

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 36

THURSDAY, 6 DECEMBER 1990

- 1 The House met, at 10 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. Mr Speaker (the Honourable Leo McLeay) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
- 2 **PETITIONS:** The Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:
- Dr Blewett, Dr Catley and Mr McLachlan, from 141, 248 and 507 petitioners, respectively, praying that the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child not be ratified.
 - Mr Beale and Mr Taylor, from 32 and 205 petitioners, respectively, in similar terms.
 - Mr Bradford, Mr Taylor and Dr R. L. Woods, from 84, 137 and 20 petitioners, respectively, praying that the Therapeutic Goods Regulations be rejected and a public inquiry held into the registration of the natural healing profession and regulation of natural therapeutic goods.
 - Mr Taylor, from 1020 petitioners, in similar terms.
 - Mr Beale and Mr Charles, from 95 and 114 petitioners, respectively, praying for a twelve month moratorium followed by a referendum to enable the citizens of Australia to consider and decide whether the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child should be ratified.
 - Mr Prosser, from 106 petitioners, in similar terms.
 - Mr Bradford and Mr Broadbent, from 1891 and 240 petitioners, respectively, praying that certain action be taken to prevent ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and to ensure that international treaties are debated in Parliament.
 - Mr Cadman and Mr Sinclair, from 33 and 19 petitioners, respectively, praying that funding of abortions through Medicare cease and certain other action be taken to protect the right to life of the unborn.
 - Mr Prosser and Mr Taylor, from 31 and 474 petitioners, respectively, praying that the Therapeutic Goods Regulations be rejected and a public inquiry held into the registration of natural medicines.
 - Mr Andrew, from 411 petitioners, praying that the original criteria for assessing eligibility for family allowance and assets test levels in relation to Austudy be retained.
 - Mr Andrew, from 354 residents of South Australia, praying that fuel prices be reduced to a reasonable level and that fuel and freight be subsidised for country people.
 - Mr Andrew, from 13 petitioners, praying that the decision to place certain pharmaceutical drugs on the authority only listing be abandoned.

- Mr Beazley, from 420 petitioners, praying that stricter control be exercised over petrol companies and that certain action be taken to stabilise the price of petrol.
- Mr Cadman, from 24 petitioners, praying that policies be implemented to increase Australian aid, fight poverty, protect the environment and promote human rights.
- Mr Courtice, from 4250 petitioners, praying that the emphasis on monetary policy be changed to a more balanced economic approach.
- Mr Cowan, from 1096 petitioners, praying that an inquiry into the operation of Oxley Airlines Limited be conducted independently of the Civil Aviation Authority.
- Mr Downer, from 1195 residents of South Australia, praying that a Medicare office or agency be established at Murray Bridge, SA.
- Mr Fife, from 202 petitioners, praying that legislative action be taken to protect the present Australian coat of arms and national flag and to impose certain penalties for the abuse of those symbols.
- Mr Filing, from 136 petitioners, praying that Government funding of abortion be abolished.
- Mr Holding, from 178 electors of the Division of Melbourne Ports, praying that the charge of \$2.50 per prescription on pharmaceuticals available under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme be overturned and that prescriptions be provided free of charge to pensioners.
- Mr Johns, from 1625 residents of Keperra, Qld, praying that closure of the Commonwealth Bank service centre at Keperra be prevented.
- Mr Jones, from 129 petitioners, praying for an inquiry into the distribution of wealth, the effectiveness of the taxation system and the measures which should be taken to achieve a more just society.
- Mr Jull, from 8 staff of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Upper Mt Gravatt, Qld, praying that the proposed introduction of Saturday trading for banks be opposed.
- Mr Kerr, from 25 petitioners, praying that certain action be taken to minimise the dangers caused by polluting substances in air, food and water.
- Mr Langmore, from 42 petitioners, praying that woodchipping be phased out and certain other action be taken in relation to the forests of south eastern Australia.
- Ms McHugh, from 1197 petitioners, praying that any attempt to restrict access to abortion under Medicare be opposed.
- Mr Mack, from 6431 petitioners, praying that action be taken to phase out the consumption, production and export of chlorofluorocarbons and halons.
- Mr Mack, from 525 petitioners, praying for a full public inquiry into the proposal to construct a third runway at Sydney (Kingsford-Smith) Airport.
- Mr Mack, from 502 petitioners, praying for the development of an airport at Badgery's Creek and that a third runway at Sydney (Kingsford-Smith) Airport not be constructed.
- Mr Mack, from 4 petitioners, praying that the CSIRO's charter be expanded to enable it to develop environmentally sound manufacturing and recycling procedures which are supported and subsidised by the Commonwealth Government.
- Mr Mack, from 2 petitioners, praying that the Constitution be altered to allow the public of Australia to initiate referenda.
- Mr Martin, from 93 petitioners, praying that progressive advancement of the Joint Coal Board be continued.

Mr Prosser, from 836 residents of Western Australia, praying that the recently introduced assets test on family allowance payments be opposed.

