

1998-1999-2000-2001

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 195

TUESDAY, 26 JUNE 2001



1 The House met, at 2.30 p.m., pursuant to adjournment.

2 ABSENCE OF SPEAKER

The Clerk having informed the House that the Speaker (the Honourable Neil Andrew) was absent until later this day, the Deputy Speaker (Mr Nehl) took the Chair as Acting Speaker, and read Prayers.

3 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

4 PAPERS

The following papers were presented:

Australian Horticultural Corporation—Report for period July 2000-January 2001 [Final].

Australian National University—Report for 2000.

Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency—Quarterly report of the Chief Executive Officer for period 1 January to 31 March 2001.

Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission—Report No. 13—Inquiry into a complaint of acts or practices inconsistent with or contrary to human rights.

5 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—KNOWLEDGE NATION

The House was informed that Mr Lee had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, “The damage done by the Howard Government to Australia’s future as a Knowledge Nation”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Lee addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

6 ELECTORAL MATTERS—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE

The House was informed that the Chief Opposition Whip had nominated Mr Danby and Mr Melham to be members of the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters in place of Mr McClelland and Mr L. D. T. Ferguson.

Mr Entsch (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Industry, Science and Resources), by leave, moved—That Mr McClelland and Mr L. D. T. Ferguson be discharged from the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters and that, in their place, Mr Danby and Mr Melham be appointed members of the committee.

Question—put and passed.

7 MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL—ASSENT TO BILLS

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

21 June 2001—Message No. 322—

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Amendment 2001.

Prime Minister and Cabinet Legislation Amendment (Application of Criminal Code) 2001.

8 MAIN COMMITTEE—DAY OF NEXT MEETING

The Deputy Speaker reported that Wednesday, 27 June 2001, at 9.40 a.m., had been fixed for the next meeting of the Main Committee.

9 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, 6 August 2001.

10 PUBLIC WORKS—PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENT BY MEMBER

Mrs Moylan (Chair) presented the following paper:

Public Works—Parliamentary Standing Committee—Report relating to fitout of new central office building for the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, Belconnen, ACT (7th report of 2001).

Ordered to be printed.

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

11 ALCOHOL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATION ACCOUNT BILL 2001

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.

Ms Gillard was granted leave to continue her speech when the debate is resumed.

Debate adjourned, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

12 POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY

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

13 CUSTOMS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT AND REPEAL (INTERNATIONAL TRADE MODERNISATION) BILL 2001—SENATE'S AMENDMENTS

The order of the day having been read for the consideration of the amendments made by the Senate—

On the motion of Mr Williams (Attorney-General), the amendments were agreed to.

14 ALCOHOL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATION ACCOUNT BILL 2001

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.

Message from the Governor-General

Message No. 323, 21 June 2001, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation for the purposes of the Bill.

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.

15 BROADCASTING LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 2001

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 Smith 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:

- (1) notes the embarrassing failure of the Government’s datacasting spectrum auction in May this year due to the Government’s restrictive and unworkable genre-specific datacasting regime; and
- (2) calls on the Government to state publicly whether it remains committed to the 1998 Parliamentary framework on digital television and datacasting; and
 - (a) if the Government does not remain committed to the 1998 Parliamentary framework, to establish immediately a public process to ascertain the views of industry generally on the future of digital television and datacasting; or
 - (b) if the Government remains committed to the 1998 Parliamentary framework, to immediately announce the amendments it will propose

to its unworkable and restrictive genre-specific datacasting regime to enable a viable datacasting industry to emerge”.

Debate continued.

Mr Mossfield addressing the House—

16 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.

ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Katter, Ms Kernot, Mr Price, Dr Theophanous and Dr Wooldridge.

I. C. HARRIS

Clerk of the House of Representatives