

2002-04

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

**JOURNALS OF THE SENATE**

No. 127

THURSDAY, 12 FEBRUARY 2004

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**1 MEETING OF SENATE**

The Senate met at 9.30 am. The President (Senator the Honourable Paul Calvert) took the chair and read prayers.

**2 PETITIONS**

The following 2 petitions, lodged with the Clerk by the senators indicated, were received:

Senator Harris, from 1 046 petitioners, requesting that the Senate undertake an inquiry into the gaoling of Pauline Hanson and David Ettridge.

Senator McLucas, from 600 petitioners, requesting that the Senate oppose proposed changes to Medicare and ensure bulk billing for all Australians.

**3 ORDER OF BUSINESS—REARRANGEMENT**

The Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads (Senator Ian Campbell) moved—That the following government business orders of the day be considered from 12.45 pm till not later than 2 pm today:

No. 7 Primary Industries (Excise) Levies Amendment (Wine Grapes) Bill 2003.

No. 8 National Residue Survey Customs Levy Rate Correction (Lamb Exports) Bill 2003 and a related bill.

Question put and passed.

Senator Ian Campbell moved—That the order of general business for consideration today be as follows:

(a) general business notice of motion no. 763 standing in the name of Senator Conroy, relating to the free trade agreement between Australia and the United States of America; and

(b) consideration of government documents.

Question put and passed.

**4 POSTPONEMENTS**

Items of business were postponed as follows:

Business of the Senate notice of motion no. 1 standing in the name of Senator Conroy for today, relating to the disallowance of Schedule 3 of the Corporations Amendment Regulations 2003 (No. 8), postponed till 8 March 2004.

Business of the Senate notice of motion no. 2 standing in the name of Senator Allison for today, relating to the disallowance of the Fuel Quality Information Standard (Ethanol) Determination 2003, postponed till 1 March 2004.

Business of the Senate notice of motion no. 3 standing in the name of Senator Nettle for today, relating to the reference of a matter to the Finance and Public Administration References Committee, postponed till 1 March 2004.

General business notice of motion no. 753 standing in the name of Senator Murray for today, relating to the reference of matters to the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters, postponed till 1 March 2004.

**5 FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE REFERENCES COMMITTEE—VARIATION OF REFERENCE**

Senator Mackay, by leave and at the request of the Chair of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee (Senator Cook), moved—That the resolution of the Senate of 30 October 2003 (*see entry no. 8, 30 October 2003*), relating to the terms of reference of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee on the effectiveness of the Australian military justice system, be amended by replacing paragraph (2)(c) with “the suspension of Cadet Sergeant Eleanore Tibble”.

Question put and passed.

**6 MINISTERIAL DISCRETION IN MIGRATION MATTERS—SELECT COMMITTEE—EXTENSION OF TIME TO REPORT**

The Chair of the Select Committee on Ministerial Discretion in Migration Matters (Senator Ludwig), pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 758—That the time for the presentation of the report of the Select Committee on Ministerial Discretion in Migration Matters be extended to 31 March 2004.

Question put and passed.

**7 ENVIRONMENT, COMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS REFERENCES COMMITTEE—EXTENSION OF TIME TO REPORT**

The Chair of the Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee (Senator Cherry), pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 761—That the time for the presentation of the report of the Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee on the Australian telecommunications network be extended to 31 March 2004.

Question put and passed.

**8 FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE REFERENCES COMMITTEE—LEAVE TO MEET DURING SITTING**

Senator Mackay, at the request of the Chair of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee (Senator Cook) and pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 759—That the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee be authorised to hold a public meeting during the sitting of the Senate on Monday, 1 March 2004, from 4 pm, to take evidence for the committee’s inquiry into the effectiveness of the Australian military justice system.

Question put and passed.

