

1998

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS**

No. 4

MONDAY, 23 NOVEMBER 1998

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

**2 OATH OF ALLEGIANCE BY MEMBER**

Mr Scott made and subscribed the oath of allegiance required by law.

**3 SPEAKER'S PANEL**

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

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

David Peter Maxwell Hawker, and

Joanna Gash

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 23 November 1998.

NEIL ANDREW

Speaker

**4 ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH**

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the following Address in Reply to the speech of His Excellency the Governor-General be agreed to:

May it please Your Excellency:

We, the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia, in Parliament assembled, desire to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the speech which you have been pleased to address to Parliament—

Debate resumed.

It being 1.45 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with the resolution agreed to on 12 November 1998, and the resumption of the debate was made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

## **5 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

Members' statements were made.

## **6 MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS**

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

## **7 QUESTIONS**

Questions without notice were asked.

## **8 COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The Speaker presented the following papers:

Committee reports received by the Speaker after the last sitting of the House in July 1998 pursuant to resolutions agreed to on 2 July 1998—

Communications, Transport and Microeconomic Reform—Standing Committee—

Ship Safe: Inquiry into Australian Maritime Safety Authority Annual Report 1996-97—

Report, August 1998.

Evidence received by the committee.

Minutes of proceedings.

Tracking Australia: An inquiry into the role of rail in the national transport network—

Report, July 1998.

Evidence received by the committee.

Minutes of proceedings.

Employment, Education and Training—Standing Committee—Today's training. Tomorrow's skills—

Report, 28 July 1998.

Evidence received by the committee.

Minutes of proceedings.

Environment, Recreation and the Arts—Standing Committee—Regulatory arrangements for trading in greenhouse gas emissions—

Interim report, 17 August 1998.

Evidence received by the committee.

Minutes of proceedings.

Migration—Joint Standing Committee—Immigration detention centres—

Inspection report, August 1998.

Minutes of proceedings.

Treaties—Joint Standing Committee—United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child—

17th Report, August 1998.

Evidence received by the Committee.

Minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That each of the reports be printed.

#### 9 PAPER

The Speaker presented the following paper:

Public Service Act—Joint House Department—Report for 1997-98.

#### 10 AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT

The Speaker presented the following paper:

Auditor-General Act—Auditor-General—Audit report No. 16 of 1998-99—Performance audit—Aviation security in Australia: Department of Transport and Regional Services.

Ordered to be printed.

#### 11 NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA COUNCIL

Mr Reith (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That, in accordance with the provisions of the *National Library Act 1960*, this House elects Dr Theophanous to be a member of the Council of the National Library of Australia and to continue as a member for a period of 3 years from and including 23 November 1998.

Question—put and passed.

#### 12 PARLIAMENTARY RETIRING ALLOWANCES TRUST

Mr Reith (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Parliamentary Contributory Superannuation Act 1948*, Mr McLeay be appointed a trustee to serve on the Parliamentary Retiring Allowances Trust.

Question—put and passed.

#### 13 SELECTION COMMITTEE

Mr Reith (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That Mr K. J. Andrews, Mrs Elson, Mr Hollis, Mr McArthur, Mr Neville, Mr Sawford and Mr Sercombe be members of the Selection Committee.

Question—put and passed.

#### 14 PETITIONS

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

Mrs D. M. Kelly, Mr Lieberman, Mr Neville, Mr Somlyay and Mr Truss, from 20, 10 788, 79, 35 and 118 petitioners, respectively, praying that the proposed Sexuality Discrimination Bill be rejected.

Mr Crean and Mr M. J. Ferguson, from 187 and 61 petitioners, respectively, praying that candidates and political parties at the next federal election be urged to place any party promoting racial and cultural division last on how-to-vote cards.

Mr M. J. Ferguson and Mr Tanner, from 199 and 200 petitioners, respectively, praying that the Prime Minister be called upon to urge all political parties to place Pauline Hanson's One Nation last on their how-to-vote cards.

Ms Macklin and Mr McLeay, from 14 and 54 petitioners, respectively, praying that certain decisions affecting the price and availability of medicines be recognised as unfair.

Mr Anderson, from 2834 petitioners, praying that a 4 lane upgrade of the Warrego Highway (Gatton Bypass) be supported.

Mr Andren, from 141 residents of New South Wales, praying that any further government sale of Telstra be opposed.

Mr K. J. Andrews, from 17 petitioners, praying that action be taken to remove the exclusion of members of the Royal Australian Navy, who served in the Malaya campaign, from repatriation benefits under the Veterans' Entitlements Act.

Mr Bevis, from 1446 residents of Queensland, praying that a full and independent cost-benefit analysis of all runway options be taken before any single runway option is implemented at Brisbane Airport.

Mrs Crosio, from 2157 residents of Sydney South West and Sydney West, praying that any plan to construct a second airport in the Sydney airshed be abandoned immediately.

Mr Downer, from 99 petitioners, praying that the Minister for Health and Family Services be instructed to negotiate a fair deal for general practitioners and their patients in the setting of Medicare rebates.

Mr Fahey, from 219 petitioners, praying that certain actions be taken to ensure the conduct of free and fair elections in Cambodia.

Mr Fahey, from 99 petitioners, praying that certain action be taken to prevent political violence in Cambodia and install a truly democratically elected Government.

Mr Jenkins, from 58 residents of Victoria, praying that legislation that would impact upon existing quality, affordable childcare not be passed.

