

1998-99

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 42

MONDAY, 7 JUNE 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—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

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

Treaties—Joint Standing Committee—21st report—Five treaties tabled on 16 February 1999—

Report, 13 May 1999.

Evidence received by the committee.

Minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Mr A. P. Thomson and Mr Adams made statements in connection with the report.

The time for consideration of committee and delegation reports having expired—

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 SUPERANNUATION (ENTITLEMENTS OF SAME SEX COUPLES) BILL 1998

The order of the day having been read for the second reading—Mr Albanese moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Paper

Mr Albanese, by leave, presented a replacement explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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.

4 EMPLOYEE PROTECTION (WAGE GUARANTEE) BILL 1999

The order of the day having been read for the second reading—Mrs Crosio moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

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.

5 DISCRIMINATION IN THE WORKPLACE

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

- (1) endorses the continuing protection of the law to prevent discrimination in the workplace;
- (2) acknowledges the disproportionate impact of unfair dismissal laws on the confidence of small business employers to employ additional people to their workforce;
- (3) condemns the continuation of unfair dismissal laws for businesses employing fewer than fifteen people; and
- (4) calls on the Senate to reverse its opposition to the removal of unfair dismissal laws.

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, Mr St Clair was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed, and the resumption of the debate was made an order of the day for the next sitting.

6 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Members' statements were made.

7 MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Mr Howard (Prime Minister) informed the House that, during the absence abroad of Mr Reith (Minister for Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business and Leader of the House), Mr Abbott (Minister for Employment Services) would answer questions on his behalf and Mr McGauran (Minister for the Arts and the Centenary of Federation) would be acting as Leader of the House.

8 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice being asked—

Paper

Mr McMullan, in accordance with standing order 321, having called for a document quoted from by Mr Anderson (Minister for Transport and Regional Services)—

Mr Anderson presented the following paper:

Diesel fuel—Low sulphur and vehicle emission standards—Copy of letter from Stuart Hicks, Chairman, National Road Transport Commission to Mr Anderson, 4 June 1999.

Questions without notice continuing—

Member ordered to withdraw

At 2.47 p.m. the Member for the Northern Territory (Mr Snowdon) 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.

Mr Snowdon having reflected on the Chair—

Member named and suspended

The Speaker named the Member for the Northern Territory.

Mr McGauran (Acting Leader of the House) moved—That the Member for the Northern Territory be suspended from the service of the House.

Question—put.

The House divided (the Speaker, Mr J. N. Andrew, in the Chair)—

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

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Mr Adams	Mr Fitzgibbon	Mr McClelland	Ms Roxon
Mr Albanese	Ms Gerick	Ms J. S. McFarlane	Mr Sawford*
Mr Beazley	Mr Gibbons	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 Melham	Mr Smith
Mr Crean	Mr Hollis	Mr Morris	Mr Snowdon
Mrs Crosio	Mr Horne	Mr Mossfield	Mr Swan
Mr Danby	Mrs Irwin	Mr Murphy	Mr Tanner
Mr Edwards	Mr Jenkins	Ms O'Byrne	Dr Theophanous
Ms Ellis	Ms Kernot	Mr O'Connor	Mr K. J. Thomson
Dr Emerson	Mr Kerr	Mr O'Keefe	Mr Wilkie
Mr G. J. Evans	Mr Latham	Ms Plibersek	Mr Wilton
Mr M. J. Evans	Dr Lawrence	Mr Price	Mr Zahra
Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Mr Lee	Mr Quick	
Mr M. J. Ferguson	Ms Livermore	Mr Ripoll	

* Tellers

Pairs

Dr Southcott	Mr Martin
Mrs Moylan	Ms Gillard
Ms Bailey	Ms Hoare
Mr Reith	Mr Bevis

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

The Member was, therefore, suspended at 2.56 p.m. for 24 hours under standing order 305, and he accordingly withdrew from the Chamber.

Questions without notice continued.

9 PETITIONS

Petitions lodged for presentation were announced.

10 POPULATION POLICY

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

- (1) notes the discrepancies and contradictions in expert assessments of Australia's optimum population;
- (2) recognises the damage caused to the nation's social fabric by ill-informed and emotive comments on the nation's immigration program;
- (3) notes that population growth is ultimately a product of fertility rates and levels of net immigration, while acknowledging that Australia has a limited carrying capacity, both ecologically and economically;
- (4) notes that without a population policy Australia risks a continuation of the divisive scapegoating of minority ethnic groups; and

- (5) calls for the convening of a national population forum to consider and propose a population policy for Australia and the social and concrete infrastructure required to sustain that population.

Debate ensued.

The time allotted for the debate having expired, the debate was interrupted, the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting, and Mr Hollis was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

11 IRISH IMMIGRANTS AND THEIR DESCENDANTS

Mr Hardgrave, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House acknowledges the strong and vital contribution made to the values which underpin Australian society by Irish immigrants and their descendants.

Debate ensued.

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

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.

Question—That grievances be noted—put and passed.

13 MAIN COMMITTEE—DAY OF NEXT MEETING

The Deputy Speaker reported that Tuesday, 8 June 1999, at 4.30 p.m., had been fixed for the next meeting of the Main Committee.

14 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1999-2000—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.

Mrs D. M. Kelly was granted leave to continue her speech when the debate is resumed.

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

15 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:

Appropriation (No. 1) 1999-2000;

Appropriation (No. 2) 1999-2000; and

Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) 1999-2000.

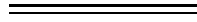
Question—put and passed.

16 ADJOURNMENT

Mr Fischer (Minister for Trade) moved—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 7 June 1999:

Air Navigation Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 No. 91.

Australian Communications Authority Act—Determination—Telecommunications (Charges) No. 1 of 1999 Amendment 1999 No. 1.

Broadcasting Services Act—Notice 1999 No. 1.

Export Control Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 No. 87.

Federal Court of Australia Act—Rules of Court—Statutory Rules 1999 No. 94.

Foreign Judgments Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 No. 84.

Health Insurance Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 No. 88.

Higher Education Funding Act—Determinations—
1998—Nos. T31, T32.
1999—Nos. T10, T11.

Immigration (Education) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 No. 90.

Long Service Leave (Commonwealth Employees) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 No. 85.

Marine Navigation (Regulatory Functions) Levy Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 No. 93.

Marine Navigation Levy Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 No. 92.

Migration Agents Registration Application Charge Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 No. 89.

Occupational Health and Safety (Commonwealth Employment) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 No. 86.

Plant Breeder's Rights Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 No. 83.

Public Service Act—Determinations—1999 No. FAT 9.

Superannuation Act 1976—Declaration—Statutory Rules 1999 No. 95.

Sydney Airport Curfew Act—Dispensations 1999 Nos. 9, 10.

Taxation Administration Act—
Determinations 1999 No. TD 28

Rulings 1999 Nos. PR 42, PR 43, PR 44, PR 45, PR 46, PR 47, PR 48, PR 49,
TR 95/25 (Addendum).

Telecommunications (Carrier Licence Charges) Act—
Determinations under paragraph 15(1)(a)—1999 No. 1.

Determinations under paragraph 15(1)(c)—1999 No. 1.

ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Ms Bailey, Mr Bevis, Ms Gillard, Ms Hoare, Mr Martin, Mrs Moylan, Mr Reith, Mr Rudd and Dr Southcott.

I. C. HARRIS

Clerk of the House of Representatives