

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 113

THURSDAY, 5 MARCH 1992

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- 1 The House met, at 9.30 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. The 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 J. N. Andrew, Mr Beale, Dr Charlesworth, Mr Cobb, Mr Dubois, Mr Duncan, Dr H. R. Edwards, Mr Filing, Mr Hand, Mr Hawker, Mr Hicks, Mr MacKellar, Mr Moore, Mr P. F. Morris, Mr O'Keefe, Mr Price, Mr Sawford, Mr B. C. Scott, Mr Sharp, Mr Snow, Mr Truss and Mr Wilson, from 14, 14, 14, 14, 14, 14, 14, 14, 14, 14, 14, 14, 14, 14, 14, 14, 14, 14, 14, 14 and 14 petitioners, respectively, praying that the resumption of operations by Compass Airlines be facilitated and that fair and adequate facilities be made available to all operators under aviation deregulation.
    - Mr J. N. Andrew and Mr Duncan, from 18 and 19 petitioners, respectively, praying that the Abortion Funding Abolition Bill 1990 be passed and that pregnant women with problems be helped to continue their pregnancies.
    - Mr J. N. Andrew, from 102 petitioners, praying that the importation and availability of pornography in videos, films and television be banned and certain other action be taken in relation to pornography.
    - Mr J. N. Andrew, from 50 electors of the Division of Wakefield, praying that local government be allocated more funds for roadworks with special reference to the road between Burra and Morgan, SA.
    - Mr K. J. Andrews, from 15 petitioners, praying that the Abortion Funding Abolition Bill be supported.
    - Mr Cadman, from 465 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 Filing, from 12 petitioners, praying that certain action be taken to prevent the war in Croatia and to recognise the independence of Croatia and Slovenia.
    - Mr Filing, from 7 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.
    - Ms McHugh, from 2334 petitioners, praying that the resource security legislation for major new industrial wood processing projects be rejected and an ecologically sustainable national forest and forestry strategy be developed.

Mr Riggall, from 641 petitioners, praying that funding of abortions through Medicare cease and certain other action be taken to protect the right to life of the unborn.

Mr B. C. Scott, from 52 residents of Queensland, praying that residents of rural areas be provided with itemised Telecom accounts.

Mr B. C. Scott, from 27 petitioners, praying that sex and fantasy audio text services on Telecom's 0055 service be disbanded.

Mr Shack, from 2246 petitioners, praying for adequate funding to enable ambulant dementia sufferers to be accommodated in special hostels.

Mr Sharp, from 54 residents of and visitors to Shoalhaven, NSW, praying that the proposal to introduce an entry fee for persons and vehicles entering the Jervis Bay Territory be abandoned.

Mr Somlyay, from 33 electors of the Division of Fairfax, praying that certain action be taken to find a compassionate solution to the predicament of parents owing money to the Day Care Centre, Milford Lodge, Buderim, Qld.

Petitions received.

**3 AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY—JOINT COMMITTEE—REPORT—REPORT**

**ADOPTED:** The order of the day having been read for the consideration of the following report (*presented on 27 February 1992*), viz.:

Australian Capital Territory—Joint Committee—Special report of the Joint Committee on the Australian Capital Territory proposing that the name of the committee be changed, February 1992—

Mr Langmore moved—That the report be adopted.

Question—put and passed.

**4 LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS—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 Mr Lavarch—That the House take note of the report (*presented on 28 November 1991*), viz.:

Legal and Constitutional Affairs—Standing Committee—Corporate practices and the rights of shareholders—Report, incorporating a dissenting report, November 1991—

The debate having been closed by the reply of Mr Lavarch—

Mr Sinclair, Mr Scholes and Mr Ronaldson, by leave, addressed the House.

The time allotted for the debate having expired, consideration of the motion was made an order of the day for the next sitting Thursday.

**5 MOTOR VEHICLES STANDARDS AMENDMENT BILL 1992:** Mr Hawker, pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Motor Vehicle Standards Act 1989*.

Mr Hawker 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.

**6 CRIMES (PROTECTION OF AUSTRALIAN FLAGS) BILL 1992:** Mr Cobb, pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Crimes Act 1914* to provide for the protection of certain Australian Flags.