**9 SOCIAL ISSUES—BERNADETTE MCMENAMIN—CHILD WISE LIMITED**

Senator Ridgeway, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 760—That the Senate—

- (a) congratulates Bernadette McMenamin who was named 2004 Australian of the Year for Victoria;
- (b) notes that some of her achievements include:

- (i) in 1993, founding Child Wise Limited, a not-for-profit company which works towards the attainment of a world free from child exploitation, child sex abuse and child sex tourism, and
  - (ii) establishing the award-winning Choose with Care information and training program, the Child Wise Tourism and the Travel with Care programs which provide education, training and information on child sex tourism to the tourism industry;
- (c) also notes that, according to a recent report from Child Wise, Australian paedophiles have now become part of the growing child sex trade in Bali; and
- (d) calls on the Government to commit to providing ongoing support to organisations like Child Wise as a general principle of focussing on preventative measures against Australians involved in child sex tourism, rather than focussing on prosecution after the offence.

Question put and passed.

#### 10 SENATORS' INTERESTS—STANDING COMMITTEE—ANNUAL REPORT

The Chair of the Standing Committee of Senators' Interests (Senator Denman) tabled the following report:

Senators' Interests—Standing Committee—Report 1 of 2004: Annual report 2003, dated February 2004.

Report ordered to be printed on the motion of Senator Denman.

Senator Denman moved—That the Senate take note of the report.

Question put and passed.

#### 11 HEALTH—HIV/AIDS

Senator Allison, by leave, moved general business notice of motion no. 762—That the Senate—

- (a) notes that:
- (i) 42 million women, men and children are living with HIV/AIDS globally, with more than 95 per cent of these people living in developing countries,
  - (ii) more than 3 million die each year of AIDS (8 500 a day),
  - (iii) there are more than 7.4 million people living with HIV/AIDS in Asia and the Pacific,
  - (iv) every year, 2 million people die of tuberculosis (TB) (i.e. more than 5 000 a day) and 8 million develop active TB,
  - (v) malaria kills between 1 and 2 million people each year,
  - (vi) there are more than 3 million confirmed cases of malaria in South-East Asia and the Pacific each year,
  - (vii) the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly in 2001, is already saving lives, contributing to placing 700 000 people on anti-retroviral treatment for HIV/AIDS, detecting and treating more than 2 million TB cases and providing 64 million bed nets to protect people from malaria transmission,
  - (viii) 2 years after its creation, the fund is facing a massive shortfall in funding, and

- (ix) according to the Equitable Contributions Framework, Australia should be contributing 1.2 per cent of the fund's resources, or \$AU110 million for the period 2002 to 2004; and
- (b) urges the Government to join the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Japan and France in contributing to the fund, in accordance with the Equitable Contributions Framework.

Question put and passed.

**12 EMPLOYMENT, WORKPLACE RELATIONS AND EDUCATION LEGISLATION COMMITTEE—ADDITIONAL INFORMATION—BUDGET ESTIMATES 2003-04**

Senator Ferris, at the request of the Chair of the Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Legislation Committee (Senator Tierney), tabled additional information received by the committee (Budget estimates 2003-04 (Supplementary)—vol. 1).

**13 MIGRATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (IDENTIFICATION AND AUTHENTICATION) BILL 2003**

A message from the House of Representatives was reported agreeing to the amendments made by the Senate to the following bill:

Message no. 494, dated 11 February 2004—Migration Legislation Amendment (Identification and Authentication) Bill 2003.

**14 NATIONAL MEASUREMENT AMENDMENT BILL 2003**

A message from the House of Representatives was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the Senate the following bill:

Message no. 495, dated 11 February 2004—A Bill for an Act to establish a National Measurement Institute, make technical amendments of the *National Measurement Act 1960* and associated regulations, and for related purposes.

The Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads (Senator Ian Campbell) moved—That this bill may proceed without formalities and be now read a first time.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a first time.

Senator Ian Campbell moved—That this bill be now read a second time.

On the motion of Senator Mackay the debate was adjourned till the next day of sitting.

**15 HEALTH LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM) BILL 2003 [2004]**

A message from the House of Representatives was reported agreeing to the following bill without amendment:

Message no. 496, dated 12 February 2004—Health Legislation Amendment (Private Health Insurance Reform) Bill 2003 [2004].

**16 HEALTH LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (MEDICARE) BILL 2003**

Order of the day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (Senator Vanstone)—That this bill be now read a second time.

Debate resumed.

