

1998-99

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 34

WEDNESDAY, 31 MARCH 1999

1 The House met, at 9.30 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (the Honourable Neil Andrew) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

2 POSTPONEMENT OF NOTICE

Mr Reith (Leader of the House) moved—That notice No. 1, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

3 A NEW TAX SYSTEM (COMMONWEALTH-STATE FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS) 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: “whilst not declining to give the Bill a second reading, the House:

- (1) notes that the rate of GST has increased in almost every OECD nation with a GST and the same will inevitably occur in Australia;
- (2) notes that the proposed lock-in mechanism is totally ineffectual and will not prevent future Commonwealth Parliaments from increasing the GST rate or removing exemptions;
- (3) notes that the GST will be more unfair as the rate increases, as international experience is generally that no compensation is paid when the rate of GST is increased with or without the agreement of the States or Territories;
- (4) notes that the GST revenue is only forecast to increase by 2.7% in 2002-03 which is less than under the current financial assistance arrangements, suggesting that the GST rate will need to be increased in order to finance the needs of the States;

- (5) condemns the Government for the funding model in the Bill as it will inevitably limit the ability of the Commonwealth to ensure minimum national standards apply for basic community services, and will therefore lead to a more unfair and uneven delivery of public services to Australians;
- (6) condemns the Government for the funding model which, over time, will force the Commonwealth to restrict the specific assistance granted to States in respect of health, education and other community services thereby leading inevitably to the contraction of Medicare and other vital services;
- (7) condemns the Government for the lack of equality of opportunity that will inevitably result from the removal of significant national involvement and national standard setting in the delivery of basic community services;
- (8) condemns the Government for the New Tax System package which, far from reducing, actually worsens, vertical fiscal imbalance, thereby increasing the reliance of the States and Territories on Commonwealth revenue sources; and
- (9) condemns the Government for the proposal which seeks to replace the principle of horizontal fiscal equalisation, based on an independent assessment conducted by the Commonwealth Grants Commission - which operates to ensure that all Australians have the opportunity to enjoy equal levels of services wherever they live - with a system under which the Federal Treasurer will have the absolute right to determine the future general purpose funding levels of each State and Territory and the apportionment of relativities under it without their agreement”.

Debate continued.

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

The House divided (the Deputy Speaker, Mrs D. M. Kelly, in the Chair)—

AYES, 74

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

NOES, 64

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

* 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. 49, 24 March 1999, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation for the purposes of the Bill.

Consideration in detail

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole.

Mr Cox, by leave, moved Opposition amendments (1) and (2) together.

Debate continued.

Question—That the amendments be agreed to—put.

The House divided (the Deputy Speaker, Mrs D. M. Kelly, in the Chair)—

AYES, 63

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

NOES, 74

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

* Tellers

Pairs

Mr Howard Mr Beazley

And so it was negatived.

Bill agreed to.

Consideration in detail concluded.

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

4 A NEW TAX SYSTEM (COMMONWEALTH-STATE FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS—CONSEQUENTIAL PROVISIONS) 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.

Message from the Governor-General

Message No. 50, 24 March 1999, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation for the purposes of the Bill.

Consideration in detail

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole.

Mr Cox, by leave, moved Opposition amendments (1) to (7) together.

Debate continued.

Amendments negatived.

Bill agreed to.

Consideration in detail concluded.

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

5 A NEW TAX SYSTEM (WINE EQUALISATION TAX) 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.

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

Message from the Governor-General

Message No. 51, 24 March 1999, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation for the purposes of the Bill.

Consideration in detail

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole.

Mr Fitzgibbon, by leave, moved Opposition amendments (1) and (2) together.

Debate continued.

Question—That the amendments be agreed to—put.

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

AYES, 64

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

NOES, 73

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

* Tellers

Pairs

Mr Howard Mr Beazley

And so it was negatived.

Bill agreed to.

Consideration in detail concluded.

