expenditures and the Government’s GST and other tax proposals”.

Debate continued.

Mr J. N. Andrew addressing the House—

16 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 26 May 1998:

Australian Bureau of Statistics Act—Australian Bureau of Statistics—Proposals 1998 Nos. 9, 10, 11.

Customs Act—Instrument of approval 1998 No. 5.

ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Costello, Ms Hanson, Mr Moore, Dr Nelson, Mrs Sullivan and Dr Wooldridge.

I. C. HARRIS

Clerk of the House of Representatives