

1998-1999-2000

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS**

No. 90

WEDNESDAY, 16 FEBRUARY 2000



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 PRIVILEGE—STATEMENT BY SPEAKER**

The Speaker referred to the matter raised by Mr Kerr yesterday in connection with an article published in the *Sun Herald* of 9 January 2000 reporting that a person who had provided information to the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade could face disciplinary action by the Australian Federal Police.

The Speaker stated that, before giving a decision on the matter, it would be desirable that he had the benefit of any information the Joint Committee itself could provide and that he had taken action to seek such information.

The Speaker concluded by stating that he would inform the House of his decision when he had been able to consider the matter in the light of any information the Committee could provide.

**3 PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT—JOINT COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

Mr Charles (Chair) presented the following paper:

Public Accounts and Audit—Joint Committee—Report 372—Corporate governance and accountability arrangements for Commonwealth Government Business Enterprises, 8 December 1999.

Ordered to be printed.

Mr Charles, Mr Cox, Mr St Clair and Ms Gillard, by leave, made statements in connection with the report.

Mr Charles, by leave, moved—That the House take note of the paper.

Mr Charles 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.

**4 TELECOMMUNICATIONS (INTERCEPTION) LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2000**

Mr Williams (Attorney-General), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Telecommunications (Interception) Act 1979*, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

*Paper*

Mr Williams presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

**5 POSTPONEMENT OF NOTICE**

Ordered—That notice No. 2, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.

**6 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 3) 1999-2000**

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 Tanner, viz.*—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “whilst not denying the Bill a second reading, the House condemns:

- (1) the Government for its abdication of Commonwealth responsibility for appropriate national funding of health, education and other essential community services;
- (2) the recent statements by the Prime Minister indicating that Specific Purpose Payments to the States will be reduced as part of the introduction of the new tax system, breaking both his promise to the Australian people and to State and Territory leaders; and
- (3) the Government’s failure to abide by the independent arbitration process regarding the indexation of the Australian Health Care Agreement’s payments to the States for public hospitals”—

Debate resumed.

Debate adjourned (Ms Worth—Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Education, Training and Youth Affairs), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

**7 AUSTRALIAN WOOL RESEARCH AND PROMOTION ORGANISATION AMENDMENT (FUNDING AND WOOL TAX) BILL 2000**

Mr Truss (Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Australian Wool Research and Promotion Organisation Act 1993*, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

*Paper*

Mr Truss presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

**8 DAIRY INDUSTRY ADJUSTMENT BILL 2000**

Mr Truss (Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Dairy Produce Act 1986*, and for other purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

*Paper*

Mr Truss presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

**9 DAIRY ADJUSTMENT LEVY (EXCISE) BILL 2000**

Mr Truss (Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry) presented a Bill for an Act to impose dairy adjustment levy, so far as that levy is a duty of excise.

Bill read a first time.

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

*Paper*

Mr Truss presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

**10 DAIRY ADJUSTMENT LEVY (CUSTOMS) BILL 2000**

Mr Truss (Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry) presented a Bill for an Act to impose dairy adjustment levy, so far as that levy is a duty of customs.

Bill read a first time.

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

*Paper*

Mr Truss presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

**11 DAIRY ADJUSTMENT LEVY (GENERAL) BILL 2000**

Mr Truss (Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry) presented a Bill for an Act to impose dairy adjustment levy, so far as that levy is neither a duty of customs nor a duty of excise.

Bill read a first time.

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

*Paper*

Mr Truss presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

**12 PRIMARY INDUSTRIES (EXCISE) LEVIES (GST CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS) BILL 2000**

Mr Truss (Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Primary Industries (Excise) Levies Act 1999* consequentially on indirect tax reform.

Bill read a first time.

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

*Paper*

Mr Truss presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

**13 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 3) 1999-2000**

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 Tanner (see item No. 6, page 1202)*—

Debate resumed.

It being 2 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with standing order 101A, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

**14 MINISTRY—PAPER**

Mr Howard (Prime Minister) advised the House that earlier today Mr Brough (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business) was sworn in as a member of the Federal Executive Council and presented the following paper:

Howard Ministry, 16 February 2000.

**15 QUESTIONS**

Questions without notice being asked—

*Paper*

Mr Hockey (Minister for Financial Services and Regulation) presented the following paper:

Goods and services tax—Fair trading complaints—Copy of letter from Judy Spence, Queensland Minister for Fair Trading to Mr Hockey.

Questions without notice continuing—

*Member ordered to withdraw*

At 2.54 p.m. the Member for Jagajaga (Ms Macklin) 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, and she accordingly withdrew from the Chamber.

Questions without notice continuing—

*Member ordered to withdraw*

At 3.05 p.m. the Member for Brisbane (Mr Bevis) 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, and he accordingly withdrew from the Chamber.