Mr Cobb 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 FLAGS 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.

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

8 **BANK LENDING POLICIES:** Mr Langmore, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House:

- (1) expresses serious concern at the overreaction of the banks to their lax lending during the 1980s, and the resulting bad debts, as demonstrated by their being excessively restrictive in their lending policies; and
- (2) calls on the banks to review their lending policies and to relax them as far as is commercially appropriate so that the banks resume their normal role of contributing to Australia's economic recovery and national development.

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 **ASSISTANCE FOR ISOLATED CHILDREN ALLOWANCE:** Mr Anderson, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House supports the request of the Isolated Children's Parents' Association for a significant increase in the Assistance for Isolated Children allowance as a matter of urgency, particularly in view of the rapidly deteriorating economic circumstances prevailing throughout regional Australia and the collapse in the real value of the allowance in recent years.

Debate ensued.

It being approximately 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.

10 **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.

11 **MEMBERS' STATEMENTS:** Members' statements being made—

*Paper:* Mr Webster, by leave, presented the following paper:

Parliamentary Christian Fellowship—Service of worship, 25 February 1992—Copy of sermon by the Reverend D. Gill, General Secretary, Australian Council of Churches.

Members' statements continued.

12 **WILLS ELECTORAL DIVISION—ISSUE OF WRIT:** The Speaker informed the House that it was his intention to issue a writ on 9 March 1992 for the election of a Member to serve for the electoral division of Wills, in the State of Victoria, in place of the Honourable Robert James Lee Hawke, AC. The dates in connection with the election would be fixed as follows:

Issue of writ . . . . .	Monday, 9 March 1992.
Close of roll . . . . .	Monday, 16 March 1992.
Date of nomination . . . . .	Friday, 20 March 1992.
Date of polling . . . . .	Saturday, 11 April 1992.
Return of writ . . . . .	On or before Wednesday, 17 June 1992.

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

14 **PRIVILEGE—COMPLAINT OF BREACH:** Mr Sinclair raised, as a matter of privilege, an article written by Mr Michael Millet in the *Sydney Morning Herald* of 5 March 1992 concerning the Australian Labor Party preselection

process in the Division of Grayndler, held by the Speaker. Mr Sinclair suggested that the article raised issues concerning the position of the Speaker and should be referred to the Committee of Privileges.

The Speaker stated that he did not consider that a *prima facie* case had been made out and accordingly he was not prepared to give precedence to a motion in respect of the matter.

**15 PAPERS:** The following papers were presented:

Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act—

Aboriginal Land Commissioner—Report for 1990-91.

Aboriginals Benefit Trust Account—Report for 1990-91.

Tiwi Land Council—12th Report, for 1990-91.

Advance to the Minister for Finance—

Statement for February 1992.

Supporting applications of issues from the Advance during February 1992.

Child Support Evaluation Advisory Group—Report—Child Support in Australia: Final report of the evaluation of the Child Support Scheme—

Volume 1—Main report.

Volume 2—Survey report.

Employment, Education and Training—Standing Committee—Report—Student financial assistance, March 1991—Government response.

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade—Joint Committee—Report on the Australian Defence Force Reserves—Copy of letter from Senator Ray, Minister for Defence, to Mr Lindsay, MP, Chairman of the Defence Subcommittee, relating to the delay in the Government's response.

Migration Regulations—Joint Standing Committee—Report—Change of status on grounds of spouse/de facto relationships, 7 May 1991—Government response.

Pig Industry Act—Australian Pig Industry Policy Council—Report for 1990-91.

Telecommunications (Interception) Act—Report pursuant to Division 2 of Part IX for 1990-91.

**16 PARLIAMENTARY ZONE—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT:** The Speaker (Joint Chairman) presented the following report:

Parliamentary Zone—Joint Standing Committee—Report—Proposed works in the Parliamentary Zone—High Court cooling tower and Baldessin "Pears" sculpture, February 1992.

Ordered to be printed.

