

2002-03

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 81

TUESDAY, 18 MARCH 2003

1 The House met, at 2 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (the Honourable Neil Andrew) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

2 SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS—ROUTINE OF BUSINESS FOR THIS SITTING

Mr Abbott (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That so much of the standing and sessional orders be suspended as would prevent the routine of business for this sitting being as follows, unless otherwise ordered:

1. A motion to be moved by the Prime Minister relating to Iraq, and debate ensuing with speech time limits being as follows:
 - Prime Minister—Not specified;
 - Leader of the Opposition—A period of time equal to that taken by the Prime Minister;
 - Next 6 Members speaking—20 minutes each; and
 - Other Members—10 minutes each.
 2. Orders of the day, government business.
- Question—put and passed.

3 IRAQ—COMMITMENT TO COALITION IN THE GULF

Mr Howard (Prime Minister) moved—That this House:

1. condemns Iraq's refusal, over more than 12 years, to abide by 17 resolutions of the United National Security Council regarding the threat it poses to international peace and security;
2. recognises:
 - (a) that Iraq's continued possession and pursuit of weapons of mass destruction, in defiance of its mandatory obligations under numerous resolutions of the United Nations Security Council, represents a real and unacceptable threat to international peace and security;
 - (b) that Iraq's behaviour weakens the global prohibitions on the spread of weapons of mass-destruction, with the potential to damage Australia's security; and
 - (c) that, as more rogue states acquire them, the risk of weapons of mass destruction falling into the hands of terrorists multiplies, thereby presenting a real and direct threat to the security of Australia and the entire international community;
3. abhors:
 - (a) Iraq's continued support for international terrorism; and
 - (b) the institutionalised widespread and grave abuse of the human rights of the Iraqi people over many years;
4. notes that United Nations Security Council resolutions adopted under Chapter VII of the United Nations charter, in particular resolutions 678, 687 and 1441, provide clear authority for the use of force against Iraq for the purposes of disarming Iraq of weapons of mass destruction and restoring international peace and security to the region;
5. endorses the Government's decision to commit Australian Defence Force elements in the region to the international coalition of military forces prepared to enforce Iraq's compliance with its

international obligations under successive resolutions of the United Nations Security Council, with a view to restoring international peace and security in the Middle East region;

6. expresses its unequivocal support for the Australian service men and women, and other personnel serving with the international coalition, our full confidence in them and the hope that all will return safely to their homes;
7. extends to the innocent people of Iraq its support and sympathy during the military action to disarm Iraq of its weapons of mass destruction and the reconstruction period that will follow; and
8. notes that the Government is committed to helping the Iraqi people, including through humanitarian assistance, to build a new Iraq at peace with itself and its neighbours.

Member ordered to withdraw

At 2.17 p.m. the Member for Grayndler (Mr Albanese) 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 he accordingly withdrew from the Chamber.

Mr Howard continued.

Member ordered to withdraw

At 2.17 p.m. the Member for Swan (Mr Wilkie) 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 he accordingly withdrew from the Chamber.

Mr Howard continued.

Papers

Mr Howard presented the following papers:

Iraq—

Use of force against Iraq—Memorandum of advice provided by Bill Campbell, QC, First Assistant Secretary, Office of International Law, Attorney-General's Department and Chris Moraitis, Senior Legal Adviser, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 12 March 2003.

Legal basis for use of force against Iraq—Advice provided by Lord Goldsmith, Attorney-General, United Kingdom.

Transcript of interview between Michael Costello, Former Head, Department of Foreign Affairs and Sally Loan, ABC 702 Sydney, 14 March 2003.

Mr Howard continued.

Member ordered to withdraw

At 2.44 p.m. the Member for Bass (Ms O'Byrne) 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.

Mr Crean (Leader of the Opposition) moved, as an amendment—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “This House:

- (1) insists that Iraq must disarm under the authority of the United Nations;
- (2) believes that in the absence of an agreed UN Security Council resolution authorising military action against Iraq, there is no basis for military action to disarm Iraq, including action involving the Australian Defence Force;
- (3) insists that there should be no commitment of Australian troops to a war in Iraq outside the authority of the United Nations;
- (4) concludes that Australian involvement in a war in Iraq without UN authorisation is not in Australia's national interests or in the interests of maintaining international peace and security; and
- (5) expresses its confidence in our servicemen and women and our full support for them and their families”.

Debate continued.

Adjournment negatived

It being 9 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Mr Brough (Minister for Employment Services) requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate—

Question—put and negatived.

Debate continued.

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

4 LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBER

Mr Brough (Minister for Employment Services) moved—That leave of absence for the remainder of the current period of sittings be given to Mr Lloyd on the ground of ill health.

Question—put and passed.

5 LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBER

Ms Gillard moved—That leave of absence until 24 March 2003 be given to Mrs Crosio on the ground of ill health.

Question—put and passed.

6 ADJOURNMENT

Mr Brough (Minister for Employment Services) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 9.23 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 9 a.m.

PAPERS

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 18 March 2003:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act—Notice under section 142S—2003 Torres Strait Regional Authority.

