

2002-03

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 95

MONDAY, 2 JUNE 2003



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 EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

Mrs D. M. Kelly (Chair) presented the following papers:

Employment and Workplace Relations—Standing Committee—Back on the job: Report on the inquiry into aspects of Australian workers' compensation schemes—Report, June 2003.

Evidence received by the committee.

Minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Statements in connection with the report were made.

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

Mrs D. M. Kelly moved—That the House take note of the report.

Mrs D. M. Kelly was granted leave to continue her 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.

3 CRIMINAL CODE AMENDMENT (HEZBOLLAH EXTERNAL TERRORIST ORGANISATION) BILL 2003

Mr Crean (Leader of the Opposition), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Criminal Code Act 1995* to identify the Hezbollah External Terrorist Organisation as a terrorist organisation, and for related purposes.

Mr Crean 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 standing order 104A.

4 PROSTATE CANCER

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

- (1) acknowledges that prostate cancer is now a major cause of death in Australian men with more than 2,500 men dying from prostate cancer annually;
- (2) recognises the importance of prostate specific antigen (PSA) testing as a reliable and effective method of diagnosing early prostate cancer, providing the best possibility of a successful outcome;
- (3) notes the reported collapse of a proposed national television awareness campaign about prostate cancer; and
- (4) calls on the Federal Government to examine funding options which will enable increased research into prostate cancer, and provide additional and more effective awareness programs to assist in the early detection of prostate cancer.

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, Ms O'Byrne was granted leave to continue her speech when the debate is resumed, and the resumption of the debate was made an order of the day for the next sitting.

5 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Members' statements were made.

6 MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Mr Howard (Prime Minister) informed the House that, during the absence abroad of Mr M. A. J. Vaile (Minister for Trade), Mr Downer (Minister for Foreign Affairs) would answer questions on his behalf.

Mr Howard also informed the House that, during the absence of Mr I. E. Macfarlane (Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources), Mr Hockey (Minister for Small Business and Tourism) would be Acting Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources.

7 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice being asked—

Paper

Mr Downer (Minister for Foreign Affairs) presented the following paper:

Zimbabwe: Mugabe's record of abuse and repression—Paper presented by Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hon. Alexander Downer, MP, to Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group Meeting (CMAG), London, 20 May 2003.

Questions without notice continuing—

Member ordered to withdraw

At 2.50 p.m. the Member for Fowler (Mrs Irwin) was ordered, under standing order 304A, to withdraw from the House for one hour for continually interjecting, and she accordingly withdrew from the Chamber.

Questions without notice continued.

8 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CORONATION OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

Mr Howard (Prime Minister), by leave, moved—That:

We, the Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia, express to Her Majesty The Queen our warm congratulations on the 50th Anniversary of Her Coronation.

We express our ongoing respect and regard for the dedication She has displayed in the service of the Commonwealth and Her deep and abiding commitment to Australia and its people.

Mr Crean (Leader of the Opposition) having seconded the motion, and all Members present having risen—

Question—passed.

9 PETITIONS

Petitions lodged for presentation were announced.

10 TAX SYSTEM

Mr B. P. J. O'Connor, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House:

- (1) recognises that, because of the Family Tax Benefit system, parents of middle incomes pay an effective marginal tax rate of between 60% and 77%;
- (2) recognises that, because of the Allowances Income Test, an individual claiming Newstart who earns more than \$62 in a fortnight pays an effective marginal tax rate of 67%;
- (3) recognises that, because of the Allowances Income Test, an individual claiming Newstart who earns more than \$150 in a fortnight pays an effective marginal tax rate of 87%;
- (4) recognises that, because of the parental income test of Youth Allowance, 40,000 families face effective marginal tax rates of up to 111.5%;

- (5) acknowledges that these effective marginal tax rates are much higher than those for persons with high incomes;
- (6) notes that the number of individuals facing effective marginal tax rates of more than 60% has nearly doubled since 1997;
- (7) calls on the Government to reform the tax, welfare and family payment systems to avoid the development of poverty traps and disincentives to work; and
- (8) affirms its commitment to a tax system that is progressive.

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.

11 SCORESBY FREEWAY

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

- (1) recognises:
 - (a) the importance of the Scoresby Freeway to the people of the East and Southeast of Melbourne and the Federal Government's continued commitment to this project; and
 - (b) the inclusion of funding for the Commonwealth's share of project costs as agreed with the Victorian Government in the 2003-04 Federal Budget;
- (2) takes note of:
 - (a) the conditions contained in the Memorandum of Understanding and the obligations on the Victorian Government to comply with the agreement;
 - (b) the payment of funds by the Commonwealth to the Victorian Government under the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding; and
 - (c) reports that the Victorian Government was seeking support for tolls on the Scoresby Freeway while publicly claiming to be committed to the toll-free condition of the Federal Government funding;
- (3) condemns:
 - (a) the Victorian Bracks Government for lying to the Victorian people about supporting a toll-free Scoresby Freeway prior to the last State election; and
 - (b) ALP members of the Victorian Parliament elected under false pretences by communities in the East and Southeast of Melbourne by misleading the people they claim to represent; and
- (4) calls on:
 - (a) the Bracks ALP Government in Victoria to honour the binding agreement and deliver a completed toll-free Scoresby Freeway by 2008 as promised to the people of the Eastern and Southeastern suburbs of Melbourne;
 - (b) all Victorian Federal and State Members of Parliament to support the honouring of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments; and
 - (c) the Victorian Government to release all documents relating to tolls on the Scoresby Freeway and Eastern Freeway Extension from the time the Scoresby Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the Transport Ministers.