**17 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—EDUCATION AND TRAINING:**

The House was informed that Dr Kemp had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The emergence of a new underclass among Australia's youth, resulting from the tragedy of youth unemployment and the Government's failure to provide appropriate education and training opportunities and access to work experience".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Dr Kemp addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

**18 MEMBERS' INTERESTS COMMITTEE—REPORT:** Mr Dubois (Chairman) presented the following report:

Committee of Members' Interests—Report on the operations of the committee, including the minutes of proceedings, for 1991.

19 PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE—15TH REPORT: Mr Gorman (Chairman) presented the following report:

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE 15TH 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 19 December 1991, recommends that the following be printed:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act—Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commercial Development Corporation—Report for 1990-91.

Albury-Wodonga Development Act—Albury-Wodonga Development Corporation—Report for 1990-91.

Australian Airlines Limited—Report for 1990-91.

Australian Horticultural Corporation Amendment Act—Australian Dried Fruits Corporation—Report for 1990-91.

Australian Institute of Marine Science Act—Australian Institute of Marine Science—Report for 1990-91.

Australian Securities Commission Act—Companies and Securities Advisory Committee—Report for 1990-91.

Australian Sports Commission Act—Australian Sports Commission—Report for 1990-91.

Australian Sports Drug Agency Act—Australian Sports Drug Agency—Report for 1990-91.

Australian War Memorial Act—Australian War Memorial—Report for 1990-91.

Bureau of Tourism Research—Reports for—  
1989-90.  
1990-91.

Christmas Island Act—Services Corporation Ordinance—Christmas Island Services Corporation—Report for 1990-91.

Complaints (Australian Federal Police) Act—Federal Police Disciplinary Tribunal—Report for 1990-91.

Criminology Research Act—  
Australian Institute of Criminology—Report for 1990-91.

Criminology Research Council—Report for 1990-91.

Ecologically Sustainable Development Working Group Chairs—Reports—  
Executive Summaries.

Greenhouse.

Intersectoral Issues.

Family Law Act—Family Court of Australia—Report for 1990-91.

Foreign Investment Review Board—Report for 1990-91.

Hazardous Waste (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act—Report for 1990-91 on the operation of the Act.

Horticultural Policy Council Act—Horticultural Policy Council—Report for 1990-91.

Horticultural Research and Development Corporation Act—Horticultural Research and Development Corporation—Report for 1990-91.

Immigration Review Tribunal—Report for 1990-91.

Industry Commission Act—Industry Commission—Reports—

Costs and Benefits of Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions,  
15 November 1991 (No. 15)—

Vol. I—Report.

Vol. II—Appendixes.

Exports of Health Services, 5 December 1991 (No. 16).

Cost Recovery for Managing Fisheries, 3 January 1992 (No. 17).

Availability of Capital, 9 December 1991 (No. 18).

- Merit Protection (Australian Government Employees) Act—Merit Protection and Review Agency—Report for 1990-91.
- National Health Act—Private Health Insurance Administration Council—Operations of the Registered Health Insurance Organisations—Report for 1990-91.
- National Museum of Australia Act—National Museum of Australia—Report for 1990-91.
- National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act—Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service—Report for 1990-91.
- Parliament House Construction Authority Act—Parliament House Construction Authority—Report for 1990-91.
- Pig Industry Act—Australian Pig Industry Policy Council—Report for 1990-91.
- Primary Industries and Energy Research and Development Act—Chicken Meat Research and Development Council—Report for 1990-91.
- Cotton Research and Development Corporation—Report for the period October 1990 to June 1991.
- Honeybee Research and Development Council—Report for 1990-91.
- Tobacco Research and Development Council—Report for 1990-91.
- Rural Industries Research Act—Dried Fruits Research Council—Report for 1990-91.
- States and Northern Territory Grants (Rural Adjustment) Act—Rural Adjustment Scheme—Report for 1990-91.
- Torres Strait Fisheries Act—Protected Zone Joint Authority—Report for 1990-91.
- Wheat Marketing Act—Australian Wheat Board—Report for year ended 30 September 1991.

RUSS GORMAN  
Chairman

5 March 1992

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

Question—put and passed.