Mr Prosser, from 289 residents of Western Australia, in similar terms.

Mr Prosser, from 150 petitioners, praying that legislation be passed to enable a constitutional change to allow voters' referenda to initiate or veto legislation.

Mr Prosser, from 17 petitioners, praying that the recommendations in the majority report of the Joint Select Committee on Electoral Matters concerning advertising by political parties on radio and television be rejected.

Mr B. C. Scott, from 540 electors of the Division of Maranoa, praying that the assets test on family allowance and assistance for isolated children be abolished and that the decision to reduce the assets test for Austudy and the family allowance supplement be reconsidered.

Mr Somlyay, from 1361 residents of Queensland, praying for the establishment of a Medicare office at Maroochydore, Qld.

Mrs Sullivan, from 62 petitioners, praying that the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child be ratified in a form which protects children from abuse and exploitation and pays the highest regard to the family unit and responsibilities of parents.

Mr Walker, from 2372 residents of Gosford, NSW, praying that action be taken to reduce, mitigate or overcome the flooding problems of the Gosford City Council area.

Petitions received.

3 PROCEDURE—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENT BY MEMBER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: Mr Scholes (Chairman) presented the following report and related papers:

Procedure—Standing Committee—Responses to petitions—

Report, dated 13 November 1990.

Minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Mr Scholes made a statement in connection with the report.

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

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

In accordance with sessional order 102B the debate was adjourned, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting Thursday.

4 AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS: Mr R. F. Edwards presented the following report:

Australian Parliamentary Delegation to the European Parliamentary Institutions, Switzerland and France, September/October 1990—Report.

Mr R. F. Edwards, Mr Cameron and Mr Lee made statements in connection with the report.

5 ABORTION FUNDING ABOLITION BILL 1990: Mr Webster, pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Health Insurance Act 1973* so as to prevent payment of medicare benefits in respect of certain medical services relating to the procuring of an abortion, and for related purposes.

Mr Webster made a statement in relation to the Bill.

Paper: Mr Webster presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Bill read a first time.

Ordered—That the second reading be made an order of the day for the next sitting Thursday, in accordance with sessional order 104A.

- 6 CRIMES (BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION) AMENDMENT BILL 1990:** Mr Peacock, pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Crimes Act 1914*, and for related purposes.

Mr Peacock 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 Thursday, in accordance with sessional order 104A.

- 7 INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (MEMBERSHIP OF ASSOCIATIONS) BILL 1990:** Mr Charles, pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to ensure that individuals shall have the right to belong to, or not to belong to, industrial associations, and for purposes connected therewith.

Mr Charles 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 Thursday, in accordance with sessional order 104A.

- 8 GLOBAL POPULATION GROWTH:** Mr Langmore, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House expresses grave concern at the rate of global population growth because of its economic, social and environmental implications and therefore (a) supports the moderate growth in the funds allocated for population programs within the 1990 Australian aid budget and (b) calls for such funding to be further substantially increased.

Debate ensued.

The time allotted for the debate having expired, the debate was interrupted, the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting Thursday, and Mr Bradford was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

- 9 SMALL BUSINESS:** Mrs Bailey, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House:
- (1) calls on the Government to recognise the vital role of small business to the prosperity of the nation; and
 - (2) condemns the Government for its policies which have caused the failure of small businesses.

Debate ensued.

The time allotted for the debate having expired, the debate was interrupted, the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting Thursday, and Dr Catley was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

- 10 CITRUS INDUSTRY:** Mr P. S. Fisher, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House:

- (1) recognises the importance of the citrus industry to the social and economic life of regional Australia; and
- (2) calls on the Government to:
 - (a) remove developing country status and tariff concessions from Brazil, the world's major citrus producer;
 - (b) immediately introduce anti-dumping and countervailing legislation which is fast and reliable;
 - (c) remove sales tax from all fruit juice products;
 - (d) stop the abuses of labelling, packaging and quality regulations which are confusing the consumer and harming the consumer; and
 - (e) streamline and make applicable to the operation of the Food Standards Committee, commercial practicalities and technological development.

Debate ensued.

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

Thursday, and Mr Andrew was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

- 11 **GRIEVANCE DEBATE:** Pursuant to the provisions of sessional order 106, the order of the day having been read—

Question proposed—That grievances be noted.

Debate ensued.

Paper: Mr Atkinson, by leave, presented the following paper:

Interjection during question time, 15 November 1990—Copy of letter from Mr R. Atkinson, MP, to Mr Hawke, Prime Minister, dated 22 November 1990.

Debate continued.

Papers: Mr Hulls, by leave, presented the following papers:

Australian Labour Federation 1890-1990—

General Council—First annual session, Brisbane, 1 August 1890—Report.

General Executive—First ordinary meeting, Blackall, Qld, 9 December 1890—Report.

Debate continued.

It being 1.45 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with sessional order 106.

Question—That grievances be noted—put and passed.