Senator Nettle moved the following amendment:

At the end of the motion, add “but the Senate:

- (a) condemns the Government's attempt to undermine the principle of universality that underpins Medicare and its policy of privatising health care in Australia, including the Private Health Insurance Rebate, which should be abolished and the funds directed to public health care; and
- (b) calls on the Government to establish an independent inquiry into the rebate and the Lifetime Health Cover policy, as recommended by the Select Committee on Medicare".

Debate ensued.

*At 12.45 pm:* Debate was interrupted while the Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Bartlett) was speaking.

**17 PRIMARY INDUSTRIES (EXCISE) LEVIES AMENDMENT (WINE GRAPES) BILL 2003**

Order of the day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (Senator Vanstone)—That this bill be now read a second time.

Debate resumed.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

No amendments to the bill were circulated and no senator required that it be considered in committee.

On the motion of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (Senator Troeth) the bill was read a third time.

**18 NATIONAL RESIDUE SURVEY CUSTOMS LEVY RATE CORRECTION (LAMB EXPORTS) BILL 2003**

**NATIONAL RESIDUE SURVEY EXCISE LEVY RATE CORRECTION (LAMB TRANSACTIONS) BILL 2003**

Order of the day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (Senator Vanstone)—That these bills be now read a second time.

Debate resumed.

Question put and passed.

Bills read a second time.

No amendments to the bills were circulated and no senator required that they be considered in committee.

On the motion of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (Senator Troeth) the bills were read a third time.

*Suspension of sitting:* On the motion of Senator Troeth the sitting of the Senate was suspended till 2 pm.

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*At 2 pm—*

**19 QUESTIONS**

Questions without notice were answered.

**20 DEFENCE—BLACK HAWK HELICOPTER ACCIDENT—STATEMENT BY LEAVE**

The Minister for Defence (Senator Hill), by leave, made a statement relating to an accident today involving a Black Hawk helicopter during a training flight in Queensland.

**21 FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES—ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

Senator Collins moved—That the Senate take note of the answers given by the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (Senator Vanstone) and the Minister for Finance and Administration (Senator Minchin) to questions without notice asked by Senators Bishop, Collins and Forshaw today relating to family and community services.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

**22 AGENCY ADVERTISING AND PUBLIC INFORMATION PROJECTS—ORDER FOR PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS—STATEMENT BY LEAVE**

The Minister for Defence (Senator Hill), by leave, made a statement relating to the order of the Senate of 29 October 2003 for the production of documents concerning advertising and public information projects (*see entry no. 17, 29 October 2003*).

**23 TREATIES—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE—GOVERNMENT RESPONSE—45TH REPORT**

The Minister for Defence (Senator Hill) tabled the following document:

Treaties—Joint Standing Committee—45th report—The Statute of the International Criminal Court—Government response.

Senator Ludwig, by leave, moved—That the Senate take note of the document.

Question put and passed.

**24 AUDITOR-GENERAL—AUDIT REPORT NO. 28 OF 2003-04—DOCUMENT**

The Deputy President (Senator Hogg) tabled the following document:

Auditor-General—Audit report no. 28 of 2003-04—Audit activity report: July to December 2003: Summary of outcomes.

**25 ESTIMATES OF PROPOSED ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE FOR 2003-04—PORTFOLIO ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES STATEMENTS—PORTFOLIOS AND EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS—DOCUMENTS**

The Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (Senator Vanstone) tabled the following documents:

Estimates of proposed additional expenditure for 2003-04—Portfolio additional estimates statements—Portfolios and executive departments—

Attorney-General's portfolio.

Health and Ageing portfolio.

Industry, Tourism and Resources portfolio.

Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio.



**26 RURAL AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS AND TRANSPORT LEGISLATION COMMITTEE—  
REPORT—AUSTRALIAN WOOL INNOVATION LIMITED**

The Chair of the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee (Senator Heffernan) tabled the following report and documents:

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee—Australian Wool Innovation Limited: Application and expenditure of funds advanced under Statutory Funding Agreement dated 31 December 2000—Report, dated February 2004, *Hansard* record of proceedings, documents presented to the committee and submissions [18].

Report ordered to be printed on the motion of Senator Heffernan.

Senator Heffernan, by leave, moved—That the Senate take note of the report.

Debate ensued.

