

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 68

THURSDAY, 16 MAY 1991

1 The House met, at 9.30 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.:

Mr Dubois, Ms McHugh, Mr MacKellar and Mr Snow, from 14, 101, 346 and 169 petitioners, respectively, praying that funding of abortions through Medicare cease and that the right to life of the unborn be protected.

Mr Webster, from 116 petitioners, in similar terms.

Mrs Bailey, Mr Reid and Mr Reith, from 65, 96 and 180 petitioners, respectively, praying that legislation preventing the right to advertise electoral material on radio and television be rejected.

Mr Cadman, from 290 petitioners, praying that the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child be amended to recognise the importance of the family unit and the rights and responsibilities of parents and that certain international treaties be debated in Parliament.

Mr Cadman, from 33 petitioners, praying that any move to abolish political advertising be rejected and that public funding of political parties be abolished.

Mrs Darling, from 2289 petitioners, praying that certain action be taken to ban international sales of armaments and arms-related technology and that AIDEX '91 be cancelled.

Mrs Darling, from 42 petitioners, in similar terms.

Ms McHugh, from 99 petitioners, praying that any attempt to restrict access to abortion under Medicare be opposed.

Mr Reith, from 444 petitioners, praying that legislation preventing the right to advertise political material on radio and television be rejected.

Petitions received.

3 **MIGRATION REGULATIONS—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Dr Theophanous (Chairman) presented the following report and related papers:

Migration Regulations—Joint Standing Committee—Second report—Change of status on grounds of spouse/de facto relationships—

Report, incorporating a dissenting report, dated 7 May 1991.

Evidence received by the committee.

Minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Dr Theophanous moved—That the House take note of the report.

Debate adjourned, the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day, and Dr Theophanous was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

4 FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: Mr Martin (Chairman) presented the following report and related papers:

Finance and Public Administration—Standing Committee—A tour of duties: The final report of an inquiry into aspects of the Australian Customs Service—

Report, dated April 1991.

Evidence received by the committee.

Minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Mr Martin and Mr Braithwaite made statements in connection with the report.

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

Mr Martin 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.

5 PUBLIC ACCOUNTS—JOINT COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENT BY MEMBER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: Mr Fitzgibbon presented the following paper:

Public Accounts—Joint Committee—Report 309—Annual reporting guidelines for statutory authorities.

Ordered to be printed.

Mr Fitzgibbon made a statement in connection with the paper.

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

Mr Fitzgibbon moved—That the House take note of the paper.

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.

6 MIGRATION REGULATIONS—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Dr Theophanous—That the House take note of the report (*see* entry No. 3), viz.:

Migration Regulations—Joint Standing Committee—Report—Change of status on grounds of spouse/de facto relationships—Report, incorporating a dissenting report, dated 7 May 1991—

Debate resumed.

Debate adjourned, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting Thursday.

7 INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AMENDMENT BILL 1991: Mr Charles, pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Industrial Relations Act 1988*.

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 NATIONAL MEASUREMENT (STANDARD TIME) AMENDMENT BILL 1991: The order of the day having been read for the second reading—

Mr R. F. Edwards moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

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 Thursday.

9 INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (MEMBERSHIP OF ASSOCIATIONS) BILL 1990: The order of the day having been read for the second reading—

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

Debate ensued.

Debate adjourned, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting Thursday.

10 DISPOSAL OF STOLEN GOODS: The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Scholes—That this House:

- (1) is concerned at the enormous growth in the amount of goods stolen from private homes and the apparent failure of police forces to uncover the disposal networks which clearly must exist; and
- (2) calls on the Minister for Justice to establish a special Commonwealth/State task force drawn from the various law enforcement organisations to carry out a comprehensive investigation into the movement of, and subsequent disposal of, the extremely large amounts of goods being stolen from private homes—

Debate resumed.

It being 12.30 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with sessional order 104A and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting Thursday.

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.

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 being asked—

Member named and suspended: Mr Speaker named the honourable Member for O'Connor (Mr Tuckey) for disorderly conduct.

Mr Beazley (Leader of the House) moved—That the honourable Member for O'Connor be suspended from the service of the House.

Question—put and passed.

The honourable Member was, therefore, suspended at 2.32 p.m. for 24 hours under standing order 305.

Mr Tuckey refusing to withdraw from the Chamber, Mr Speaker ordered the Serjeant-at-Arms to direct the honourable Member to leave the Chamber.

Mr Tuckey then withdrew from the Chamber.

Questions without notice continued.

14 AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT—PUBLICATION OF PAPER: Mr Speaker presented the following paper:

Audit Act—Auditor-General—Audit report No. 27 of 1990-91—Australian Customs Service: Diesel fuel rebate scheme.

Mr Beazley (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That:

- (1) this House, in accordance with the provisions of the *Parliamentary Papers Act 1908*, authorises the publication of the Auditor-General's audit report No. 27 of 1990-91; and
- (2) the report be printed.