- 12 **MEMBERS' STATEMENTS:** Members' statements were made.

- 13 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice were asked.

- 14 **PAPERS:** The following papers were presented:

Administrative Appeals Tribunal Act—Administrative Appeals Tribunal—Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report and freedom of information statement, for 1989-90.

Audit Act—Finance Regulations—Commonwealth procurement guidelines—
11. Know your market.

13. Contracting for consultancy services.

Australian Airlines Limited—Report and financial statements, including the auditor's report, for 1989-90.

Australian Broadcasting Corporation Act—Australian Broadcasting Corporation—Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report and freedom of information statement, for 1989-90.

Australian Film Commission Act—Film Australia Pty Limited—Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report, for 1989-90.

Australian Film Finance Corporation Pty Limited—Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report, for 1989-90.

Australian Horticultural Corporation Act—Australian Horticultural Corporation—Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report, for 1989-90.

Australian National Audit Office—Report of an independent review, dated 30 March 1990.

Australian National Railways Commission Act—Australian National Railways Commission (Australian National)—Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report, for 1989-90.

Australian Security Intelligence Organization Act—

Australian Security Intelligence Organization—Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report, for 1989-90.

Security Appeals Tribunal—Report, including freedom of information statement, for 1989-90.

Broadcasting Act—Australian Broadcasting Tribunal—Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report and freedom of information statement, for 1989-90.

- Civil Aviation Act—Civil Aviation Authority Australia—Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report and freedom of information statement, for 1989-90.
- Commissioner of Taxation—Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report, freedom of information statement and a report pursuant to the Child Support Act, for 1989-90.
- Employment, Education and Training—Standing Committee—Report—Postgraduate awards: Review of Auditor-General's Report No. 6 1989-90—Government response.
- Employment, Education and Training Act—National Board of Employment, Education and Training—Reports by the Higher Education Council, including the Board's comments—
Higher education planning for the 1991-93 funding triennium, dated December 1990.
Higher education: the challenges ahead, dated December 1990.
- Equal Employment Opportunity (Commonwealth Authorities) Act—Equal employment opportunity program—Australian National Railways Commission—Report for 1989-90.
- Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade—Joint Committee—Report—Third world debt: an Australian view—Government response.
- Freedom of Information Act—Report by the Attorney-General on the operation of the Act, for 1989-90.
- Horticultural Research and Development Corporation Act—Horticultural Research and Development Corporation—Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report and freedom of information statement, for 1989-90.
- Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission Act—Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission—Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report, for 1989-90.
- Industrial Relations Act—Australian Industrial Registry—Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report and freedom of information statement, for 1989-90.
- International Labour Organisation—International Labour Conference—76th session, 1989—Convention No. 169—Indigenous and tribal peoples—A position paper by the Minister for Industrial Relations.
- Landcare Australia Limited—1st Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report, for period 10 October 1989 to 30 June 1990.
- Management and Investment Companies Act—Management and Investment Companies Licensing Board—Report, including freedom of information statement, for 1989-90.
- National Film and Sound Archive—Review 1989-90.
- Parliamentary Counsel Act—Office of Parliamentary Counsel—Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report and freedom of information statement, for 1989-90.
- Pharmaceutical Benefits Pricing Authority—Report for 1989-90.
- Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage Act—Report on the working of the Act, including the Auditor-General's Report on the National Cultural Heritage Fund, for 1989-90.
- Public Accounts—Joint Committee—Report 296—The Auditor-General: Ally of the people and parliament—Reform of the Australian Audit Office—Supplementary government response.
- Public Service Act—
Department of Administrative Services—Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report and freedom of information statement, for 1989-90.

- Department of Industry, Technology and Commerce—Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report and freedom of information statement, for 1989-90.
- Department of Transport and Communications—Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report and freedom of information statement, for 1989-90.
- Resource Assessment Commission Act—Resource Assessment Commission—Report for 1989-90.
- Science and Industry Research Act—Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation—Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report and freedom of information statement, for 1989-90.
- Seat of Government (Administration) Act—Canberra Institute of the Arts Ordinance—Canberra Institute of the Arts—Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report, for 1989.
- War Graves Act—Office of Australian War Graves, Department of Veterans' Affairs—Report, including freedom of information statement, for 1989-90.
- 15 HIGHER EDUCATION COUNCIL—REPORT ON HIGHER EDUCATION: THE CHALLENGES AHEAD—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Mr Beazley (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the following paper:
- Employment, Education and Training Act—National Board of Employment, Education and Training—Report by the Higher Education Council, including the Board's comments—Higher education: the challenges ahead, dated December 1990.
- Debate adjourned (Mr Fife), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 16 HIGHER EDUCATION COUNCIL—REPORT ON HIGHER EDUCATION PLANNING FOR 1991-93 TRIENNIUM—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Mr Beazley (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the following paper:
- Employment, Education and Training Act—National Board of Employment, Education and Training—Report by the Higher Education Council, including the Board's comments—Higher education planning for the 1991-93 funding triennium, dated December 1990.
- Debate adjourned (Mr Fife), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 17 COMMONWEALTH PROCUREMENT GUIDELINES—PAPERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS:** Mr Beazley (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the following papers:
- Audit Act—Finance Regulations—Commonwealth procurement guidelines—
11. Know your market.
 13. Contracting for consultancy services.
- Debate adjourned (Mr Fife), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 18 PAPERS:** Mr Beazley (Leader of the House) presented the following papers:
- Petitions which are not in accord with standing and sessional orders of the House on the following subjects:
- Extension of the Sydney (02) telephone zone to include the Blue Mountains region (Mr Beazley, 278 petitioners).
- Reduction of telecommunications charges levied between Sydney and the outer fringe Telecom zones (Mr Beazley, 20 093 petitioners).
- Portrait of Caroline Chisholm on the \$5 note (Mr Nugent, 834 petitioners).

