

1998-1999-2000

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 116

TUESDAY, 6 JUNE 2000

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—

Papers

Mr Crean (Deputy Leader of the Opposition), by leave, presented the following papers:

Goods and services tax—Copies of—

Consultation with ACCC—Facsimile from John Della Bosca.

GST on rental rates—Letter from Scott Lorson, General Manager, Rentlo, 30 May 2000.

Questions without notice continuing—

Member ordered to withdraw

At 3.27 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 concluded.

3 PAPERS

The following papers were presented:

Department of Family and Community Services—

Evaluation of Stakeholders' Experience with the use of the Tables for the assessment of work-related impairment for Disability Support Pension—Government response, April 2000.

Evaluation of the child disability assessment tool—Final Report, December 1999.

Finance—Advance to the Minister for Finance—Statement for March 2000.

Supporting applications of issues from the Advance during March 2000.

Treaties—

Bilateral—Text, together with national interest analysis—Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Kingdom of Spain on Remunerated Employment for Dependents of Diplomatic, Consular, Administrative and Technical Personnel of Diplomatic and Consular Missions, done at Madrid on 6 March 2000.

Multilateral—Text, together with national interest analysis—Amendments, done at Nairobi in April 2000, to Appendices I and II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, of 3 March 1973.

4 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—DIPLOMACY IN AUSTRALIA’S NEIGHBOURHOOD

The House was informed that Mr Beazley (Leader of the Opposition) had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, “The need for the Australian Government to pursue effective and competent diplomacy in Australia’s neighbourhood”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Beazley addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

5 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, 19 June 2000.

6 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:

Transport Legislation Amendment 2000;

Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Legislation Amendment (No. 2) 2000;

International Tax Agreements Amendment (No. 1) 2000; and

Financial Management and Accountability Amendment 2000.

Question—put and passed.

7 MAIN COMMITTEE—DAY OF NEXT MEETING

The Deputy Speaker reported that Wednesday, 7 June 2000, at 9.40 a.m., had been fixed for the next meeting of the Main Committee.

8 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

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

5 June 2000—Message No. 382—New Business Tax System (Venture Capital Deficit Tax) 1999.

9 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—A NEW TAX SYSTEM (TRADE PRACTICES AMENDMENT) BILL 2000

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

5 June 2000—Message No. 380—A New Tax System (Trade Practices Amendment) 2000.

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

10 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—NEW BUSINESS TAX SYSTEM (MISCELLANEOUS) BILL 1999

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

5 June 2000—Message No. 381—New Business Tax System (Miscellaneous) 1999.

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

11 TARIFF PROPOSALS

Mr Slipper (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration) moved—

Excise Tariff Proposal No. 1 (2000); and

Customs Tariff Proposal No. 3 (2000).

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

12 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 2000-2001—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—*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 declining to give the Bill a second reading, the House condemns the Government for its:

- (1) failure to address the significant investment needs in the areas of education, health and the provision of social services in the 2000-2001 Budget;
- (2) wasteful and profligate spending on poor quality programs to buy Democrat support for its unfair GST;
- (3) misuse of over \$360 million of taxpayers’ money on its politically partisan GST advertising campaign;
- (4) reduction of a potential Budget cash surplus in 2000-2001 of \$11 billion, to a real Budget deficit of \$2.1 billion;
- (5) use of creative accounting techniques in an attempt to deceive the Australian public on the true state of the Budget;

- (6) mishandling of the move to accrual accounting by providing complex, confusing and uninformative budget documents;
- (7) failure to identify in the Budget papers the cost of GST collection and implementation; and
- (8) failure to put in place arrangements that deliver its guarantee that no Australian will be worse off as a result of the GST package”—

Debate resumed.

Mr Neville addressing the House—

13 ADJOURNMENT

It being 10.30 p.m.—The question was proposed—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 9.30 a.m.

PAPERS

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 6 June 2000:

Migration Act—Certificate under section 502, 31 May 2000.

Occupational Health and Safety (Maritime Industry) Act—Seacare Authority—Code of Practice 2000 No. 1.

ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Ms J. I. Bishop, Mr Downer, Mr Katter, Mr Martin, Mr Schultz, Mr M. A. J. Vaile, Mr Williams and Mr Wilton.

I. C. HARRIS

Clerk of the House of Representatives