

1998-1999-2000

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 104

MONDAY, 10 APRIL 2000



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 AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Mr McArthur presented the following paper:

Australian Parliamentary Delegation to Canada and the United States of America, 25 October to 5 November 1999—Report, April 2000.

Mr McArthur and Mr Lieberman made statements in connection with the report.

3 INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESOURCES—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

Mr Prosser (Chair) presented the following papers:

Industry, Science and Resources—Standing Committee—Of material value?: Inquiry into increasing the value added to Australian raw materials—

First report, March 2000.

Minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Mr Prosser and Mr Morris made statements in connection with the report.

Mr Morris, by leave, again addressed the House.

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

Mr Prosser moved—That the House take note of the report.

Mr Prosser 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 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—31st report—Three treaties tabled on 7 March 2000—

Report, 4 April 2000.

Evidence received by the committee.

Minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Mr A. P. Thomson, Mr Adams, Mr Baird and Mrs Elson made statements in connection with the report.

The time allotted for making statements on the report 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.

5 AMENDMENT OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY (SELF-GOVERNMENT) ACT 1978 BILL 2000

Mr Andren, pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act for the amendment of the *Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act 1978* to prevent the mandatory sentencing of children.

Mr Andren made a statement in relation to the Bill.

Paper

Mr Andren, 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 sessional order 104A.

6 HUMAN RIGHTS (MANDATORY SENTENCING OF JUVENILE OFFENDERS) BILL 2000

Mr Beazley (Leader of the Opposition), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to implement Australia's human rights obligations to children under Articles 37(b) and 40(4) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Mr Beazley made a statement in relation 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 sessional order 104A.

7 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Members' statements were made.

8 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

9 PRIVILEGE—STATEMENT BY SPEAKER

The Speaker referred to the complaint of breach of privilege raised on 4 April 2000 by Dr Theophanous concerning actions which amounted, in his submission, to improper interference in the performance of his duties as a Member.

The Speaker stated that while there appeared to be a number of unresolved issues in respect of the matters complained of, it was not clear to him at this stage that there was evidence of an offence against parliamentary privilege such as would allow him to give precedence to a motion.

The Speaker further stated that the Committee of Privileges at present had a general inquiry into the status of records held by Members, and that the Member may feel that he could take up aspects of his present concerns with the committee in connection with that inquiry.

10 PETITIONS

Petitions lodged for presentation were announced.

11 EMPLOYMENT SECURITY BILL 2000

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.

Bill read a first time.

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

12 HUMAN RIGHTS IN VIETNAM

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

- (1) expresses its concerns about the Vietnamese Government's continued detention, house arrest, and harassment of political dissidents and religious leaders;
- (2) further expresses its concern in respect to the restriction of freedom of speech, the press, assembly and association in Vietnam;
- (3) calls on the Australian Government to take concrete steps to monitor the human rights situation in Vietnam, including requesting the Vietnamese Government to allow Australian diplomats to visit those alleged to be prisoners of conscience and to do so on a regular basis;
- (4) calls on the Australian Government to make regular representations to relevant Vietnamese Ministers and officials in Vietnam and the Vietnamese Embassy in Canberra for the immediate release of all prisoners of conscience, and for accelerated progress in moves to wind back restrictions on democratic freedoms; and

- (5) calls on the Australian Government to provide the Parliament with regular reporting on its human rights representations to the Government of Vietnam, on the responses by Vietnam and the overall human rights situation in Vietnam.

Debate ensued.

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

13 HEALTH SERVICES IN RURAL, REGIONAL AND REMOTE AUSTRALIA

Mrs Hull, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House:

- (1) notes the Government's commitment to delivering rural, regional and remote health services;
- (2) notes the low numbers of available rural, regional and remote medical practitioners and registered nurses;
- (3) notes the Government's measures to redress this problem; and
- (4) calls on the Government to continue its commitment and allocation of resources to delivering equity of health services into rural, regional and remote Australia.

Debate ensued.

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

14 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, the debate was interrupted in accordance with standing order 106.

Question—That grievances be noted—put and passed.

15 MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL—ASSENT TO BILLS

Messages from His Excellency the Governor-General were announced informing the House that His Excellency, in the name of Her Majesty, had assented to the following Bills:

3 April 2000—Message—

No. 183—

Customs Legislation Amendment (Criminal Sanctions and Other Measures) 2000.

Financial Sector Reform (Amendments and Transitional Provisions) (No. 1) 2000.

Timor Gap Treaty (Transitional Arrangements) 2000.

Gladstone Power Station Agreement (Repeal) 2000.

Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Amendment (No. 2) 2000.

No. 184—

Dairy Adjustment Levy (Customs) 2000.

Dairy Adjustment Levy (Excise) 2000.

Dairy Adjustment Levy (General) 2000.

Dairy Industry Adjustment 2000.

No. 185—Migration Legislation Amendment (No. 1) 2000.

16 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—HUMAN RIGHTS (MANDATORY SENTENCING OF JUVENILE OFFENDERS) BILL 1999

Message No. 351, 10 April 2000, from the Senate was reported requesting the House to consider immediately the Human Rights (Mandatory Sentencing of Juvenile Offenders) Bill 1999.

17 POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY

Ordered—That order of the day No. 2, government business, be postponed until the next sitting.

18 HEALTH LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (GAP COVER SCHEMES) BILL 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—

Debate resumed.

Dr Emerson 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.

19 CORPORATIONS AND SECURITIES—PARLIAMENTARY JOINT COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENT BY MEMBER

Mr Sercombe presented the following papers:

Corporations and Securities—Parliamentary Joint Committee—Corporations Law Amendment (Employee Entitlements) Bill 2000—

Report, incorporating dissenting reports, April 2000.

Evidence received by the committee.

Ordered—That the report to be printed.

Mr Sercombe, by leave, made a statement in connection with the report.

20 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

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

10 April 2000—Message No. 352—Child Support Legislation Amendment 2000.

21 PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT—JOINT COMMITTEE

The House was informed that the Chief Opposition Whip had nominated Mr K. J. Thomson to be a member of the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit in place of Ms Plibersek.

Jackie Kelly (Minister for Sport and Tourism), by leave, moved—That Ms Plibersek be discharged from attendance on the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit, and that, in her place, Mr K. J. Thomson be appointed a member of the committee.

Question—put and passed.

22 ADJOURNMENT

Jackie Kelly (Minister for Sport and Tourism) 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 10 April 2000:

A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act—Determinations—2000 A
New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) (Exempt Taxes, Fees and Charges).

Australian Horticultural Corporation Act—Australian Horticultural Corporation
(Australian Dried Fruits Board)—Orders—2000 No. 1.

Australian Meat and Live-stock Industry Act—Orders—2000 Australian Meat
and Live-stock Corporation Repeal Order (No. 1).

Civil Aviation Act—Civil Aviation Regulations—Civil Aviation Orders—
Amendments—2000—

Part 39-105—4, 5 April.

Part 39-106—4 April.

Part 39-107—4 April.

Instruments—2000—Nos CASA 113, CASA 119.

Higher Education Funding Act—Determinations—1999 No. T21.

Sydney Airport Curfew Act—Dispensations 2000 No. 5.



ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Edwards, Mr M. J. Evans, Mr Hardgrave, Mr O'Connor and Mr Swan.



I. C. HARRIS

Clerk of the House of Representatives