- 19 **PAPER:** Mr Speaker presented the following paper:
House of Representatives and joint committees—Release of evidence and records—Report by the Speaker for period 5 June 1987 to 5 December 1990.
- 20 **DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—STATE OF AUSTRALIAN ECONOMY:** The House was informed that Mr Reith (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, “The persistent failure of the Government to give a clear, honest and realistic assessment of the state of the Australian economy”.
The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—
Mr Reith addressed the House.
Discussion ensued.
Discussion concluded.
- 21 **MEMBERS’ INTERESTS COMMITTEE—PAPER:** Mr Dubois (Chairman) presented the following paper:
Committee of Members’ Interests—Register of Members’ Interests for the 36th Parliament—Notifications of alterations of interests received during the period 3 July to 5 December 1990.
- 22 **SELECTION COMMITTEE—REPORT:** Mr R. F. Edwards (Chairman) presented the following report:
Selection Committee—Report relating to the program of business prior to 12.30 p.m. on the next sitting Thursday.
- 23 **PAPER:** Mr Smith, by leave, presented the following paper:
Pipeline Authority—Copy of joint press release by Australian Chamber of Commerce, Australian Chamber of Manufactures, Australian Mining Industry Council, Business Council of Australia and Confederation of Australian Industry, dated 30 November 1990.
- 24 **PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE—5TH REPORT:** Mr Gorman (Chairman) presented the following report:

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE 5TH REPORT

The Publications Committee reports that it has met in conference with the Publications Committee of the Senate.

During the 35th Parliament the Committee had cause to write to several Government instrumentalities drawing their attention to the fact that they were exceeding the required production standards in preparing their annual reports for presentation to the Parliament. While the Committee is satisfied there has been a general improvement in the production standards of the 1989-90 annual reports presented, there are some agencies still not complying with the requirements of the *Commonwealth Charter of Printing and Publishing Responsibilities 1989* and the *Commonwealth Printing and Publishing Manual*. These standards have been developed to enable Departments and Statutory Authorities to meet their statutory reporting requirements in an archival quality report while at the same time limiting extravagant design and production costs. The Committee continues to monitor all reports to ensure production standards are met, and has resolved that, in future, offending agencies will be named in its reports to the Parliament.

The Committee, having considered petitions and papers presented to the Parliament since 14 November 1990, recommends that the following be printed:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act—Aboriginal Development Commission—Report for period 1 July 1989 to 4 March 1990.

- Aboriginal Deaths in Custody—Royal Commission—Reports—Inquiry into the death of—
Patrick Thomas Booth.
Harrison Day.
Joyce Thelma Egan.
Donald Chatunalgi.
Michael Leslie James Gollan.
Paul Lawrence Kearney.
Arthur Moffatt.
James Archibald Moore.
Edward Stanley West.
- Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act—Reports by the Aboriginal Land Commissioner—
No. 29—Mataranka Area Land Claim.
No. 30—Kidman Springs/Jasper Gorge Land Claim.
- Albury-Wodonga Development Act—Albury-Wodonga Development Corporation—Report for 1989-90.
- Anglo-Australian Telescope Agreement Act—Anglo-Australian Telescope Board—Report for 1989-90.
- ANL Act—ANL Limited—Report for 1989-90.
- Australia-China Council—Report for 1989-90.
- Australia Council Act—Australia Council—Report for 1989-90.
- Australian Biological Resources Study Advisory Committee—Report for 1989-90.
- Australian Capital Territory (Planning and Land Management) Act—National Capital Planning Authority—Report for 1989-90.
- Australian Federal Police Act—Australian Federal Police—Report for 1989-90.
- Australian Film Commission Act—Australian Film Commission—Report for 1989-90.
- Australian Film, Television and Radio School Act—Australian Film, Television and Radio School—Report for 1989-90.
- Australian Industry Development Corporation Act—Australian Industry Development Corporation—Report for 1989-90.
- Australian Institute of Marine Science Act—Australian Institute of Marine Science—Report for 1989-90.
- Bankruptcy Act—Report for 1989-90.
- Commonwealth Criminal Law—Review Committee—Fourth Interim Report, dated November 1990.
- Commonwealth Fire Board—Report for 1989-90.
- Commonwealth Grants Commission Act—Commonwealth Grants Commission—57th Report (1990).
- Defence Housing Authority Act—Defence Housing Authority—Report for 1989-90.
- Employment, Education and Training Act—Australian Research Council—Report—Grants and fellowships awarded in 1990.
- Family Law Act—Family Law Council—Report for 1989-90.
- Fishing Industry Act—Report for 1989-90.
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act—Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority—Report for 1989-90.
- Health Insurance Commission Act—Health Insurance Commission—Report for 1989-90.
- Honey Marketing Act—Australian Honey Board—Report for 1989-90.
- International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (General Capital Increase) Act—Report for 1989-90.
- International Monetary Agreements Act—Report for 1989-90.