Debate adjourned till the next of sitting, Senator Sandy Macdonald in continuation.

**27 EMPLOYMENT, WORKPLACE RELATIONS AND EDUCATION LEGISLATION  
COMMITTEE—ADDITIONAL INFORMATION—BUDGET ESTIMATES 2003-04**

Senator Heffernan, at the request of the Chair of the Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Legislation Committee (Senator Tierney), tabled additional information received by the committee (Budget estimates 2003-04 (Supplementary)—vol. 2).

**28 ENVIRONMENT, COMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS  
LEGISLATION COMMITTEE—ADDITIONAL INFORMATION—BUDGET ESTIMATES  
2003-04**

Senator Heffernan, at the request of the Chair of the Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Legislation Committee (Senator Eggleston), tabled additional information received by the committee (Budget estimates 2003-04 (Supplementary)—vol. 1).

**29 DOCUMENTS**

The following documents were tabled by the Clerk:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act—Statement under subsection 40(3)—Suspension of a commissioner from office, dated 11 February 2004.

Lands Acquisition Act—Statements describing property acquired by agreement under sections 40 and 125 of the Act for specified public purposes [2].

Social Security Act—Social Security (Class of Debts — Youth Allowance) Notice 2004.

**30 ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER COMMISSION ACT—STATEMENT  
UNDER SUBSECTION 40(3)—CONSIDERATION**

Senator O'Brien, by leave, moved—That the Senate take note of the document tabled earlier today (*see entry no. 29*):

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act—Statement under subsection 40(3)—Suspension of a commissioner from office, dated 11 February 2004.

Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting, Senator O'Brien in continuation.

*General business was called on.*

### 31 TRADE—FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

Senator Conroy, pursuant to notice, moved general business notice of motion no. 763—That the Senate—

- (a) expresses great concern that the Howard Government has sold out Australian sugar growers;
- (b) notes that:
  - (i) the expected gains from the trade deal with the United States of America (US) are based on unrealistic assumptions, and
  - (ii) the US offered a better deal on agriculture to Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua; and
- (c) has referred the trade deal with the US to a select committee for thorough examination to assess if it is in Australia's national interest.

Debate ensued.

*At 6 pm:* Debate was interrupted while Senator Ferris was speaking.

### 32 GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS—ORDERS OF THE DAY—CONSIDERATION

The following orders of the day relating to government documents were considered:

Aboriginal Land Commissioner—Report for 2002-03. Motion of Senator Crossin to take note of document agreed to.

Gene Technology Regulator—Quarterly report for the period 1 April to 30 June 2003. Motion of Senator Crossin to take note of document agreed to.

Indigenous Land Corporation—Report for 2002-03. Motion of Senator Crossin to take note of document agreed to.

Aboriginal Hostels Limited—Report for the period 24 June 2002 to 28 June 2003. Motion of Senator Crossin to take note of document agreed to.

Torres Strait Regional Authority—Report for 2002-03. Motion of Senator Crossin to take note of document agreed to.

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet—Report for 2002-03. Motion of Senator Crossin to take note of document agreed to.

Australian National Training Authority—Report for 2002-03. Motion of Senator George Campbell to take note of document agreed to.

Australian National Training Authority—Australian vocational education and training system—Report for 2002—Volume 1 and 2. Motion of Senator George Campbell to take note of document agreed to.

Australian National Training Authority—Australian vocational education and training system—Report for 2002—Volume 3. Motion of Senator George Campbell to take note of document agreed to.

Australian Research Council—Report for 2002-03. Motion of Senator Crossin to take note of document agreed to.

National Gallery of Australia—Report for 2002-03. Motion of Senator Crossin to take note of document agreed to.

National Occupational Health and Safety Commission—Report for 2002-03. Motion of Senator Marshall to take note of document agreed to.

Cotton Research and Development Corporation and Cotton Research and Development Corporation Selection Committee—Reports for 2002-03. Motion of Senator Crossin to take note of document agreed to.

Department of Education, Science and Training—Report for 2002-03. Motion of Senator Crossin to take note of document agreed to.

Department of the Environment and Heritage—Report for 2002-03. Motion of Senator Crossin to take note of document called on. Debate adjourned till Thursday at general business, the Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Bartlett) in continuation.

