

1998-99

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 32

MONDAY, 29 MARCH 1999



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 TREATIES—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENT BY MEMBER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

Mr A. P. Thomson (Chair) presented the following paper:

Treaties—Joint Standing Committee—20th report—Two treaties tabled on 26 May 1998, the Bougainville Peace Monitoring Group Protocol and treaties tabled on 11 November 1998—Report, 23 March 1998.

Ordered to be printed.

Mr A. P. Thomson made a statement in connection with the report.

Mr A. P. Thomson moved—That the House take note of the report.

Mr A. P. Thomson 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 FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

Dr Theophanous presented the following papers:

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade—Joint Standing Committee—Loss of HMAS *Sydney*—

Report, March 1999.

Evidence received by the committee.

Minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Dr Theophanous, Mr Hawker, Mr Price and Dr Southcott made statements in connection with the report.

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

Dr Theophanous moved—That the House take note of the report.

Dr Theophanous 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.

4 EMPLOYMENT SECURITY BILL 1999

Mr Bevis, pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Workplace Relations Act 1996* and the *Corporations Law*, in order to help protect the entitlements of employees.

Mr Bevis made a statement in relation to the Bill.

Paper

Mr Bevis, by leave, presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Bill read a first time.

Ordered—That the second reading be made an order of the day for the next sitting, in accordance with standing order 104A.

5 SYDNEY OLYMPICS

Mr Barresi, pursuant to notice, moved—That the House:

- (1) continues to support the staging of the Sydney Olympics as an opportunity to showcase Australia, its people, culture and above all our sporting traditions;
- (2) acknowledges the commitment, work and performance of Australia's athletes and sporting organisations as they prepare to participate in the 2000 Olympics;
- (3) deplores the disrepute caused to the Olympic ideals by the continuing bribery allegations;
- (4) notes the concerns expressed by the local and international community at the loss of integrity in the Olympic movement and its possible effect on the successful staging of Australia's 2000 Games; and
- (5) requests that SOCOG calls on the IOC to fund any shortfall in sponsorship finances which may result from inappropriate action by IOC members.

Debate ensued.

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

6 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Members' statements were made.

7 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

8 PAPER

Mr Costello (Treasurer) presented the following paper:

Mandates—“How to ensure we get what we vote for”—Copy of article published in the *Age*, 26 March 1999.

9 PETITIONS

Petitions lodged for presentation were announced.

10 ASBESTOS EXPOSURE

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

- (1) recognises the enormous pain, suffering and economic hardship which has been experienced, and which is still being experienced, by victims of asbestos exposure, and their families; and
- (2) calls on the Government to:
 - (a) immediately ratify ILO Convention No. 162 regarding the prevention and control of health hazards due to occupational exposure to asbestos;
 - (b) immediately legislate to:
 - (i) preserve the right to claim general damages for relatives of victims of asbestos related diseases upon the death of the claimant in all States and Territories save New South Wales;
 - (ii) remove time limits on claims for damages by those suffering claims for asbestos related disease;
 - (iii) allow the reuse of evidence to minimise the cost of litigation and court time; and
 - (iv) increase financial assistance for asbestos disease support groups; and
 - (c) instigate a national inquiry into the occupational use of asbestos to determine the:
 - (i) extent of knowledge held by government agencies on the lethal effects of asbestos;
 - (ii) extent of knowledge held by private companies using asbestos in their operations as to the lethal effects of asbestos;
 - (iii) nature of work practices which were employed in Australia in relation to the use of asbestos by both government agencies and private companies; and
 - (iv) adequacy of the existing and ongoing arrangements for the payment of compensation to Latrobe Valley workers affected by asbestos exposure in light of the privatisation of the SECV, which for decades has been the region's largest employer as well as being an employer operating in an industry in which asbestos construction materials were extensively used.

Debate ensued.

The time allotted for the debate having expired, the debate was interrupted, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

11 DRUGS

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

- (1) expresses its deep concern at the level of addictive drug taking in Australia;
- (2) calls on Australians and all Australian governments to enhance their attack on illegal drugs by all means at their disposal; and
- (3) encourages the development of preventive programs.

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 Ms Plibersek was granted leave to continue her speech when the debate is resumed.

12 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.

13 MAIN COMMITTEE—DAY OF NEXT MEETING

The Deputy Speaker reported that Tuesday, 30 March 1999, at 4.30 p.m., had been fixed for the next meeting of the Main Committee.