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

6 A NEW TAX SYSTEM (WINE EQUALISATION TAX IMPOSITION—GENERAL) 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.

7 A NEW TAX SYSTEM (WINE EQUALISATION TAX IMPOSITION—CUSTOMS) 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.

8 A NEW TAX SYSTEM (WINE EQUALISATION TAX IMPOSITION—EXCISE) 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.

9 A NEW TAX SYSTEM (LUXURY CAR TAX) 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.

Message from the Governor-General

Message No. 52, 24 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.

10 A NEW TAX SYSTEM (LUXURY CAR TAX IMPOSITION—GENERAL) 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.

11 A NEW TAX SYSTEM (LUXURY CAR TAX IMPOSITION—CUSTOMS) 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.

12 A NEW TAX SYSTEM (LUXURY CAR TAX IMPOSITION—EXCISE) 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.

13 A NEW TAX SYSTEM (INDIRECT TAX ADMINISTRATION) 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.

Message from the Governor-General

Message No. 53, 24 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.

14 A NEW TAX SYSTEM (WINE EQUALISATION TAX AND LUXURY CAR TAX TRANSITION) 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.

Message from the Governor-General

Message No. 54, 24 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.

15 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

16 MEMBER ORDERED TO WITHDRAW

At 3.37 p.m. the Member for Fowler (Mrs Irwin) was ordered, under standing order 304A, to withdraw from the House for 1 hour for continuing to interject after a warning had been given from the Chair, and she accordingly withdrew from the Chamber.

17 AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT

The Speaker presented the following paper:

Auditor-General—Audit report No. 34 of 1998-99—Performance audit—Fringe benefits tax: Australian Taxation Office.

Ordered to be printed.

18 PAPER

The Speaker presented the following paper:

Travelling allowance payments to Members of the House of Representatives—
Expenditure paid by the Department of the House of Representatives from 1
January to 30 June 1998, March 1999.

19 PAPERS

The following papers were presented:

Aboriginal Land Commissioner—Report and recommendations to the Minister
for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs and to the Administrator of the
Northern Territory—No. 52—Elsey land claim no. 132.

Department of Finance and Administration—Parliamentarians' travel paid by
the department for the period January to June 1998—
Report, March 1999.

Tabling statement by the Special Minister of State.

Finance and Administration—Consolidated financial statements for the year
ended 30 June 1998.

Higher education—Report for the 1999-2001 triennium—Report by the
Minister for Education, Training and Youth Affairs.

Housing Assistance Act—Report on the operation of Commonwealth-State
Housing Agreement for 1996-97.

Judge Advocate General—Report for 1997.

Productivity Commission—Report No. 4—Nursing home subsidies.

20 PAPERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS

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

Aboriginal Land Commissioner—Report and recommendations to the Minister
for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs and to the Administrator of the
Northern Territory—No. 52—Elsey land claim no. 132.

Department of Finance and Administration—Parliamentarians' travel paid by
the department for the period January to June 1998—
Report, March 1999.

Tabling statement by the Special Minister of State.

Finance and Administration—Consolidated financial statements for the year
ended 30 June 1998.

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

21 SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

Mr Reith (Leader of the House) moved—That the House, at its rising, adjourn
until Tuesday, 11 May 1999, at 2 p.m., unless the Speaker or, in the event of the
Speaker being unavailable, the Deputy Speaker, fixes an alternative day or hour
of meeting.

Question—put and passed.

22 LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO ALL MEMBERS

Mr Reith (Leader of the House) moved—That leave of absence be given to every Member of the House of Representatives from the determination of this sitting of the House to the date of its next sitting.

Question—put and passed.