- Law Reform Commission Act—Law Reform Commission—Reports—
For 1989-90.
No. 48—Criminal Admiralty Jurisdiction and Prize.
- Members of Parliament (Staff) Act—Report on consultants engaged under
section 4, for 1989-90.
- National Companies and Securities Commission Act—National Companies
and Securities Commission—Report for 1989-90.
- National Measurement Act—National Standards Commission—Report for
1989-90.
- National Occupational Health and Safety Commission Act—National
Occupational Health and Safety Commission—Report for 1989-90.
- Papua New Guinea (Staffing Assistance) Act—Commissioner for
Superannuation—Report on the Papua New Guinea Superannuation
Scheme and certain other schemes, for 1989-90.
- Pig Industry Act—
Australian Pig Industry Policy Council—Report for 1989-90.
Australian Pork Corporation—Report for 1989-90.
- Public Lending Right Act—Public Lending Right Committee—Report for
1989-90.
- Public Service Act—
Department of Aboriginal Affairs—Report for period 1 July 1989 to
4 March 1990.
Department of the Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and
Territories—Report for 1989-90.
Department of Finance—Report for 1989-90.
Department of Industrial Relations—Report for 1989-90.
Department of Primary Industries and Energy—Report for 1989-90.
Department of the Parliamentary Library—Report for 1989-90.
Joint House Department—Report for 1989-90.
Public Service Commissioner—Report for 1989-90.
- Qantas Airways Limited—Report for 1989-90.
- Rural Industries Research Act—
Egg Industry Research Council—Report for 1989-90.
Wheat Research Council—Report for 1989-90.
Snowy Mountains Council—Report for 1989-90.
- Social Security Act—Social Security Appeals Tribunal—Report for
1989-90.
- Soil Conservation (Financial Assistance) Act—Soil Conservation Advisory
Committee—Report for 1989-90.
- Student Assistance Act—Report on the operation of the Act in 1989.

RUSS GORMAN
Chairman

6 December 1990

Mr Gorman, by leave, moved—That the report be agreed to.

Question—put and passed.

**25 ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—MOTION TO
TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Mr Kerr (Chairman) presented the following report
and related papers:

Aboriginal Affairs—Standing Committee—Review of Auditor-General's
audit report No. 29, 1989-90, Aboriginal Affairs Portfolio—

Report, dated December 1990.

Minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Mr Anderson, by leave, moved—That the House take note of the report.

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

26 ENVIRONMENT, RECREATION AND THE ARTS—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT: Ms McHugh (Chairman) presented the following report:

Environment, Recreation and the Arts—Standing Committee—Report on Annual Report 1988-89 and Strategic Plan 1 January 1990 to 31 December 1993 of the Australian Sports Commission, dated 6 December 1990.

Ordered to be printed.

27 MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE: Messages from the Senate, dated 5 December 1990, were reported:

- (1) acquainting the House that it had referred the following matter to the Joint Committee of Public Accounts for inquiry and report by 15 May 1991:
 - (a) the cost to the Commonwealth, amounting to more than \$1m, of the actions of the Department of Industry, Technology and Commerce and the Australian Customs Service in fulfilling their administrative responsibilities in the handling of the failed prosecution of Midford Paramount Pty Ltd;
 - (b) the methods of operation of the Australian Customs Service in preparation and conduct of prosecutions and settlements and, in particular, their actions throughout the preparation, prosecution and settlement of the Midford Paramount Pty Ltd case, including the reasons for the Director of Public Prosecutions' discontinuance of the prosecution;
 - (c) the practice, propriety and method of the Australian Customs Service of gathering evidence for prosecutions and dealing with the public in the course of such investigations;
 - (d) the actions of the Minister for Industry, Technology and Commerce and successive Ministers responsible for Customs in addressing the propriety of administrative actions within the Industry, Technology and Commerce portfolio and the Australian Customs Service, in particular; and
 - (e) the need for effective definition of the lines of ministerial control of the Australian Customs Service and, in particular, the actions of the Minister for Industry, Technology and Commerce in overseeing successive Ministers responsible for Customs in relation to the operations of the Australian Customs Service—Message No. 85.
- (2) returning the following Bill without amendment:

Industrial Relations Legislation Amendment (No. 2) 1990—Message No. 87.