Mr Jenkins, from 51 residents of Victoria, praying that the decision to allow mining at Jabiluka be reversed.

Mr Jenkins, from 3000 residents of Victoria, praying that a Medicare office be established at Epping Plaza Regional Shopping Centre, Epping, Vic.

Mr Jull, from 1002 members of the Coombabah Branch of the Paradise Point and Northern Districts Progress Association Incorporated, praying that a general post office be established near the shopping centre at Coombabah, Qld.

Mr Lee, from 10 036 petitioners, praying that the unfairness of prohibiting the use of the term “drug free” in describing and advertising vitamin and herbal remedies be recognised.

Mr Lee, from 514 electors of the Division of Dobell, praying that Australia Post’s current reserved service be retained and the National Competition Council’s proposal to deregulate Australia’s postal services be rejected.

Mr Lindsay, from 4548 residents of Queensland, praying that federal road funding of \$417 million, in real terms, be allocated to Queensland annually over the next decade.

Ms Macklin, from 89 petitioners, praying that majority public ownership of Telstra continue.

Ms Macklin, from 24 petitioners, praying that nursing home care be available to all and that the family home be exempted from assets tests relating to payment for such care.

Mr McLeay, from 18 residents of New South Wales, in similar terms.

Ms Macklin, from 22 petitioners, praying that policies be implemented which will advance the position of Australian women.

Mr Martin, from 60 petitioners, praying that increased nuclear activity in Sydney be opposed.

Mr Martin, from 9 petitioners, praying that post-secondary education be returned to a system which is fair and accessible for all Australians.

Mr McClelland, from 61 electors of the Division of Barton, praying that section 89A of the Workplace Relations Act be repealed.

Mr Mossfield, from 1682 residents of New South Wales, praying that the Commonwealth Bank branch at Lalor Park, NSW, be reopened.

Mrs Moylan, from 1004 residents of Western Australia, praying that further construction or operation of a bitumen and asphalt plant on airport land at Hazelmere, WA, be prevented until public and environmental bodies have been consulted.

Mr Rudd, from 9617 residents of Queensland, praying that certain action be taken to oppose the proposal for a western parallel runway, ensure public consultation on future proposals and reduce noise levels and other environmental pollution at Brisbane Airport.

Mr M. A. J. Vaile, from 115 electors of the Division of Lyne, praying that SBS television services be extended to the lower mid-north coast, NSW.

Mr Williams, from 1025 petitioners, praying that amendments to the Copyright Act concerning compact discs be extended to include laser discs.

Petitions received.

## 15 ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL’S SPEECH

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May it please Your Excellency:

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Debate resumed.

Debate adjourned (Mr Melham), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

#### 16 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.

#### 17 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—EDUCATION SERVICES FOR OVERSEAS STUDENTS (REGISTRATION OF PROVIDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATION) AMENDMENT BILL 1998

Message No. 4, 23 November 1998, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for an Act to extend the operation of the *Education Services for Overseas Students (Registration of Providers and Financial Regulation) Act 1991*, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

#### 18 ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH

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May it please Your Excellency:

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Debate resumed.

Mr Katter 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 a later hour this day.

19 **TELSTRA (TRANSITION TO FULL PRIVATE OWNERSHIP) 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.

Dr Nelson addressing the House—

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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.

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**PAPERS**

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 23 November 1998:

Christmas Island Act—Ordinances 1998 Nos. 4, 5, 6.

Civil Aviation Act—Civil Aviation Regulations—  
Exemption 1998 No. CASA 40.

Civil Aviation Orders—

Part 82—Amendment 1998 16 November.

Part 105—Amendments 1998 27 (2), 31 October, 6, 9, 10 (5), 13 (9) November.

Part 107—Amendments 1998 13 (4) November.

Cocos (Keeling) Islands Act—Ordinances 1998 Nos. 4, 5, 6.

Customs Act—Instruments of approval 1998 Nos. 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39.

Customs Act and Excise Act—Instrument of approval 1998 No. 50.

Defence Act—Determination 1998 No. 38.

Export Control Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1998 No. 311.

Health Insurance Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1998 No. 267.

Income Tax Assessment Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1998 No. 313.

Judicial and Statutory Officers (Remuneration and Allowances) Act—  
Regulations—Statutory Rules 1998 No. 309.

Lands Acquisition Act—

Statement under section 40.

Statement under section 125.

National Health Act—Determination 1998 No. HIG9.

Public Service Act—Determinations 1998 Nos. 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, LES 39, LES 40, LES 41, SESROB 78, SESROB 79.

Public Works Committee Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1998 No. 310.  
Radiocommunications Act—Instrument—Radiocommunications  
(Electromagnetic Compatibility) Standard 1998.  
Remuneration Tribunal Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1998 Nos. 307,  
308.  
Sales Tax Assessment Act—Determinations 1998—  
Addendum No. 2 to STD 96/5.  
STD 7.  
Seat of Government (Administration) Act—Ordinance 1998 National Land  
(Amendment).  
Social Security Act—Determinations 1998—  
Asset-test Exempt Income Stream (Lifetime Income Stream Guidelines).  
Social Security (Meaning of Seasonal Work).  
Social Security (Pension Valuation Factor).  
Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules  
1998 No. 312.  
Sydney Airport Curfew Act—Dispensations 1998 Nos. 9, 10, 11, 12.

**ATTENDANCE**

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Brereton, Mr Fischer and Mr Sciacca.

**I. C. HARRIS**

Clerk of the House of Representatives