23 STATUS OF RECORDS AND CORRESPONDENCE HELD BY MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—REFERENCE TO PRIVILEGES COMMITTEE

Mr Reith (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That the following matter be referred to the Committee of Privileges for inquiry and report: The question of the status of records and correspondence held by Members of the House of Representatives, with particular reference to:

- (1) the adequacy of the present position; and
- (2) the question of whether additional protection could be extended to Members in respect of their records and correspondence; if so, whether those records and that correspondence should be subject to additional protection, and, if so, what the form and nature of such protection should be.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

24 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

The House was informed that Mr Crean (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, “The failure of the Government to justify the claimed merits and disclose the full details of its GST package and to adequately compensate those who will be unfairly impacted on by its introduction”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Crean addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

25 YOUTH ALLOWANCE CONSOLIDATION BILL 1999—REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE

The Deputy Speaker reported that the Main Committee had returned the Bill for further consideration (*see item No. 3, Minutes of Proceedings of the Main Committee*), 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. 47, 12 February 1999, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation for the purposes of the Bill.

Consideration in detail

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole.

On the motion of Mr Truss (Minister for Community Services), by leave, Government amendments (1) and (2) were made, together, after debate.

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

Consideration in detail concluded.

On the motion of Mr Truss, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

26 A NEW TAX SYSTEM (FAMILY ASSISTANCE) BILL 1999

Mr Costello (Treasurer), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to implement A New Tax System by providing assistance to families, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

Paper

Mr Costello presented an explanatory memorandum to the following Bills:

A New Tax System (Family Assistance) 1999; and

A New Tax System (Family Assistance) (Consequential and Related Measures) (No. 1) 1999.

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

27 A NEW TAX SYSTEM (FAMILY ASSISTANCE) (CONSEQUENTIAL AND RELATED MEASURES) BILL (NO. 1) 1999

Mr Costello (Treasurer), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to implement A New Tax System by amending legislation as a consequence of the *A New Tax System (Family Assistance) Act 1999*, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

28 PAPER

Mr Truss (Minister for Community Services) presented the following paper:

Youth Allowance Consolidation Bill 1999—Supplementary explanatory memorandum.

29 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—A NEW TAX SYSTEM (FRINGE BENEFITS REPORTING) BILL 1998

A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill with amendments:

30 March 1999—Message No. 67—A New Tax System (Fringe Benefits Reporting) Bill 1998.

Ordered—That the amendments be considered forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Hockey (Minister for Financial Services and Regulation), the amendments were agreed to, after debate.

30 SUPERANNUATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 3) 1999

Mr Hockey (Minister for Financial Services and Regulation), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to superannuation, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

Paper

Mr Hockey presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

31 TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 6) 1999

Mr Hockey (Minister for Financial Services and Regulation) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to taxation, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

Paper

Mr Hockey presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

32 TRADESMEN'S RIGHTS REGULATION REPEAL BILL 1999

Mr Reith (Minister for Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to repeal the *Tradesmen's Rights Regulation Act 1946*, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

Paper

Mr Reith presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

33 STANDING ORDER 275A—AMENDMENT

Mr Reith (Leader of the House), pursuant to notice, moved—That, with effect from 11 May 1999, standing order 275A be amended to read:

Statements by Members

275A Notwithstanding standing order 275, when the Main Committee meets before 10 a.m. the Chair shall first call statements by Members. A Member, other than a Minister, may be called by the Chair to make a statement for a period not exceeding 3 minutes. The period for Members' statements may continue for a maximum of 18 minutes or until 10 a.m. whichever is the earlier. For the purpose of this standing order a Minister does not include a Parliamentary Secretary.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

34 PUBLIC WORKS—PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORK—REDEVELOPMENT OF DARWIN NAVAL BASE PROJECT

Mr Slipper (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration), pursuant to notice, moved—That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, the following proposed work be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for consideration and report: Redevelopment of Darwin Naval Base Project.

Question—put and passed.

35 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill without requests:

30 March 1999—Message No. 68—A New Tax System (Medicare Levy Surcharge—Fringe Benefits) 1998.

36 PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE—4TH REPORT

Mr Lieberman (Chair) presented the following paper:

The Publications Committee reports that it has met in conference with the Publications Committee of the Senate.