Aged Care Act—Principles under section 96-1—2003 Allocation Amendment Principles (No. 1).

Australian Communications Authority Act—Determination—2003 Radiocommunications (Charges) Amendment (No. 1).

Australian Meat and Live-stock Industry Act—Orders—2002 Australian Meat and Live-stock Industry (Export of Sheep and Goats from Northern Ports) Amendment (No. 1).

Broadcasting Services Act—Variations—

Commercial Television Conversion Scheme 2003 (No. 1).

National Television Conversion Scheme 2003 (No. 1).

Civil Aviation Act—Civil Aviation Regulations—Airworthiness Directives—

Part 39-105—2003 13 (5), 14(3), 27(4), 28(8) February, 3, 4(4), 5(5), 6(3), 7, 10(7) March.

Part 39-106—2003 3 (4), 4(4), 5(2) March.

Part 39-107—2003 7, 26 February, 4, 5 March.

Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act—Orders—2003 Commonwealth Authorities and Companies (Financial Statements for reporting periods ending on or after 30 June 2003).

Corporations Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2003 No. 31.

Criminal Code Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2003 No. 30.

Defence Act—

Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal—Determination 2003 No. 1.

Determinations under section 58B—2003 Nos 4, 5, 6.

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act—Instrument under subsection 303EC(1)(a), 17 February 2003.

Extradition Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2003 No. 34.

Financial Management and Accountability Act—Orders—2003 Financial Management and Accountability (Financial Statements for reporting periods ending on or after 30 June 2003).

Financial Sector (Collection of Data) Act—Reporting standards under subsection 13(1)—RRS 320.0, RRS 320.1, RRS 320.2, RRS 320.3, RRS 320.4, RRS 320.5, RRS 331.0, RRS 332.0, RRS 391.0, RRS 392.0, RRS 393.0, RRS 394.0, RRS 010.

Financial Transaction Reports Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2003 No. 32.

Primary Industries (Customs) Charges Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2003 No. 27.

Primary Industries (Excise) Levies Act—
Regulations—Statutory Rules 2003 No. 28.
Specifications—Rice Levy 2003.

Primary Industries Levies and Charges Collection Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2003 No. 29.

Radiocommunications Act—

Determinations—2003—

Radiocommunications Licence Conditions (Apparatus Licence).

Radiocommunications Licence Conditions (Temporary Community Broadcasting Licence).

Notice—2003—Radiocommunications (Compliance Labelling—Electromagnetic Radiation).

Standard—2003—Radiocommunications (Electromagnetic Radiation—Human Exposure).

Radiocommunications (Receiver Licence Tax) Act—Determination—2003 Radiocommunications (Receiver Licence Tax) Amendment (No.1).

Radiocommunications (Transmitter Licence Tax) Act—Determination—2003 Radiocommunications (Transmitter Licence Tax) Amendment (No. 1).

Space Activities Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2003 No. 33.

Taxation Administration Act—Rulings—2003—Nos CR 16, CR 17, CR 18, CR 19, PR 6, GSTB 1 (Addendum).

Telecommunications Act—Variations—2003 Telecommunications Numbering Plan Nos 2, 3.

Therapeutic Goods Act—Orders—2003—

Conformity Assessment Standards Orders Nos 1, 2.

Medical Device Standards Orders Nos 1, 2, 3.

ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mrs Crosio*, Mrs Hull, Ms Livermore* and Mr Lloyd*.

* On leave

I. C. HARRIS
Clerk of the House of Representatives

2002-03

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SUPPLEMENT TO VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 81

MAIN COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

TUESDAY, 18 MARCH 2003

1 The Main Committee met at 4 p.m.

2 POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY

Ordered—That order of the day No. 1, Government business, be postponed until the next sitting.

3 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 3) 2002-2003

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 McMullan, 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 failures in economic management, and in particular its failings in relation to both income and expenditure policies because:

- (1) it is the highest taxing Government in Australian history, and:
 - (a) has imposed the highest level ever of income tax;
 - (b) is responsible for introducing the biggest new tax in our history; and
 - (c) is addicted to imposing ever more taxes and special levies;
- (2) it has failed to deliver on its basic responsibilities to the Australian people, for example:
 - (a) bulk billing has collapsed;
 - (b) there is chronic under-investment in our public schools, TAFE colleges and universities;
 - (c) the struggle to balance work and family life continues to get harder; and
 - (d) entry level housing is becoming even less affordable for struggling Australian families; and
- (3) despite the record tax take, and in spite of declining Government services, the Government has failed to keep the Budget in surplus after nearly a decade of strong economic growth, in that:
 - (a) it broke its unequivocal promise to keep the Budget in surplus in 2001-02;
 - (b) future surpluses are dependent on the additional revenue provided by bracket creep;
 - (c) it has presided over enormous waste and mismanagement including billions of dollars of foreign exchange losses and defence procurement losses; and
 - (d) it has lost control over expenditure necessitating wholesale changes to the budgetary management system”—

Debate resumed.

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

4 ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Mr Georgiou, the Main Committee adjourned at 8.58 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