Supervising Scientist—Report for 2002-03 on the operation of the *Environment Protection (Alligator Rivers Region) Act 1978*. Motion of Senator Crossin to take note of document agreed to.

Director of National Parks—Report for 2002-03. Motion of Senator Crossin to take note of document agreed to.

Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs—Report for 2002-03. Motion of Senator Bartlett to take note of document called on. Debate adjourned till Thursday at general business, Senator Bartlett in continuation.

Employment Advocate—Report for 2002-03. Motion of Senator Hutchins to take note of document agreed to.

Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency—Report for 1 June 2002 to 31 May 2003. Motion of Senator Mackay to take note of document agreed to.

Wet Tropics Management Authority—Report for 2002-03. Motion of Senator Bartlett to take note of document debated. Debate adjourned till Thursday at general business, the Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation (Senator Ian Macdonald) in continuation.

Grains Research and Development Corporation and Grains Research and Development Corporation Selection Committee—Reports for 2002-03. Motion of Senator O'Brien to take note of document agreed to.

Australian Transport Safety Bureau—Supplementary aviation safety investigation report 200002157-A—Piper PA31-350 Chieftain VH-MZK, Spencer Gulf, SA, 31 May 2000. Motion of Senator Buckland to take note of document agreed to.

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority—Report for 2002-03. Motion to take note of document moved by Senator Bartlett. Debate adjourned till Thursday at general business, Senator Ian Macdonald in continuation.

Migration Review Tribunal—Report for 2002-03. Motion to take note of document moved by Senator Bartlett. Debate adjourned till Thursday at general business, Senator Bartlett in continuation.

Refugee Review Tribunal—Report for 2002-03. Motion to take note of document moved by Senator Bartlett. Debate adjourned till Thursday at general business, Senator Bartlett in continuation.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission—Report for 2002-03. Motion to take note of document moved by Senator Crossin. Debate adjourned till Thursday at general business, Senator Crossin in continuation.

Indigenous education and training—National report to Parliament 2002. Motion to take note of document moved by Senator Crossin. Debate adjourned till Thursday at general business, Senator Crossin in continuation.

Migration Agents Registration Authority—Report for 2002-03. Motion to take note of document moved by Senator Bartlett. Debate adjourned till Thursday at general business, Senator Bartlett in continuation.

List of multilateral treaty actions under negotiation, consideration or review by the Australian Government as at December 2003. Motion to take note of document moved by Senator Bartlett. Debate adjourned till Thursday at general business, Senator Bartlett in continuation

Former parliamentarians' travel paid by the Department of Finance and Administration—1 January to 30 June 2003, dated December 2003. Motion to take note of document moved by Senator Bartlett and agreed to.

United Nations—Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women—Women in Australia: Australia's combined fourth and fifth reports on implementing the Convention. Motion of Senator Stott Despoja to take note of document debated. On the motion of Senator Hogg debate was adjourned till Thursday at general business.

General business orders of the day nos 24 to 29, 31 to 48, 51, 52, 54 to 86, 88 to 92, 94 to 113, 115 to 131, 133 to 139 and 141 to 145 relating to government documents were called on but no motion was moved.

*General business concluded.*

### 33 COMMITTEES—CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP

The Acting Deputy President (Senator Ferguson) informed the Senate that the President had received letters requesting changes in the membership of various committees.

The Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation (Senator Ian Macdonald), by leave, moved—That senators be discharged from and appointed to committees as follows:

#### **Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Legislation Committee—**

Appointed—Substitute member: Senator Humphries to replace Senator Santoro for the consideration of the 2003-04 additional estimates on 16 February 2004 from 6 pm

#### **Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee—**

Appointed—Substitute members for the consideration of the 2003-04 additional estimates on 20 February 2004:

Senator McGauran to replace Senator Sandy Macdonald  
Senator Colbeck to replace Senator Ferguson

#### **Free Trade Agreement—Australia and the United States of America—Select Committee—**

Appointed: Senators Boswell, Brandis, Conroy, Cook, Ferris, O'Brien and Ridgeway

#### **Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee—**

Appointed—Substitute member: Senator McGauran to replace Senator Colbeck for the consideration of the 2003-04 additional estimates on 16 February 2004.