The Committee, having considered documents presented to Parliament since 11 March 1999, recommends that the following be printed:

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission—
Competitive safeguards—1997-98.

Telecommunications charges in Australia—December 1998.

Commonwealth Grants Commission—General revenue grant relativities—
Reports 1999—

Volume I—Main report.

Volume II—Methods, assessments and analysis.

Volume III—Appendixes and consultants' reports.

Migration Agents Registration Authority—Reports for the period 21 March to 30 June 1998.

Northern Territory Fisheries Joint Authority—Reports—
1996-97.
1997-98.

Queensland Fisheries Joint Authority—Report for 1997-98.

Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority—Report for 1997-98.

LOU LIEBERMAN

Chair

31 March 1999

On the motion of Mr Lieberman, by leave, the report was agreed to.

37 FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

Mr Jull presented the following paper:

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade—Joint Standing Committee—Visit to Bougainville, 15 to 18 March 1999—Interim report, March 1999.

Ordered to be printed.

Mr Jull and Dr Theophanous, by leave, made statements in connection with the report.

Mr Jull, by leave, moved—That the House take note of the report.

Mr Jull 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.

38 NAVIGATION AMENDMENT (EMPLOYMENT OF SEAFARERS) 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.

Consideration in detail

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole.

Mr Bevis, by leave, moved Opposition amendments (1) to (3) together.

Debate continued.

Amendments negatived.

Bill agreed to.

Consideration in detail concluded.

On the motion of Mr Tuckey (Minister for Forestry and Conservation), by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

39 PRIVILEGES COMMITTEE—REPORT

Mr Somlyay (Chair) presented the following paper:

Committee of Privileges—Application for the publication of a response to a reference made in the House of Representatives—Report, 31 March 1999.

40 MEMBERS' INTERESTS COMMITTEE—PAPER

Mr Somlyay (Chair) presented the following paper:

Committee of Members' Interests—Register of Members' Interests for the 39th Parliament—Notifications of alterations of interests and statement of registrable interests received during the period 7 December 1998 to 31 March 1999.

41 ADJOURNMENT

Mr McGauran (Minister for the Arts and the Centenary of Federation) moved—
That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 7.40 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, 11 May 1999, at 2 p.m., in accordance with the resolution agreed to this sitting.

PAPER

The following paper was deemed to have been presented on 31 March 1999:
Migration Act—Statement under section 33.

ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Ms O'Byrne, Mr Rudd and Mrs Sullivan.

I. C. HARRIS

Clerk of the House of Representatives

1998-99

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SUPPLEMENT TO VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 34

MAIN COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY, 31 MARCH 1999

1 The Main Committee met at 9.40 a.m.

2 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Members' statements were made.

3 YOUTH ALLOWANCE CONSOLIDATION 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.

Suspension of sitting

At 11.32 a.m., a division having been called in the House, the proceedings were suspended.

Resumption of sitting

At 11.44 a.m., the proceedings were resumed.

Debate continued.

Suspension of sitting

At 11.51 a.m., a division having been called in the House, the proceedings were suspended.

Resumption of sitting

At 12.04 p.m., the proceedings were resumed.

Debate continued.

Mr Lieberman moved—That further proceedings on the Bill be conducted in the House.

Question—put and passed.

4 OZONE PROTECTION AMENDMENT BILL 1998

The order of the day having been read for the second reading—Mr M. A. J. Vaile (Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry) moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Mr M. A. J. Vaile addressing the Committee—

Adjournment negatived

It being 12.30 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the Committee do now adjourn.

Mr M. A. J. Vaile requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate—

Question—put and negatived.

Debate continued.

Paper

Mr M. A. J. Vaile presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Debate ensued.

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

5 ADJOURNMENT

Mr Lieberman moved—That the Committee do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

At 1.22 p.m. the Deputy Speaker adjourned the Main Committee.

B. C. WRIGHT
Clerk of the Main Committee