**20 PUBLIC ACCOUNTS—JOINT COMMITTEE—FINANCE MINUTES—STATEMENT BY MEMBER:** Mr Punch (Chairman), by leave, presented the following papers:

- Public Accounts—Joint Committee—Finance minute on—  
Report 305—Review of the Finance Minute on Report 270—  
Implementation of the Offsets Program—Supplement.  
Report 310—Business migration program.

Mr Punch, by leave, made a statement in connection with the papers.

**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, 26 March 1992.

**22 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—NATIONAL RAIL CORPORATION AGREEMENT BILL 1992:** Message No. 390, dated 2 March 1992, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for "*An Act to approve and give effect to an agreement between the Commonwealth and some of the States about the establishment of National Rail Corporation Limited, and for other purposes*".

Bill read a first time.

Mr R. J. Brown (Minister for Land Transport) moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

*Paper:* Mr R. J. Brown presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.  
Debate adjourned (Mr Hawker), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

- 23 **POSTPONEMENT OF NOTICE:** Ordered—That notice No. 1, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.

- 24 **CRIMES (TRAFFIC IN NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES) AMENDMENT BILL 1992:** Mr Duncan (Parliamentary Secretary to the Attorney-General), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Crimes (Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances) Act 1990*.

Bill read a first time.

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

*Paper:* Mr Duncan 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.

- 25 **SERVICE AND EXECUTION OF PROCESS BILL 1992:** Mr Duncan (Parliamentary Secretary to the Attorney-General), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to provide for the service and execution throughout the Commonwealth, of process of courts and tribunals, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

*Paper:* Mr Duncan 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.

- 26 **SERVICE AND EXECUTION OF PROCESS (TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS AND CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS) BILL 1992:** Mr Duncan (Parliamentary Secretary to the Attorney-General), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to repeal the *Service and Execution of Process Act 1901*, and to make transitional provisions and certain amendments consequential upon the enactment of the *Service and Execution of Process Act 1992*.

Bill read a first time.

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

*Paper:* Mr Duncan 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 **SALES TAX LAWS AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 1) 1992:** The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the Bill be now read a second time—*And on the amendment moved thereto by Mr Rocher, viz.*—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “while not opposing the passage of the Bill, the House notes that the Bill adds further complexity to an already complex wholesale sales tax system and calls on the Government to abolish this ramshackle system and replace it with an efficient and more equitable goods and services tax”—

Debate resumed.

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 Baldwin (Minister Assisting the Treasurer), the Bill was read a third time.

**28 CUSTOMS AND EXCISE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1992:** 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 Prosser 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 regrets the Government’s failure to take advantage of the opportunity provided by this Bill to introduce more extensive changes to customs and excise legislation, including:

- (1) abolishing the excise duty on fuel, including diesel fuel; and
- (2) reducing other customs and excise and similar taxation burdens on business by adopting proposals such as those contained in the Coalition’s ‘Fightback’ program”.

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 Beddall (Minister for Small Business, Construction and Customs), the Bill was read a third time.

**29 ONE NATION—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT AND PAPER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS:** The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Keating (Prime Minister)—That the House take note of the papers (*presented on 26 February 1992*), viz.:

One Nation—

Ministerial statement, 26 February 1992.

Statement, 26 February 1992—

Debate resumed.

Dr Catley addressing the House—

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

Mr R. J. Brown (Minister for Land Transport) requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate—

Question—put and negatived.

Debate continued.

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

**30 ADJOURNMENT:** Mr R. J. Brown (Minister for Land Transport) 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 Tuesday, 24 March 1992, at 2 p.m.

**PAPERS:** The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 5 March 1992:

Export Control Act—Export Control (Orders) Regulations—Orders—1992—No. 1—Export Control (Dried Fruits) (Amendment).



Navigation Act—Navigation (Orders) Regulations—Orders—1992—  
No. 1—Marine, Part 25.  
No. 6—Marine, Part 25.

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**ATTENDANCE:** All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mrs Bailey, Mr Bilney, Mr Costello, Mrs Darling, Mr Goodluck, Mr Jones, Mr Snowdon and Mr Tuckey.

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**L. M. BARLIN**  
Clerk of the House of Representatives