Question—put and passed.

- 15 **PAPERS:** The following papers were presented:
- Access to interpreters in the Australian legal system—Report by Attorney-General's Department, dated April 1991.
 - Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation Act—Safety Review Committee—Report for 1989-90.
 - Community Affairs—Standing Committee—Report—You have your moments: A report on funding of peak health and community organisations—Government response.
 - Finance and Public Administration—Standing Committee—Report—Not dollars alone: Review of the Financial Management Improvement Program—Government response, dated May 1991.
 - Nursing home standards—List of monitoring reports published between 1 July 1990 and 30 April 1991.
 - Wool Marketing Act—Australian Wool Corporation—Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report, for 1989-90—Corrigendum.
- 16 **NURSING HOME STANDARDS—PAPER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Mr Beazley (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the following paper:
- Nursing home standards—List of monitoring reports published between 1 July 1990 and 30 April 1991.
- Debate adjourned (Mr Fife), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 17 **FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM—GOVERNMENT RESPONSE—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Mr Beazley (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the following paper:
- Finance and Public Administration—Standing Committee—Report—Not dollars alone: Review of the Financial Management Improvement Program—Government response, dated May 1991.
- Debate adjourned (Mr Fife), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 18 **COMMUNITY AFFAIRS—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT ON THE FUNDING OF PEAK HEALTH AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS—GOVERNMENT RESPONSE—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Mr Beazley (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the following paper:
- Community Affairs—Standing Committee—Report—You have your moments: A report on funding of peak health and community organisations—Government response.
- Debate adjourned (Mr Fife), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 19 **AUSTRALIAN WOOL CORPORATION—REPORT—CORRIGENDUM—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Mr Beazley (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the following paper:
- Wool Marketing Act—Australian Wool Corporation—Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report, for 1989-90—Corrigendum.
- Debate adjourned (Mr Lloyd—Deputy Leader of the National Party of Australia), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 20 **PAPERS:** Mr Beazley (Leader of the House) presented the following papers:
- Industrial Relations Legislation Amendment Bill 1991—Supplementary explanatory memoranda (2).

- 21 **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 Thursday, 30 May 1991.

- 22 **DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—WAGE-FIXATION:** The House was informed that Mr Howard had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, “The chaotic state of the Government’s wage-fixation policy”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Howard addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

- 23 **SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT:** Mr Griffiths (Minister for Resources) moved—That the House, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday, 28 May 1991, at 2 p.m., unless Mr Speaker fixes an alternative day or hour of meeting.

Question—put and passed.

- 24 **PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE—9TH REPORT:** Mr Fitzgibbon (Acting Chairman) presented the following report:

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE 9TH REPORT

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

The committee, having considered petitions and papers presented to the Parliament since 18 April 1991, recommends that the following be printed:

Aboriginal Deaths in Custody—Royal Commission—Reports—

Inquiry into the death of—

Muriel Gwenda Catheryn Binks.

Jabanardi.

The man who died at—

Katherine on 21 November 1984.

Royal Darwin Hospital on 2 April 1987.

John Peter Pat.

Deidre Abigail Short.

Robert Joseph Walker.

National Report—Volumes 1 to 5.

Regional Report of Inquiry in—

New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania.

Queensland.

Regional Report of Inquiry into—

Individual Deaths in Custody in Western Australia—Volumes 1 and 2.

Underlying issues in Western Australia—Volumes 1 and 2.

Australian Film Commission Act—Film Australia Pty Ltd—Report for 1989-90.

Australian Science and Technology Council Act—Australian Science and Technology Council—Report—An Australian international gravitational observatory: A case study for construction of large national facilities, March 1991.

Automotive Industry Authority Act—Automotive Industry Authority—Report on state of automotive industry for 1990.

Foreign Investment Review Board—Report for 1989-90.

Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission Act—Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission—Report—Racist violence: National inquiry into racist violence in Australia.

- Industry Commission Act—Industry Commission—Reports—
 No. 6—Recycling, dated 22 February 1991—
 Vol. I—Recycling in Australia.
 Vol. II—Recycling of products.
- No. 7—Mining and minerals processing in Australia, dated 25 February 1991—
 Vol. 1—Report.
 Vol. 2—Commentary, statistics and analysis.
 Vol. 3—Issues in detail.
 Vol. 4—Other supporting material.
- No. 8—Construction costs of major projects, dated 11 March 1991.
- No. 9—Commercial tariff concession and by-law systems, dated 8 March 1991.
- No. 10—Statutory marketing arrangements for primary products, dated 26 March 1991.
- Resource Assessment Commission Act—Resource Assessment Commission—
 Kakadu Conservation Zone inquiry—Final Report, dated May 1991—
 Vol. 1.
 Vol. 2.
- War Crimes Act—Report on the operation of the Act for 1989-90.
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- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act—Aboriginal
 Development Commission—Report for 1989-90—Erratum.
- Bankruptcy Act—Report for 1989-90—Errata.