Debate ensued.

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

12 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.

13 MAIN COMMITTEE—DAY OF NEXT MEETING

The Deputy Speaker reported that Tuesday, 3 June 2003, at 4 p.m., had been fixed for the next meeting of the Main Committee.

14 BILLS REFERRED TO MAIN COMMITTEE

Mr Lloyd (Chief Government Whip), by leave, moved—That, unless otherwise ordered, at the adjournment of the House for this sitting the following Bills stand referred to the Main Committee for further consideration:

Appropriation (No. 1) 2003-2004;

Appropriation (No. 2) 2003-2004; and

Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) (No. 1) 2003-2004.

Question—put and passed.

15 MIGRATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (PROTECTED INFORMATION) BILL 2002—REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE

The Deputy Speaker reported that the Bill had been fully considered by the Main Committee and agreed to with amendments (*see item No. 4, Wednesday, 28 May 2003, Minutes of Proceedings of the Main Committee*), and presented a certified copy of the Bill together with a schedule of amendments.

Amendments made by the Main Committee agreed to.

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

On the motion of Jackie Kelly (Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister), by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

16 CUSTOMS AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 1) 2003—REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE

The Deputy Speaker reported that the Bill had been fully considered by the Main Committee and agreed to without amendment, and presented a certified copy of the Bill.

Bill agreed to.

On the motion of Jackie Kelly (Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister), by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

17 CUSTOMS TARIFF AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 1) 2003—REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE

The Deputy Speaker reported that the Bill had been fully considered by the Main Committee and agreed to without amendment, and presented a certified copy of the Bill.

Bill agreed to.

On the motion of Jackie Kelly (Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister), by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

18 NATIONAL HANDGUN BUYBACK BILL 2003—REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE

The Deputy Speaker reported that the Bill had been fully considered by the Main Committee, a Governor-General's message recommending an appropriation had been reported, and the Bill had been agreed to without amendment, and presented a certified copy of the Bill.

Bill agreed to.

On the motion of Jackie Kelly (Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister), by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

19 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAWS AMENDMENT BILL 2002—REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE

The Deputy Speaker reported that the Bill had been fully considered by the Main Committee and agreed to without amendment, and presented a certified copy of the Bill.

Bill agreed to.

On the motion of Jackie Kelly (Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister), by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

20 MARITIME LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (PREVENTION OF POLLUTION FROM SHIPS) BILL 2003—REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE

The Deputy Speaker reported that the Bill had been fully considered by the Main Committee and agreed to without amendment, and presented a certified copy of the Bill.

Bill agreed to.

On the motion of Jackie Kelly (Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister), by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

21 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 2003-2004—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 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:

- (1) its obsession with shifting the cost of health and education from the budget to Australian families;
- (2) imposing higher costs of doctors’ visits on families without concession cards and a 30 per cent hike in essential medicine prices;
- (3) allowing HECS fees to rise by 30%, introducing a loan scheme with a 6% interest rate and doubling the number of places reserved for full fee paying students;
- (4) its cynical attempt to distract the public from these higher costs by offering miserly tax cuts of \$4 a week for the average family;
- (5) its failure to address the complexity of superannuation and its determination to offer super cuts only to the wealthiest families;
- (6) its willingness to deliver tax cuts to corporate Australia while imposing a record tax burden on Australian families;
- (7) its failure to protect the superannuation savings of Australian families by protecting them from corporate greed;
- (8) its decision to hire yet more tax officials rather than take steps to ease the BAS compliance burden on small business; and
- (9) its failure to provide leadership on environmental issues and in particular its failure to address water reform”—

Debate resumed.

Ms Hall addressing the House—

22 ADJOURNMENT

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

Debate ensued.

Paper

Mr Melham, by leave, presented the following paper:

Death of Douglas Bruce Scott—Reconstruction Report presented to Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation by Forensic Investigation Committee, 29 June 2000.

Debate continued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 9.28 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 2 p.m.

PAPERS

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 2 June 2003:

Aged Care Act—Determination under section 44—2003 Adjusted subsidy residential care services.

Export Control Act—Export Control (Orders) Regulations—Orders—2003 Prescribed Goods (General) Amendment (No. 1).

Health Insurance Act—Guidelines—2003 Health Insurance (Approval of Billing Agents).

Medical Indemnity (Prudential Supervision and Professional Standards) Act—Instrument under subsection 13(9), 29 May 2003

Veterans' Entitlements Act—Instruments under section 196B—2003 Nos 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24.



ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Katter, Mr I. E. Macfarlane, Mr Sawford, Mr Snowdon and Mr M. A. J. Vaile.



I. C. HARRIS

Clerk of the House of Representatives