14 BILLS REFERRED TO MAIN COMMITTEE

Mr Ronaldson (Chief Government Whip), by leave, moved—That the following Bills be referred to the Main Committee for further consideration:

Navigation Amendment (Employment of Seafarers) 1998;

Ozone Protection Amendment 1998; and

Youth Allowance Consolidation 1999.

Question—put and passed.

15 SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS—MAIN COMMITTEE—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS AND ADJOURNMENT DEBATE

Dr Wooldridge (Minister for Health and Aged Care), by leave, moved—That for the Main Committee at its sitting on Wednesday, 31 March 1999 so much of the standing and sessional orders be suspended as would prevent references to “Thursday” in standing orders 274A (Main Committee adjournment debates) and 275A (Main Committee statements by Members) being omitted and “Wednesday” being substituted.

Question—put and passed.

16 POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY

Ordered—That orders of the day Nos. 2 to 4, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.

17 HEALTH LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1999—SENATE'S REQUEST

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

Dr Wooldridge (Minister for Health and Aged Care) moved—That the requested amendment be not made.

Debate ensued.

Question—put.

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

AYES, 76

Mr Abbott	Mrs Elson	Mr Lawler	Mr Ruddock
Mr Anderson	Mr Entsch	Mr Lieberman	Mr St Clair
Mr K. J. Andrews	Mr Fahey	Mr Lindsay	Mr Schultz
Mr Anthony	Mr Fischer	Mr Lloyd	Mr Scott
Ms Bailey	Mr Forrest*	Mr McArthur*	Mr Secker
Mr Baird	Mrs Gallus	Mr I. E. Macfarlane	Mr Slipper
Mr Barresi	Ms Gambaro	Mr McGauran	Mr Somlyay
Mr Bartlett	Mrs Gash	Mrs May	Dr Southcott
Mr Billson	Mr Georgiou	Mr Moore	Mrs Stone
Mrs B. K. Bishop	Mr Haase	Mrs Moylan	Mr C. P. Thompson
Ms J. I. Bishop	Mr Hardgrave	Mr Nairn	Mr A. P. Thomson
Mr Brough	Mr Hawker	Mr Nehl	Mr Truss
Mr Cadman	Mr Hockey	Dr Nelson	Mr Tuckey
Mr Cameron	Mrs Hull	Mr Neville	Mr M. A. J. Vaile
Mr Causley	Mr Jull	Mr Nugent	Mrs D. S. Vale
Mr Charles	Mr Katter	Mr Prosser	Mr Wakelin
Mr Costello	Mrs D. M. Kelly	Mr Pyne	Dr Washer
Mr Downer	Jackie Kelly	Mr Reith	Mr Williams
Mrs Draper	Dr Kemp	Mr Ronaldson	Ms Worth

NOES, 65

Mr Adams	Ms Gerick	Mr McClelland	Mr Rudd
Mr Albanese	Mr Gibbons	Ms J. S. McFarlane	Mr Sawford*
Mr Bevis	Ms Gillard	Ms Macklin	Mr Sciacca
Mr Brereton	Mr Griffin	Mr McLeay	Mr Sercombe*
Ms Burke	Ms Hall	Mr McMullan	Mr Sidebottom
Mr Cox	Mr Hatton	Mr Martin	Mr Smith
Mr Crean	Ms Hoare	Mr Melham	Mr Snowdon
Mrs Crosio	Mr Hollis	Mr Morris	Mr Swan
Mr Danby	Mr Horne	Mr Murphy	Mr Tanner
Mr Edwards	Mrs Irwin	Ms O'Byrne	Dr Theophanous
Ms Ellis	Mr Jenkins	Mr O'Connor	Mr K. J. Thomson
Dr Emerson	Ms Kernot	Mr O'Keefe	Mr Wilkie
Mr G. J. Evans	Mr Kerr	Ms Plibersek	Mr Wilton
Mr M. J. Evans	Mr Latham	Mr Price	Mr Zahra
Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Dr Lawrence	Mr Quick	
Mr M. J. Ferguson	Mr Lee	Mr Ripoll	
Mr Fitzgibbon	Ms Livermore	Ms Roxon	

* Tellers

Pairs

Mr Howard Mr Beazley

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

18 FINANCIAL SECTOR REFORM (AMENDMENTS AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS) BILL (NO. 1) 1999

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 Mr Crean (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) who moved, as an amendment—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “the House, while supportive of continuing reform of the financial sector:

- (1) condemns the Government for seeking to push this complex bill through the House so rapidly given that it has taken the Government two years to introduce it in response to the recommendations of the Wallis Inquiry into the Financial Sector;
- (2) rejects the Government's attempts to water down the requirement for the Treasurer to consent to institutional changes within the financial sector;
- (3) calls on the Government to confirm that it will not use the provisions of this bill to relax its ‘four pillars’ policy; and
- (4) condemns the failure of the Government's attempted reliance on ‘red-hot’ competition and of the Wallis reforms to date to prevent exorbitant rises in bank fees and charges”.

Debate continued.

Question—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the question—
put.

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

AYES, 70

Mr Abbott	Mrs Elson	Mr Lieberman	Mr St Clair
Mr Anderson	Mr Fahey	Mr Lindsay	Mr Schultz
Mr K. J. Andrews	Mr Forrest*	Mr Lloyd	Mr Secker
Mr Anthony	Mrs Gallus	Mr McArthur*	Mr Slipper
Ms Bailey	Ms Gambaro	Mr I. E. Macfarlane	Mr Somlyay
Mr Baird	Mrs Gash	Mr McGauran	Dr Southcott
Mr Barresi	Mr Georgiou	Mrs May	Mrs Stone
Mr Bartlett	Mr Haase	Mr Moore	Mr C. P. Thompson
Mr Billson	Mr Hardgrave	Mrs Moylan	Mr A. P. Thomson
Ms J. I. Bishop	Mr Hawker	Mr Nairn	Mr Truss
Mr Brough	Mr Hockey	Mr Nehl	Mr M. A. J. Vaile
Mr Cadman	Mrs Hull	Dr Nelson	Mrs D. S. Vale
Mr Cameron	Mr Jull	Mr Neville	Mr Wakelin
Mr Causley	Mr Katter	Mr Nugent	Dr Washer
Mr Charles	Mrs D. M. Kelly	Mr Prosser	Dr Wooldridge
Mr Costello	Jackie Kelly	Mr Pyne	Ms Worth
Mr Downer	Dr Kemp	Mr Reith	
Mrs Draper	Mr Lawler	Mr Ronaldson	

NOES, 61

Mr Adams	Ms Gerick	Ms Livermore	Ms Roxon
Mr Albanese	Mr Gibbons	Mr McClelland	Mr Rudd
Mr Bevis	Ms Gillard	Ms J. S. McFarlane	Mr Sawford*
Mr Breton	Mr Griffin	Ms Macklin	Mr Sciacca
Ms Burke	Ms Hall	Mr McLeay	Mr Sercombe*
Mr Crean	Mr Hatton	Mr Martin	Mr Sidebottom
Mrs Crosio	Ms Hoare	Mr Melham	Mr Smith
Mr Danby	Mr Hollis	Mr Morris	Mr Snowdon
Mr Edwards	Mr Horne	Mr Murphy	Dr Theophanous
Ms Ellis	Mrs Irwin	Ms O'Byrne	Mr K. J. Thomson
Dr Emerson	Mr Jenkins	Mr O'Connor	Mr Wilkie
Mr G. J. Evans	Ms Kernot	Mr O'Keefe	Mr Wilton
Mr M. J. Evans	Mr Kerr	Ms Plibersek	Mr Zahra
Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Mr Latham	Mr Price	
Mr M. J. Ferguson	Dr Lawrence	Mr Quick	
Mr Fitzgibbon	Mr Lee	Mr Ripoll	

* Tellers

Pairs

Mr Howard Mr Beazley

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the Bill be now read a second time—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

Message from the Governor-General

Message No. 46, 22 March 1999, 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.

On the motion of Mr Hockey (Minister for Financial Services and Regulation), the Bill was read a third time.

19 FINANCIAL SECTOR (TRANSFERS OF BUSINESS) BILL 1999

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 Mr Crean (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) who moved, as an amendment—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “the House, while supportive of continuing reform of the financial sector:

- (1) condemns the Government for proposing a mechanism important details of which are yet to be prescribed by legislation;
- (2) rejects the Government’s attempts to water down the requirement for the Treasurer to consent to transfers of businesses under the Bill;
- (3) rejects the Government’s attempts to exclude the ACCC from any role in assessing transfer proposals;
- (4) calls on the Government to confirm that the mechanism is in the best interests of authorised deposit-taking institution and life insurance company consumers; and
- (5) calls on the Government to confirm that it will not use the provisions of this bill to relax its ‘four pillars’ policy”.

