

1998-1999-2000-2001

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 165

MONDAY, 26 FEBRUARY 2001



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 PRIVILEGE—STATEMENT BY SPEAKER

The Speaker referred to the complaint of breach of privilege raised on the last day of sitting by Mr Pyne concerning actions by other Members of the House which he believed to be attempted intimidation.

The Speaker stated that he had considered the matter and consulted with many people. In the course of these consultations, it became evident that there may have been a temporary record taken for security purposes and held by the establishment at which the alleged intimidation occurred. At the request of the Speaker, this record was examined, without compromising patron privacy. The Speaker was advised that the result of the examination was inconclusive.

The Speaker also had regard to the matter raised in 1979 by the then Member for Shortland that another Member had threatened him. In that instance, in slightly different circumstances, the Speaker stated that it would be idle for the House to pursue the matter. Mr Pyne had advised the Speaker that he had raised the matter on the principle at issue. As further investigation has proved inconclusive, the Speaker concluded that the dignity of the House would best be preserved by not pursuing the matter.

3 POSTPONEMENT OF COMMITTEE AND DELEGATION REPORTS

Committee and delegation reports, by leave, postponed until a later hour this day.

4 EMPLOYMENT SECURITY BILL 2001

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.

5 ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

Mr Causley (Chair) presented the following papers:

Environment and Heritage—Standing Committee—Co-ordinating catchment management—

Report, December 2000.

Evidence received by the committee.

Minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Mr Causley, Mr Byrne and Mr Billson made statements in connection with the report.

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

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

Mr Causley 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.

6 SCHOOL FUNDING AMENDMENT BILL 2001

Mr Beazley (Leader of the Opposition), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to school funding.

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 STROKE

Mr K. J. Andrews, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House:

- (1) notes that stroke is the second highest cause of death in Australia;
- (2) notes that there has been a slowing down of the decline in stroke death rates in recent years;
- (3) notes that the number of people dying from stroke and those surviving with a permanent disability is likely to increase in the future;
- (4) notes that the risk factors for stroke include high blood pressure, tobacco smoking, heavy alcohol consumption, high blood cholesterol, being overweight, and insufficient physical activity;
- (5) notes that the length of stay in hospital for stroke is twice as long as that for other cardiovascular conditions;

- (6) notes that while more women are affected by stroke, the proportion of men who suffer a stroke is 30 per cent higher than for women, and that for people aged 25-64, those from the lowest socio-economic group are twice as likely to die from stroke as those in the highest socioeconomic group with indigenous death rates from stroke in the same age group being eight times the rate in the rest of the population; and
- (7) urges the Government to continue to support public awareness about the high risk factors associated with stroke.

Debate ensued.

At 1.45 p.m., the time allotted for the debate having expired, the debate was interrupted in accordance with standing order 106A, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

8 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Members' statements were made.

9 MINISTRY—PAPER

Mr Anderson (Acting Prime Minister) presented the following paper:

Second Howard Ministry, 14 February 2001,

and advised the House that Mr Brough had been appointed as Minister for Employment Services.

10 DEATH OF SIR DONALD BRADMAN

Mr Anderson (Acting Prime Minister) referred to the death of Sir Donald Bradman, and moved—That this House records its deep regret at the death on 25 February 2001 in Adelaide of Australia's greatest cricketer, Sir Donald George Bradman, AC, and extends its profound sympathy to his family in their bereavement.

Mr Beazley (Leader of the Opposition) seconded the motion and other Members addressed the House in support thereof.

All Members present having signified their respect and sympathy by rising in their places—

Debate adjourned (Mr Reith—Leader of the House), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

11 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice being asked—

Paper

Mr Anderson (Acting Prime Minister) presented the following paper:

Land Transport Funding 1991/92-2000/2001—Copy of letter from Ken Matthews, Secretary, Department of Transport and Regional Services to Mr Anderson, 14 February 2001.

Questions without notice continuing—

Paper

Mr Costello (Treasurer) presented the following paper:

How will the GST affect pensioners and self-funded retirees?—Faxed copy of page from “Simon Crean’s GST Information Kit”.

Questions without notice concluded.

12 PETITIONS

Petitions lodged for presentation were announced.

13 TAX AVOIDANCE SCHEMES

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

- (1) expresses its alarm at large-scale tax avoidance by unscrupulous company executives;
- (2) expresses its disappointment that the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) has issued a series of favourable private binding rulings in support of schemes that the ATO itself has likened to the infamous bottom of the harbour schemes;
- (3) condemns the Treasurer for refusing to legislate against the abuse of executive share schemes and for obfuscating on promised legislation to crack down on tax avoidance through the use of family trusts; and
- (4) calls on the Government to act against tax avoidance schemes wherever they emerge, using both legislative and judicial means.

Debate ensued.

The time allotted for the debate having expired, the debate was interrupted, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

14 PROPOSED PARLIAMENTARY ARMED FORCES SCHEME

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

- (1) recognising the increasing demands being placed upon Australia’s armed forces;
- (2) welcoming the widespread community support for our armed forces;
- (3) accepting the need for the Parliament to be as well informed as possible on all aspects of the operation of the forces but recognising that fewer Members and Senators now have direct experience of service in the forces;

agrees that a Parliamentary Armed Forces Scheme be introduced to enable Members and Senators to gain first hand knowledge of service life and to enable service personnel to gain an insight into political life.

Debate ensued.

The time allotted for the debate having expired, the debate was interrupted, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

15 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.

Question—That grievances be noted—put and passed.