Question put and passed.

**34 COMMITTEE REPORTS AND GOVERNMENT RESPONSES—ORDERS OF THE DAY—  
CONSIDERATION**

The following orders of the day relating to committee reports and government responses were considered:

Corporations and Financial Services—Joint Statutory Committee—Reports—

Money matters in the bush: Inquiry into the level of banking and financial services in rural, regional and remote areas of Australia

ATM fee structure

Motion of the chair of the committee (Senator Chapman) to take note of reports agreed to.

Medicare—Select Committee—Second report—Medicare Plus: the future of Medicare? Motion of the chair of the committee (Senator McLucas) to take note of report debated and agreed to.

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee—Report—The (not quite) White Paper: Australia's foreign affairs and trade policy, Advancing the National Interest. Motion of the chair of the committee (Senator Cook) to take note of report agreed to.

Finance and Public Administration References Committee—Report—Administrative review of veteran and military compensation and income support. Motion of the chair of the committee (Senator Forshaw) to take note of report agreed to.

National Capital and External Territories—Joint Standing Committee—Report—Quis custodiet ipsos custodes? Inquiry into governance on Norfolk Island. Motion of the chair of the committee (Senator Lightfoot) to take note of report agreed to.

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee—Report—Voting on trade: The General Agreement on Trade in Services and an Australia-US free trade agreement. Motion of the chair of the committee (Senator Cook) to take note of report debated. Debate adjourned till next day of sitting, Senator Marshall in continuation.

Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Legislation Committee—Report—Plastic Bag Levy (Assessment and Collection) Bill 2002 [No. 2] and the Plastic Bag (Minimisation of Usage) Education Fund Bill 2002 [No. 2]. Motion of Senator Brown to take note of report agreed to.

Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee—Report—Hacking Australia's future: Threats to institutional autonomy, academic freedom and student choice in Australian higher education. Motion of Senator Stott Despoja to take note of report agreed to.

Medicare—Select Committee—Report—Medicare – healthcare or welfare? Motion of the chair of the committee (Senator McLucas) to take note of report agreed to.

Treaties—Joint Standing Committee—55th report—Treaties tabled on 9 September 2003. Motion of Senator Crossin to take note of report agreed to.

Finance and Public Administration References Committee—Report—Staff employed under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984*. Motion of the chair of the committee (Senator Forshaw) to take note of report agreed to.

Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee—Report—Libraries in the online environment. Motion of the chair of the committee (Senator Cherry) to take note of report agreed to.

Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee—Report—Order for production of documents on university finances. Motion of Senator Carr to take note of report agreed to.

National Capital and External Territories—Joint Standing Committee—Report—Not a town centre: The proposal for pay parking in the Parliamentary Zone. Motion of the chair of the committee (Senator Lightfoot) to take note of report agreed to.

### 35 AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORTS—ORDERS OF THE DAY—CONSIDERATION

The following orders of the day relating to reports of the Auditor-General were considered:

Auditor-General—Audit report no. 10 of 2003-04—Performance audit—Australian Defence Force recruiting contract: Department of Defence. Motion of Senator Hogg to take note of document agreed to.

Auditor-General—Audit report no. 16 of 2003-04—Performance audit—Administration of consular services follow-up audit: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Motion to take note of document moved by Senator Hogg. Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting, Senator Hogg in continuation.

Auditor-General—Audit report no. 24 of 2003-04—Performance audit—Agency management of special accounts. Motion to take note of document moved by Senator Buckland. Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting, Senator Buckland in continuation.

Orders of the day nos 2 to 5, 7 to 13 and 15 to 17 relating to reports of the Auditor-General were called on but no motion was moved.

### 36 ADJOURNMENT

The Acting Deputy President (Senator Kirk) proposed the question—That the Senate do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The Senate adjourned at 8.07 pm till Monday, 1 March 2004 at 12.30 pm.

### 37 ATTENDANCE

Present, all senators except Senators Hutchins\*, Lightfoot, Moore\*, Murphy and Patterson (\* on leave).

**HARRY EVANS**  
Clerk of the Senate