Question—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the question—put.

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

AYES, 73

Mr Abbott	Mr Fahey	Mr Lindsay	Mr Scott
Mr Anderson	Mr Fischer	Mr Lloyd	Mr Secker
Mr K. J. Andrews	Mr Forrest*	Mr McArthur*	Mr Slipper
Mr Anthony	Mrs Gallus	Mr I. E. Macfarlane	Mr Somlyay
Ms Bailey	Ms Gambaro	Mr McGauran	Dr Southcott
Mr Baird	Mrs Gash	Mrs May	Mrs Stone
Mr Barresi	Mr Georgiou	Mr Moore	Mr C. P. Thompson
Mr Bartlett	Mr Haase	Mrs Moylan	Mr A. P. Thomson
Mr Billson	Mr Hardgrave	Mr Nairn	Mr Truss
Ms J. I. Bishop	Mr Hawker	Mr Nehl	Mr Tuckey
Mr Brough	Mr Hockey	Dr Nelson	Mr M. A. J. Vaile
Mr Cadman	Mrs Hull	Mr Neville	Mrs D. S. Vale
Mr Cameron	Mr Jull	Mr Nugent	Mr Wakelin
Mr Causley	Mr Katter	Mr Prosser	Dr Washer
Mr Charles	Mrs D. M. Kelly	Mr Pyne	Dr Wooldridge
Mr Costello	Jackie Kelly	Mr Ronaldson	Ms Worth
Mr Downer	Dr Kemp	Mr Ruddock	
Mrs Draper	Mr Lawler	Mr St Clair	
Mr Elson	Mr Lieberman	Mr Schultz	

NOES, 59

Mr Adams	Ms Gerick	Mr Lee	Mr Quick
Mr Albanese	Mr Gibbons	Ms Livermore	Mr Ripoll
Mr Brereton	Ms Gillard	Mr McClelland	Ms Roxon
Ms Burke	Mr Griffin	Ms J. S. McFarlane	Mr Rudd
Mr Cox	Ms Hall	Ms Macklin	Mr Sawford*
Mr Crean	Mr Hatton	Mr McLeay	Mr Sciacca
Mrs Crosio	Ms Hoare	Mr Martin	Mr Sercombe*
Mr Danby	Mr Hollis	Mr Melham	Mr Sidebottom
Mr Edwards	Mr Horne	Mr Morris	Mr Snowdon
Ms Ellis	Mrs Irwin	Mr Murphy	Dr Theophanous
Dr Emerson	Mr Jenkins	Ms O'Byrne	Mr K. J. Thomson
Mr G. J. Evans	Ms Kernot	Mr O'Connor	Mr Wilkie
Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Mr Kerr	Mr O'Keefe	Mr Wilton
Mr M. J. Ferguson	Mr Latham	Ms Plibersek	Mr Zahra
Mr Fitzgibbon	Dr Lawrence	Mr Price	

* Tellers

Pairs

Mr Howard Mr Beazley

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the Bill be now read a second time—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Hockey (Minister for Financial Services and Regulation), the Bill was read a third time.

20 INCOME TAX RATES AMENDMENT (RSAS PROVIDED BY REGISTERED ORGANIZATIONS) BILL 1999

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 Hockey (Minister for Financial Services and Regulation), the Bill was read a third time.

21 CIVIL AVIATION 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.

Mr Snowdon addressing the House—

22 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 29 March 1999:

Australian Horticultural Corporation Act—Australian Horticultural Corporation (Australian Dried Fruits Board) Orders 1999 No.1.

Broadcasting Services Act—Commercial Television Conversion Scheme 1999.

Fisheries Management Act—Northern Prawn Fishery Management Plan 1995—Directions Nos. NPDF 23, NPDF 24, NPDF 25, NPDF 26, NPDF 27.

Health Insurance Act—Declaration 1999 No. QAA 1.

National Rail Corporation Agreement Act—National Rail Corporation Limited—Third Amending Agreement 22 March 1999.

Public Service Act—Public Service and Merit Protection Commission—SESROB Determinations 1999 Nos. 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20.

Remuneration Tribunal Act—Remuneration Tribunal—Determinations 1999
Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.



ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting).



I. C. HARRIS

Clerk of the House of Representatives