Questions without notice continuing—

*Member ordered to withdraw*

At 3.19 p.m. the Member for Prospect (Mrs Crosio) 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, and she accordingly withdrew from the Chamber.

Questions without notice continued.

#### **16 AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT**

The Speaker presented the following paper:

Auditor-General—Audit report No. 31 of 1999-2000—Performance Audit—Administration of tax penalties: Australian Taxation Office.

Ordered to be printed.

#### **17 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGED CARE—REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN 1997-2000—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

Mr Reith (Leader of the House) presented the following paper:

National Health and Medical Research Council—Review of the implementation of the strategic plan 1997-2000—

and moved—That the House take note of the paper.

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

#### **18 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE**

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

16 February 2000—Message No. 298—Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Legislation Amendment 1999.

#### **19 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 honour its promise that the GST package would make everyone better off, be good for the economy, be simple, easy to understand, not a burden on regional Australians and not an administrative nightmare for small businesses”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Crean addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

**20 TREATIES—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE**

The House was informed that the Chief Opposition Whip had nominated Mr Byrne to be a member of the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties in place of Mrs Crosio.

Mr Fahey (Minister for Finance and Administration), by leave, moved—That Mrs Crosio be discharged from the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties and that, in her place, Mr Byrne be appointed a member of the committee.

Question—put and passed.

**21 GLADSTONE POWER STATION AGREEMENT (REPEAL) BILL 1999—REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE**

The Deputy Speaker reported that the Bill had been fully considered by the Main Committee and agreed to without amendment, and presented a certified copy of the Bill.

Bill agreed to.

On the motion of Mr Fahey (Minister for Finance and Administration), by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

**22 TELECOMMUNICATIONS (CONSUMER PROTECTION AND SERVICE STANDARDS) AMENDMENT BILL 1999—REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE**

The Deputy Speaker reported that the Bill had been fully considered by the Main Committee and agreed to without amendment, and presented a certified copy of the Bill.

Bill agreed to.

On the motion of Mr Fahey (Minister for Finance and Administration), by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

**23 PUBLIC WORKS—PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENT BY MEMBER**

Mrs Moylan (Chair) presented the following paper:

Public Works—Parliamentary Standing Committee—Report relating to CSIRO/University of Queensland Joint Building Project, St Lucia (1st report of 2000).

Ordered to be printed.

Mrs Moylan, by leave, made a statement in connection with the report.

**24 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 3) 1999-2000**

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 Tanner (see item No. 6, page 1202)*—

Debate resumed.

Debate adjourned (Mr Tuckey—Minister for Forestry and Conservation), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

**25 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1999**

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

16 February 2000—Message No. 296—Australian Federal Police Legislation Amendment 1999.

Ordered—That the amendments be considered at the next sitting.

**26 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—CIVIL AVIATION AMENDMENT BILL 1998**

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

16 February 2000—Message No. 297—Civil Aviation Amendment 1998.

Ordered—That the amendments be considered at the next sitting.

**27 ADJOURNMENT**

Mr Tuckey (Minister for Forestry and Conservation) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until 8 p.m.—The Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 9.30 a.m.

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**PAPERS**

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 16 February 2000:

Broadcasting Services Act—National Television Conversion Scheme 1999, 17 December 1999.

Currency Act—Determinations—2000 Currency (Perth Mint) (No. 1).

National Health Act—Determinations—2000 No. PIB 1.

Social Security Act—Instruments—1999 Social Security Student Financial Supplement Amendment Scheme (No. 1).

Sydney Airport Curfew Act—Dispensations 2000 No. 2.

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**ATTENDANCE**

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr M. J. Evans, Mr Katter, Jackie Kelly\* and Dr Theophanous.

\* On leave

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**I. C. HARRIS**

Clerk of the House of Representatives



1998-1999-2000

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**SUPPLEMENT TO VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS**

No. 90

**MAIN COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

WEDNESDAY, 16 FEBRUARY 2000

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1 The Main Committee met at 9.40 a.m.

**2 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

Members' statements were made.

**3 GLADSTONE POWER STATION AGREEMENT (REPEAL) 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.

Leave granted for the question on the report to be put forthwith.

Question—That the Bill be reported to the House without amendment—put and passed.

**4 TELECOMMUNICATIONS (CONSUMER PROTECTION AND SERVICE STANDARDS) AMENDMENT 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.

Leave granted for the question on the report to be put forthwith.

Question—That the Bill be reported to the House without amendment—put and passed.

**5 ADJOURNMENT**

On the motion of Mr Pyne, the Main Committee adjourned at 11.14 a.m.

The Deputy Speaker fixed tomorrow at 9.40 a.m. for the next meeting of the Main Committee.



**B. C. WRIGHT**

Clerk of the Main Committee