

1998-1999-2000

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 120

TUESDAY, 20 JUNE 2000

1 The House met, at 4.30 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 Costello (Treasurer) presented the following paper:

Subsidies for cider and beer—Copy of media statement by Dr David Crean, Tasmanian Treasurer, 7 June 2000.

Questions without notice continued.

3 AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORTS

The Speaker presented the following papers:

Auditor-General—Audit reports of 1999-2000—Performance audits—

No. 46—High wealth individuals taskforce: Australian Taxation Office.

No. 47—Survey of fraud control arrangements in APS agencies.

No. 48—Follow-up audit of Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs (DETYA) International Services: Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs.

Severally ordered to be printed.

4 PAPER

The following paper was presented:

Agriculture and Resource Management Council of Australia and New Zealand—Record and resolutions—17th meeting, Melbourne, 3 March 2000.

5 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—GOODS AND SERVICES TAX ON RELOCATABLE HOME PARKS AND BOARDING HOUSES

The House was informed that Mr Albanese had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, “The

failure of the Government to keep its promise that permanent residents of relocatable home parks and boarding houses would not be charged the GST”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Albanese addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

6 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, 26 June 2000.

7 MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

Messages from the Senate, 19 June 2000, were reported:

- (a) acquainting the House that Senator Stott Despoja had been discharged from attendance on the Parliamentary Joint Committee on the National Crime Authority, and Senator Greig had been appointed a member of the committee—Message No. 393;
- (b) returning the following Bills without amendment:
No. 394—Local Government (Financial Assistance) Amendment 2000;
No. 396—Family and Community Services Legislation Amendment 2000;
and
- (c) returning the Health Legislation Amendment (Gap Cover Schemes) Bill 2000 and acquainting the House that the Senate had agreed to the amendment made by the House to Senate amendment No. 3—Message No. 395.

8 DIESEL AND ALTERNATIVE FUELS GRANTS SCHEME AMENDMENT 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 by Mr M. J. Ferguson who moved, as an amendment—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:

- (1) the uncertainty generated in the transport industry through the introduction of significant new amendments to the Diesel and Alternative Fuel Grants Scheme with less than two weeks to go before the commencement of the new Scheme;
- (2) not disclosing the powers for the Commissioner of Taxation to stop, detain and search vehicles prior to the last election; and

- (3) imposing a complex new layer of administration on transport operators in connection with the Scheme, in addition to the new compliance burden associated with the GST”.

Debate continued.

Amendment negatived.

Question—That the Bill be now read a second time—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

Message from the Governor-General

Message No. 205, 30 May 2000, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation for the purposes of the Bill.

Consideration in detail

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole.

Mr Slipper (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration), by leave, moved Government amendments (1) and (2) together.

Paper

Mr Slipper presented a supplementary explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Debate continued.

Amendments agreed to.

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

Consideration in detail concluded.

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

9 POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY

Ordered—That orders of the day Nos 2 and 3, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.

10 NEW BUSINESS TAX SYSTEM (MISCELLANEOUS) BILL (NO. 2) 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.

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

Adjournment negatived

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

Mr Slipper requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate—

Question—put and negatived.

Mr Slipper continued his speech.

Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

Consideration in detail

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole.

Mr Slipper, by leave, moved Government amendments (1) to (77) together.

Paper

Mr Slipper presented a supplementary explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Debate continued.

Amendments agreed to.

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

Consideration in detail concluded.

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

11 ADJOURNMENT

Mr Slipper (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration) 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 9.30 a.m.

PAPERS

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 20 June 2000:

Australian Capital Territory (Planning and Land Management) Act—National Capital Plan—Amendment No. 25 and Explanatory Statement.

Currency Act—Determination—2000 Currency (Perth Mint) (No. 2).

Taxation Administration Act—Rulings—2000 Nos GSTR 1 (Addendum), GSTR 3 (Addendum), GSTR 14, GSTR 17, GSTR 18, PR 66, PR 71, PR 72, PR 73, TD 25, TR 8.

ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Ms Burke, Mrs Elson, Mr Fitzgibbon, Ms Gillard, Mr Latham, Ms Livermore, Ms O'Byrne, Mr O'Keefe, Mr Sciacca and Mr Wilkie.

I. C. HARRIS

Clerk of the House of Representatives

1998-1999-2000

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SUPPLEMENT TO VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 120

MAIN COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

TUESDAY, 20 JUNE 2000

1 The Main Committee met at 5:21 p.m.

2 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.

Suspension of sitting

At 6.22 p.m., the Deputy Speaker left the Chair.

Resumption of sitting

At 8.00 p.m., the Deputy Speaker resumed the Chair.

Debate continued.

Mr Quick 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.

3 ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Mr Wakelin, the Main Committee adjourned at 10.15 p.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