28 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—COMMUNITY SERVICES AND HEALTH LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1990: The following message from the Senate was reported:

Message No. 86

Mr Speaker,

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the bill for "*An Act to amend various Acts relating to matters dealt with by the Department of Community Services and Health, and for related purposes*", and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the bill with the amendments indicated by the annexed schedule, in which amendments the Senate requests the concurrence of the House of Representatives.

KERRY SIBRAA
President

The Senate,
Canberra, 5 December 1990

Ordered—That the amendments be taken into consideration, in committee of the whole House, forthwith.

In the committee

SCHEDULE OF THE AMENDMENTS MADE BY THE SENATE

- No. 1—Clause 2, page 2, line 2, after “commences” insert “, or is taken to have commenced.”
- No. 2—Clause 20, page 11, line 31, omit “1 November 1990”, substitute “Day of Royal Assent”.
- No. 3—Clause 21, page 12, line 11, omit “1 November 1990”, substitute “Day of Royal Assent”.
- No. 4—Clause 23, page 12, line 34, omit “1 November 1990”, substitute “Day of Royal Assent”.
- No. 5—Clause 25, page 14, line 5, omit “1 November 1990”, substitute “Day of Royal Assent”.
- No. 6—Clause 26, page 14, line 12, omit “1 November 1990”, substitute “Day of Royal Assent”.
- No. 7—Clause 29, page 17, proposed section 99Q, lines 1 to 5, omit the section.
- No. 8—Clause 29, page 21, line 15, omit “1 November 1990”, substitute “Day of Royal Assent”.
- No. 9—Clause 30, page 21, line 25, omit “1 November 1990”, substitute “Day of Royal Assent”.

On the motion of Mr Baldwin (Minister for Higher Education and Employment Services), the amendments were agreed to.

Resolution to be reported.

The House resumed; Mr L. J. Scott reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr Baldwin, the House adopted the report.

- 29 **MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL—ASSENT TO BILLS:** Messages from His Excellency the Governor-General were announced informing the House that His Excellency, in the name of Her Majesty, had assented to the following Bills:

6 December 1990—Message—

No. 72—Appropriation (No. 1) 1990-91.

No. 73—

Appropriation (No. 2) 1990-91.

Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) 1990-91.

- 30 **SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT:** Mr Baldwin (Minister for Higher Education and Employment Services) moved—That the House, at its rising, adjourn until Thursday, 20 December 1990, at 10 a.m., unless Mr Speaker or, in the event of Mr Speaker being unavailable, the Chairman of Committees, fixes an alternative day or hour of meeting.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

- 31 **LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO ALL MEMBERS:** Mr Baldwin (Minister for Higher Education and Employment Services) moved—That leave of absence be given to every Member of the House of Representatives from the determination of this sitting of the House to the date of its next sitting.

Question—put and passed.

- 32 **DISCHARGE OF ORDERS OF THE DAY:** Mr Baldwin (Minister for Higher Education and Employment Services), by leave, moved—That the following orders of the day, government business, be discharged:

Electoral Matters—Joint Standing Committee—Report—Government response—Motion to take note of paper: Resumption of debate.

National Crime Authority—Parliamentary Joint Committee—Report on drugs, crime and society—Government response—Motion to take note of paper: Resumption of debate.

National Crime Authority—Parliamentary Joint Committee—3rd report—Government response—Motion to take note of paper: Resumption of debate.

Australian Electoral Commission—Report—Motion to take note of paper: Resumption of debate.

Tasmanian World Heritage Area Ministerial Council—Summary records of meetings—Motion to take note of papers: Resumption of debate.

Biological conservation of the south-east forests—Joint Scientific Committee—Report—Motion to take note of paper: Resumption of debate.

Fisheries—Variation agreement between Commonwealth and Seanorth Proprietary Limited—Paper—Motion to take note of paper: Resumption of debate.

Australian Security Intelligence Organization—Report—Motion to take note of paper: Resumption of debate.

Telecommunications (Interception) Act—Report—Motion to take note of paper: Resumption of debate.

Special Investigations Unit—Report—Motion to take note of paper: Resumption of debate.

Australian Science and Technology Council—Report on science, technology and Australia's future—Motion to take note of paper: Resumption of debate.

Parliament House Construction Authority—Report—Motion to take note of paper: Resumption of debate.

States Grants (Nurse Education Transfer Assistance) Act—Transfer of nursing education from hospitals to the tertiary sector—Progress report—Motion to take note of paper: Resumption of debate.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

- 33 **AERONAUTICAL RESEARCH LABORATORY SITE, FISHERMENS BEND, VIC.—REDEVELOPMENT—APPROVAL OF WORK:** Mr Beddall (Minister representing the Minister for Administrative Services), pursuant to notice, moved—That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, it is expedient to carry out the following proposed work which was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works and on which the committee has duly reported to Parliament: Redevelopment of Aeronautical Research Laboratory site, Fishermens Bend, Vic.