ERIC FITZGIBBON
 Acting Chairman

16 May 1991

Mr Fitzgibbon, by leave, moved—That the report be agreed to.
 Question—put and passed.

- 25 **FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE—JOINT COMMITTEE—PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF RESOLUTION OF APPOINTMENT:** Mr Griffiths (Minister for Resources), for Mr Beazley (Leader of the House), pursuant to notice, moved—That:

- (1) The resolution of appointment of the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade be amended by omitting “4 subcommittees” from paragraph (8) and substituting “5 subcommittees”.
- (2) A message be sent to the Senate acquainting it of this resolution and requesting its concurrence.

Question—put and passed.

- 26 **SOCIAL SECURITY (REWRITE) AMENDMENT BILL 1991:** Mr Griffiths (Minister for Resources), for Mr Howe (Minister representing the Minister for Social Security), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Social Security Act 1991*, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

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

- 27 **VETERANS' ENTITLEMENTS (REWRITE) TRANSITION BILL 1991:** Mr Humphreys (Minister for Veterans' Affairs), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to make consequential amendments and savings and transitional provisions relating to the *Veterans' Entitlements Amendment Act 1991*.

Bill read a first time.

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

Paper: Mr Humphreys presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill. Debate adjourned (Mr Smith), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

- 28 **TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1991:** 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.

Limitation of debate: At 5.30 p.m., the Deputy Speaker having called the attention of the House to the fact that the time allotted for the second reading had expired—

Question—That the Bill be now read a second time—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole.

In the committee

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole.

Debate ensued.

Limitation of debate: At 5.35 p.m., the Deputy Chairman having called the attention of the committee to the fact that the time allotted for the committee stage had expired—

Bill agreed to.

Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed; Mr Scholes reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr Crean (Minister Assisting the Treasurer), the House adopted the report.

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

Debate ensued.

Limitation of debate: At 5.40 p.m., the Deputy Speaker having called the attention of the House to the fact that the time allotted for the remaining stages of the Bill had expired—

Question—put and passed—Bill read a third time.

- 29 **INCOME TAX (INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS) AMENDMENT BILL 1991:** 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—

Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Crean (Minister Assisting the Treasurer), the Bill was read a third time.

- 30 **PETROLEUM RESOURCE RENT LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1991:** 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 T. A. Fischer (Leader of the National Party of Australia) 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 the Bill a second reading, the House calls on the Government to review the issues of reducing the compounding rate for augmented bond rate general expenditure, and the application of the so-called ‘five year’ rule for calculating the amount of eligible expenditure carried forward from previous years, noting:

- (1) the possibility of excessive taxation unduly influencing commercial decisions and impeding the natural development of the oil industry; and

(2) the potential loss of eligible deductions arising from the 'five year' rule for the oil and gas exploration industry;
caused by the Government's failure to give appropriate consideration to the issue of reducing the compounding rate for augmented bond rate general expenditure, and the application of the 'five year' rule".

Debate continued.

Limitation of debate: At 8.45 p.m., the Deputy Speaker having called the attention of the House to the fact that the time allotted for the remaining stages of the Bill had expired—

Amendment negatived.

Question—That the Bill be now read a second time—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

Message from the Administrator: Message No. 133, dated 10 May 1991, from His Excellency the Administrator was announced recommending an appropriation of revenue for the purposes of the Bill.

Further question—That the remaining stages of the Bill be agreed to—put and passed—Bill read a third time.

31 **VETERANS' ENTITLEMENTS AMENDMENT BILL 1991:** 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.

The debate having been closed by the reply of Mr Humphreys (Minister for Veterans' Affairs)—

Mr Bradford, by leave, again addressed the House.

Mr Humphreys, by leave, again addressed the House.

Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

Message from the Governor-General: Message No. 134, dated 18 April 1991, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation of revenue for the purposes of the Bill.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Humphreys, the Bill was read a third time.

32 **ADJOURNMENT:** Mr Humphreys (Minister for Veterans' Affairs) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 11.01 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, 28 May 1991, at 2 p.m., in accordance with the resolution agreed to this day.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 16 May 1991:

Australian Horticultural Corporation Act—Australian Horticultural Corporation Regulations—Orders—1991—No. 1.

Fisheries Act—Notices—Nos. NPF 8, NPF 9, NPF 10, NPF 11, NPF 12, NPF 13, NPF 14, ORF 14, ORF 15, SSF 1, SSF 2, TEC 4.

ATTENDANCE: All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Gorman*, Mr Punch, Mrs Sullivan and Mr Tickner.

*On leave

L. M. BARLIN
Clerk of the House of Representatives