

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 44

MONDAY, 18 FEBRUARY 1991

- 1 The House met, at 2 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. Mr Speaker (the Honourable Leo McLeay) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
- 2 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice were asked.
- 3 **DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—SMALL BUSINESS:** The House was informed that Mr Prosser had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The decline of the Australian small business sector as reflected in the substantial rise in the number of small business bankruptcies and closures". The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—Mr Prosser addressed the House.
Discussion ensued.
Discussion concluded.
- 4 **MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE:** A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill without amendment:
14 February 1991—Message No. 158—Australia Council Amendment 1990.
- 5 **APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 3) 1990-91:** The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the Bill be now read a second time—
Debate resumed.
Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.
Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.
On the motion of Mr Baldwin (Minister for Higher Education and Employment Services), the Bill was read a third time.
- 6 **AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING TRIBUNAL—REPORT ON TV VIOLENCE IN AUSTRALIA—STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Beazley (Leader of the House)—That the House take note of the paper (*presented on 31 May 1990*), viz.:
Broadcasting Act—Australian Broadcasting Tribunal—Report—TV violence in Australia—Statement by Mr Beazley, Minister for Transport and Communications, dated May 1990—
Debate resumed.

Committee proceedings—Statement by Mr Speaker: Mr Speaker made a statement on a question raised earlier in the day by Mr Sinclair, concerning

access to, and disclosure of, the proceedings of a committee by a person who is not a member of that committee. Mr Speaker stated that, when committees take evidence in public or conduct other public proceedings, by definition other persons, including Members, may attend and there is no restriction on the disclosure of proceedings. Mr Speaker further stated that if a committee meets in private, or takes evidence in camera, then standing order 340 applies. The standing order provides that evidence taken by committees, and documents presented to and proceedings and reports of committees, which have not been reported to the House may not be disclosed or published.

Mr Filing addressing the House—

7 **ADJOURNMENT:** It being 10.30 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until 11 p.m.—The Deputy Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 2 p.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 18 February 1991:

Health Insurance Act—Statements of particulars of Ministerial determinations authorised under section 106AA, relating to—

Dr Roger John Masse Dunlop, dated 8 February 1991.

Dr John Stanley MacPherson, dated 12 February 1991.

Ozone Protection Act—Notices under subsection 40(3), in relation to exemptions, dated 14(3) and 19(11) December 1990.

Public Service Act—Parliamentary Presiding Officers' Determination—1990—No. 35.

Seat of Government (Administration) Act—Notice of variation of plan of layout of City of Canberra and its environs—Variation 1989/1 Item 1, dated 8 February 1991.

ATTENDANCE: All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Gayler, Mr Nehl, Mr Snow and Dr Theophanous.

A. R. BROWNING

Clerk of the House of Representatives