

1998-99

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 62

TUESDAY, 31 AUGUST 1999



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

2 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice being asked—

Paper

Mr Tuckey (Minister for Forestry and Conservation) presented the following paper:

Opposition Proposed Amendments of the Regional Forest Agreements Bill 1998—Letter from Australian Government Solicitor to Mr Derek White, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Australia, 10 August 1999.

Questions without notice continued.

3 PAPER—STATEMENT BY SPEAKER

The Speaker presented the following paper:

Request to produce the Votes and Proceedings in court—Letter from Regional Director, Melbourne, National Crime Authority to the Speaker, 27 August 1999.

4 PAPERS

The following papers were presented:

Communications, Transport and Microeconomic Reform—House of Representatives Standing Committee—Ship safe: An inquiry into the Australian Maritime Safety Authority Annual Report 1996-97—Government response, September 1999.

Reserve Bank of Australia—Report for 1998-99.

5 PAPER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

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

Communications, Transport and Microeconomic Reform—House of Representatives Standing Committee—Ship safe: An inquiry into the Australian

Maritime Safety Authority Annual Report 1996-97—Government response, September 1999.

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

6 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—HOSPITAL FUNDING AND SERVICE QUALITY LEVELS IN VICTORIA

The House was informed that Ms Macklin had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, “The failure of the Government to defend the principles of Medicare by permitting the decline in State Government hospital funding and service quality levels in Victoria”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—
Ms Macklin addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

7 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, 20 September 1999.

8 MATTERS REFERRED TO MAIN COMMITTEE

Mr Ronaldson (Chief Government Whip), by leave, moved—That:

(1) the following Bills be referred to the Main Committee for further consideration:

Customs Amendment (No. 1) 1999;

Customs Amendment (Temporary Importation) 1999;

Veterans’ Affairs Legislation Amendment (No. 1) 1999; and

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Amendment (No. 1) 1999;

(2) the following order of the day, committee and delegation reports, be referred to the Main Committee for debate:

Retailing Sector—Joint Select Committee—Report—Fair Market or Market Failure? Review of Australia’s retailing sector—Motion to take note of paper: Resumption of debate.

Question—put and passed.

9 COAL MINING LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (OAKDALE COLLIERIES) 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.

Consideration in detail

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole.

On the motion of Mr Reith (Minister for Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business), by leave, Government amendments (1) and (2) were made, together.

Paper

Mr Reith presented a supplementary explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

Consideration in detail concluded.

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

10 A NEW TAX SYSTEM (TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT) 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—*And on the amendment moved thereto by Mr Crean, viz.*—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 calls on the Government not to proceed with the bill until:

- (1) the final report of the Ralph Committee, except for market sensitive information, has been released by the Government;
- (2) full consultations have been undertaken with relevant stakeholders regarding the report’s proposals; and
- (3) matters directly related to this legislation (namely the reporting requirements of PAYG withholders to the Taxation Office which are critical to the proper evaluation of this legislation and are to be included in subsequent legislation) are before the House, so that the House can evaluate the full effects of this bill.”

Debate resumed.

Mr Hockey addressing the House—

11 ADJOURNMENT

It being 10.30 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 10.59 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 9.30 a.m.

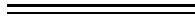
PAPERS

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 31 August 1999:

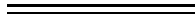
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act—Rules 1999 Regional Council Election Amendment (No. 1).

Customs Act—Notice 1999 No. 2.

Excise Act—Notice 1999 No. 2.

**ATTENDANCE**

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Brereton, Mr Fischer, Jackie Kelly, Mr Tanner, Mr M.A.J. Vaile and Dr Wooldridge.



I. C. HARRIS

Clerk of the House of Representatives