Question—put and passed.

- 34 **BRISBANE AIR TRAFFIC SERVICES CENTRE—APPROVAL OF WORK:** Mr Beddall (Minister representing the Minister for Administrative Services), pursuant to notice, moved—That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, it is expedient to carry out the following proposed work which was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works and on which the committee has duly reported to Parliament: Brisbane Air Traffic Services Centre.

Question—put and passed.

35 **JINDALEE OVER-THE-HORIZON RADAR—APPROVAL OF WORK:** Mr Beddall (Minister representing the Minister for Administrative Services), pursuant to notice, moved—That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, it is expedient to carry out the following proposed work which was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works and on which the committee has duly reported to Parliament: Jindalee Over-The-Horizon Radar.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

36 **SESSIONAL ORDERS:** Mr Snowdon (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Transport and Communications), for Mr Beazley (Leader of the House), pursuant to notice, moved—That the following amendments to the standing and sessional orders of the House be adopted with effect from 12 February 1991:

(1) That sessional order 40 be amended to read:

Days and hours of meeting

“40. Unless otherwise ordered, the House shall meet for the despatch of business—

(a) in the first sitting week, on—

Tuesday, at 2 p.m.

Wednesday, at 10 a.m.

Thursday, at 9.30 a.m., and

(b) in the second sitting week, on—

Monday, at 2 p.m.

Tuesday, at 2 p.m.

Wednesday, at 10 a.m.

Thursday, at 9.30 a.m.

From the termination of the last sitting in the second week, the House shall stand adjourned until 2 p.m. on the third Tuesday after the termination, unless the Speaker shall, by telegram or letter addressed to each Member of the House, fix an alternative day or hour of meeting. The 4-weekly cycle will then be repeated.”

(2) That sessional order 101 be amended to read:

Routine of business

“101. The House shall proceed on the days indicated with its ordinary business in the following routine:

Monday and Tuesday

1. Questions without notice. 2. Presentation of papers. 3. Ministerial statements, by leave. 4. Matter of public importance. 5. Notices and orders of the day.

Wednesday

1. Notices and orders of the day. 2. Questions without notice (at 2 p.m.). 3. Presentation of papers. 4. Ministerial statements, by leave. 5. Matter of public importance. 6. Notices and orders of the day.

Thursday

1. Presentation of petitions. 2. Presentation of, and statements on, reports from parliamentary committees and delegations. 3. Orders of the day for the resumption of debate on motions moved in connection with committee and delegation reports (commencing no later than 10 a.m., debate concluding no later than 11 a.m.). 4. Private Members' business (commencing no later than 11 a.m., debate concluding no later than 12.30 p.m.). 5. Grievance debate. 6. Members' statements (at approximately 1.45 p.m.). 7. Questions without notice (at 2 p.m.). 8. Presentation of papers. 9. Ministerial statements, by leave. 10. Matter of public importance. 11. Notices and orders of the day.”

(3) That sessional orders 102A, 102B and 102C be amended to read:

Committee and delegation reports

“102A. Following the presentation of petitions each sitting Thursday, parliamentary committee and delegation reports may be presented until 10 a.m. in the order determined by the Selection Committee.

“102B. Upon presentation of a report of a parliamentary committee or delegation pursuant to standing order 102A, the Member presenting the report and other Members, subject to any determination of the Selection Committee, may be accorded priority in making a statement to the House for a period not exceeding 10 minutes each and a specific motion in connection with the report may be moved without notice by the Member presenting it. The debate on the question shall then be adjourned until a future day.

“102C. Following the presentation of reports pursuant to standing order 102A, but commencing no later than 10 a.m., the resumption of proceedings on motions relating to committee and delegation reports shall have precedence until 11 a.m. according to the order of priority and times allotted for debate determined by the Selection Committee, each Member speaking for a period not exceeding 10 minutes or any lesser period determined by the Selection Committee: Provided that, on the last two sitting Thursdays of the program circulated by the government for a sitting period or if there are no orders of the day for the consideration of motions moved in connection with reports of parliamentary committees or delegations, the time for presentation of reports pursuant to standing order 102A may, subject to determination of the Selection Committee, be extended beyond 10 a.m. For the purpose of this standing order a sitting period is the group of sittings which takes place in the months of January to July or August to December in any one year.”.

- (4) That sessional order 104A be amended to read:

Private Members' business

“104A. In the period during which private Members' business is accorded precedence pursuant to standing order 104, notices and orders of the day relating to private Members' business shall be called on by the Clerk in the order in which they appear on the Notice Paper. When the time allotted by standing order 102C or 104, or by the Selection Committee, for an item of business has expired, consideration shall be interrupted by the Chair and the question before the Chair shall be put:

Provided that, where the Selection Committee has determined that consideration of a matter should continue on a future day, at the time fixed for interruption:

- (a) the Chair shall interrupt proceedings;
- (b) if the House is in committee, the Chairman shall report progress; and
- (c) the Speaker shall fix the next sitting Thursday for the further consideration of the matter.