16 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

Message No. 549, 8 February 2001, from the Senate was reported acquainting the House that Senator Abetz had been discharged from attendance on the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Native Title and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Fund, and Senator Mason had been appointed a member of the committee.

17 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA AMENDMENT BILL 2001

Message No. 546, 8 February 2001, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for an Act to amend the *National Museum of Australia Act 1980*, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Ordered—That the second reading be made an order of the day for the next sitting.

18 MEDICARE LEVY AMENDMENT (CPI INDEXATION) 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—*And on the amendment moved thereto by Mr K. J. Thomson, 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 treatment of Medicare and effective Americanisation of the health system and its taxation indexation policies and their effect on the community and calls on the government to get behind Labor’s plans to rebuild Medicare”—

Debate resumed.

Amendment negatived.

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

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Slipper (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration), the Bill was read a third time.

19 DEATH OF SIR DONALD BRADMAN—MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Anderson (Acting Prime Minister) (*see* entry No. 10)—That the House records its deep regret at the death on 25 February 2001 in Adelaide of Australia’s greatest cricketer, Sir Donald George Bradman, AC, and extends its profound sympathy to his family in their bereavement—

Debate resumed.

All Members present having risen, in silence—

Question—passed.

20 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 26 February 2001:

A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act—Determination 2001 GST-free Supply (In-home Care).

Australian Meat and Live-stock Industry Act—Order 2001 Australian Meat and Live-stock Industry (Live Sheep Exports to Saudi Arabia).

Broadcasting Services Act—Determination 2001 Remote Licence Areas.

Australian Communications Authority Act and Radiocommunications Act—Determination 2001 Radiocommunications (Interpretation) Amendment (No. 1).

Civil Aviation Act—Civil Aviation Regulations—Airworthiness Directives—Part 39-105—2001 7(2), 9 February.

Exemptions—2001 No. CASA EX05.

Instrument—2001 No. CASA 94.

Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act—

Notice under subsection 9(2)—Statement relating to extension of time for presentation of report—National Environment Protection Council—Report for 1999-2000.

Notice under section 45—Formation of a company by the Commonwealth—AEShareNet Limited.

Commonwealth Places (Application of Laws) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2001 No. 25.

Copyright Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2001 Nos 7, 8, 9.

Customs Act—Instruments of approval—2000 Nos CEO 59, CEO 60, CEO 61, CEO 62. 2001 No. 1.

Customs Administration Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2001 No. 24.

Defence Act—

Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal—Determinations 2001 Nos 1, 2, 3.

Determinations under section 58B—2001 Nos 1, 2, 3, 4.

- Diesel and Alternative Fuels Grants Scheme Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2001 No. 17.
- Family Law Act—Rules of Court—Statutory Rules 2001 No. 19.
- Federal Court of Australia Act—Rules of Court—Statutory Rules 2001 No. 20.
- Financial Management and Accountability Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2001 No. 13.
- Fisheries Levy Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2001 No. 21.
- Fisheries Management Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2001 No. 22.
- Fishing Levy Act and Fisheries Management Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2001 No. 23.
- Great Barrier Marine Park Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2001 No. 12.
- Health Insurance Act—Declaration 2001 QAA No. 1.
- Higher Education Funding Act—Determinations—
2000—No. T16.
2001—Nos T10, T11.
- Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2001 Nos 18, 26.
- Interstate Road Transport Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2001 No. 15.
- Migration Act—
General direction under section 499—2000 No. 19.
Statement under subsection 33 (2)—15 February 2001.
Statements under subsection 91L(3)—30(4) October, 16(2) November 2000.
- National Health Act—
Determination under Schedule 1, paragraph (bj)—2001 No. PHI 1.
Guidelines under subsection 99ZS(2)—2001—
Australian Customs Service—Detention of, dealing with, and disposal of drug like substances.
Health Insurance Commission—Export of Pharmaceutical Benefits.
Regulations—Statutory Rules 2001 No. 14.
- Navigation Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2001 No. 16.
- Parliament Act—Parliamentary Zone—Proposal to plant an International Peace Tree.
- Ozone Protection Act—Exemption under section 40—12 January 2001.
- Primary Industries (Customs) Charges Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2001 No. 5.
- Primary Industries (Excise) Levies Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2001 No. 6.
- Public Order (Protection of Persons and Property) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2001 No. 10.
- Radiocommunications Act—Determinations—2001—
Radiocommunications Licence Conditions (Broadcasting Licence) Amendment (No. 1).

Radiocommunications (Transmitter and Receiver Licences) Amendment (No. 1).

Radiocommunications (Transmitter Licence Tax) Act—Determination 2001
Radiocommunications (Transmitter Licence Tax) Amendment (No. 1).

States Grants (Primary and Secondary Education Assistance) Act—
Approval—2000 States Grants (Primary and Secondary Education Assistance)
(SES Scores Guidelines).

Regulations—Statutory Rules 2001 No. 11.

Taxation Administration Act—Rulings—
1999 No. PR 8 (Addendum).

2000 No. PR 10 (Addendum).

2001 Nos PR 11, PR 12, PR 13, PR 14, PR 15.

Veterans' Entitlements Act—Principles—2001 Veterans' Entitlements
(Attributable Stakeholders and Attribution Percentages).

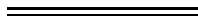
Wool Services Privatisation Act—Declaration of Research Body under
subsection 30(1).



ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Fahey*, Mr Howard, Mrs Moylan, Ms O'Byrne*, Ms Plibersek* and Mr Rudd.

* On leave



I. C. HARRIS

Clerk of the House of Representatives