Priority will be given to notices by private Members of their intention to present bills in the order determined by the Selection Committee. Upon the respective notice being called on by the Clerk, the Member in whose name the notice stands shall present the bill and may speak for a period not exceeding 5 minutes in support thereof. The bill shall then be read a first time and, notwithstanding the provisions of standing order 218, the next sitting Thursday shall be appointed for the Member to move “That this Bill be now read a second time”.

If the motion for the second reading of any private Members' bill is agreed to by the House, further consideration shall be accorded precedence of other private Members' business and the Selection

Committee may allot times for consideration of the remaining stages of the bill.”.

Question—put and passed.

- 37 **SOCIAL SECURITY BILL 1990:** Mr Howe (Minister representing the Minister for Social Security), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to provide for the payment of certain pensions, benefits and allowances, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Howe moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Paper: Mr Howe presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

- 38 **FISHERIES ADMINISTRATION BILL 1990:** Mr Kerin (Minister for Primary Industries and Energy), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to establish an Australian Fisheries Management Authority and a Fishing Industry Policy Council, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Kerin moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Paper: Mr Kerin presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

- 39 **PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND ENERGY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1990:** Mr Kerin (Minister for Primary Industries and Energy) presented a Bill for an Act to amend Acts relating to matters dealt with by the Department of Primary Industries and Energy, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Kerin moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Paper: Mr Kerin presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

- 40 **TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 6) 1990:** Mr Crean (Minister Assisting the Treasurer) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to taxation.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Crean moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Paper: Mr Crean presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

- 41 **PRIVACY AMENDMENT BILL 1990:** 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 Costello who moved, as an amendment—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “the House declines to give the Bill a second reading as it is of opinion that the Bill:

- (a) imposes arbitrary and unjustified prohibitions on the collection of information concerning the credit standing of applicants for consumer and commercial credit;
- (b) fails to allow commercial organisations with legitimate needs to access credit records;
- (c) will deter the detection of insurance fraud, add to the cost of insurance, add to the cost of goods and services and impose additional costs and inefficiency on business, consumers and commercial operations;

- (d) will not adequately protect individual privacy;
- (e) is opposed by a number of State Ministers for Consumer Affairs; and
- (f) relies upon dubious constitutional authority”.

Debate continued.

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 Duffy (Attorney-General), the Bill was read a third time.

42 POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY: Ordered—That order of the day No. 3, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.

43 OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY (COMMONWEALTH EMPLOYMENT) BILL 1990: 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 Costello 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 this Bill a second reading, the House notes that the need for uniform national occupational health and safety standards has not been demonstrated; that the States and the Commonwealth are the best placed to determine their own needs; that a future Liberal/National Government would abolish the National Occupational Health and Safety Commission and resume its functions within the Department”.

Debate continued.

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 Crean (Minister for Science and Technology), the Bill was read a third time.

44 ADJOURNMENT: Mr Crean (Minister for Science and Technology) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until 11 p.m.—The Deputy Speaker adjourned the House until Thursday, 20 December 1990, at 10 a.m., in accordance with the resolution agreed to this day.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 6 December 1990:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1990, No. 399.

Acts Interpretation Act—Statement relating to failure to furnish periodic report within specified period—Canberra Institute of the Arts—Report for 1989.

Copyright Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1990, Nos. 356, 357.

Dried Fruits Levy Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1990, No. 366.

Fisheries Levy Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1990, Nos. 364, 365.

Honey Export Charge Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1990, No. 369.

Honey Levy Act (No. 1)—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1990, No. 367.

Honey Levy Act (No. 2)—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1990, No. 368.

Public Service Act—Determinations—1990—Nos. 147, 148, 169, 170, 183, 186, 187, 191, 205, 206, 208, 212, 217, 218.

Radiocommunications Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1990, No. 358.

Radiocommunications (Frequency Reservation Certificate Tax) Act—
Regulations—Statutory Rules 1990, No. 362.

Radiocommunications (Receiver Licence Tax) Act—Regulations—Statutory
Rules 1990, No. 361.

Radiocommunications (Temporary Permit Tax) Act—Regulations—Statutory
Rules 1990, No. 363.

Radiocommunications (Test Permit Tax) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules
1990, No. 360.

Radiocommunications (Transmitter Licence Tax) Act—Regulations—
Statutory Rules 1990, No. 359.

Superannuation Act 1976—Declaration—Statutory Rules 1990, No. 355.

Telecommunications Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1990, No. 370.

Trade Practices Act—Declaration of designated peak shipper body—1990—
No. 8—Australian Peak Shippers Association.

ATTENDANCE: All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except
Mr Bevis, Dr Blewett, Mr Connolly, Mrs Darling, Mr Dawkins, Mr Duncan,
Mr Griffiths, Mr McLachlan, Mr O'Neil, Mr Sawford and Mr Sciacca.

A. R. BROWNING
Clerk of the House of Representatives