

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 142

THURSDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER 1992

- 1 The House met, at 9.30 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Acting Speaker (Mr R. F. Edwards) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
- 2 **PETITIONS:** The Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:
 - Mr Anderson, Mr K. J. Andrews, Mr Atkinson, Mrs Bailey, Mr Broadbent, Mr Carlton, Mr Ferguson, Mr P. S. Fisher, Mr Fitzgibbon, Mr Gibson, Mr Jull, Mr Melham, Mr P. F. Morris, Mr Nehl, Mr Prosser, Mr Reid, Mr Riggall, Mr Rocher, Mr Simmons, Mr Snow and Mr Somlyay, from 293, 25, 327, 880, 46, 36, 245, 162, 18, 13, 23, 44, 44, 59, 94, 144, 39, 80, 270, 248 and 411 petitioners, respectively, praying that no change be made to the design or colour of the Australian national flag and that it continue to represent a true manifestation of the nation's history.
 - Mr J. N. Andrew, Mr K. J. Andrews, Mr Beale, Mr Carlton, Mr Chaney, Mr Charles, Mr Connolly, Mr Hawker, Mr Jull, Mr Riggall, Mr Ronaldson and Mr Ruddock, from 313, 211, 11, 187, 60, 553, 205, 2460, 10, 523, 486 and 10 petitioners, respectively, praying that no action be taken to change the national flag unless approved by the people of Australia in a national poll.
 - Mr J. N. Andrew, Mr Beale, Mr Bilney, Mr Cadman, Mr Chaney, Mr Charles, Mr Dawkins, Dr H. R. Edwards, Mrs Jakobsen, Mr Kerin, Mr L. J. Scott and Mr Smith, from 91, 112, 119, 169, 284, 5, 78, 5, 154, 40, 20 and 68 concerned parents and consumers, respectively, praying that certain action be taken to ensure that legislation controlling television protects the young and impressionable.
 - Mr Cobb, Mr Hicks, Mr Nehl, Mr Sinclair and Mr Somlyay, from 559, 262, 564, 45 and 43 petitioners, respectively; praying that the current national flag be preserved and no change be made to its design unless supported by referendum by the majority of Australians in the majority of states.
 - Mr Bilney and Mr Hand, from 1262 and 248 petitioners, respectively, praying that certain persons held in detention in Port Hedland, WA, be granted domestic temporary resident status for two years.
 - Mr P. S. Fisher and Mr Ronaldson, from 125 and 45 petitioners, respectively, praying that no action be taken to change the national flag unless approved by the people of Australia in a national referendum.
 - Mr Goodluck and Mr Ronaldson, from 392 and 215 petitioners, respectively, praying that the national flag not be changed except by a referendum.
 - Mr Halverson, from 15 petitioners, in similar terms.

- Mr Anderson, from 302 residents of Murrurundi, NSW, praying that the Commonwealth Bank at Murrurundi not be closed.
- Mr J. N. Andrew, from 19 residents of South Australia, praying that the current national flag be preserved as a symbol of national pride and identity.
- Mr K. J. Andrews, from 384 petitioners, praying that any change to the Australian national flag be approved by the citizens of Australia by indicating a preference between the current and proposed flag by referendum.
- Mr Baldwin, from 4907 petitioners, praying that proposals to replace a grants based system of student income support with a loans scheme be rejected.
- Mr Baldwin, from 4561 petitioners, praying for a comprehensive reform of the Austudy scheme to establish a guaranteed minimum income for all students.
- Mr Broadbent, from 1138 petitioners, praying that the Australian flag remain unchanged except by referendum.
- Mr Cadman, from 102 petitioners, praying that by enactment, Parliament ensure that the Prime Minister of Australia cannot change the flag of Australia without the majority consent of the people of Australia.
- Mr Chaney, from 40 petitioners, praying that certain persons held in Port Hedland, WA, be granted Domestic Protection (Temporary) entry permits.
- Mr Charles, from 19 petitioners, praying that legislation preventing the right to advertise electoral material on radio and television be rejected.
- Mr Cobb, from 123 residents of Gilgandra Shire, NSW, and certain other citizens, praying that the proposed feasibility study to re-route the Newell Highway and by-pass Gilgandra be abandoned.
- Mr Cowan, from 269 petitioners, praying for a referendum before any change is made to the design of the existing Australian flag.
- Mr Crean, from 7050 residents of New South Wales, praying that a joint inquiry into the coal industry be established.
- Mr Dawkins, from 348 petitioners, praying that Australian aid be restored to 0.5%, and subsequently be increased to 0.7%, of the Gross National Product.
- Mr P. S. Fisher, from 148 petitioners, praying that the proposal to impose a 20 per cent sales tax on farm machinery not be adopted.
- Mr Halverson, from 38 petitioners, praying that the Flags Amendment Bill receive a speedy passage.
- Mr Hawker, from 206 petitioners, praying that the Australian national flag not be changed or replaced without being approved by the people of Australia in a simple referendum.
- Mr Howe, from 39 residents of South Australia, praying that intellectually disabled people be provided with health services and facilities comparable to those available to others.
- Mr Jenkins, from 148 residents of Victoria, praying that the House considers the necessary measures to enable the use of superannuation funds to create jobs and stimulate the growth of enterprises.
- Mr Langmore, from 8 petitioners, praying for legislation to change the Australian citizenship oath and affirmation of allegiance to a pledge of allegiance to Australia and the Australian people.
- Mr Lavarch, from 11 875 petitioners, praying that the House urge the Prime Minister to accept the challenge to appear on the ABC program "Live and Sweaty".
- Mr Ruddock, from 1066 petitioners, praying that efforts to bring about a speedy and total withdrawal of Russian armed forces from Estonia be supported.

Mr Ruddock, from 247 petitioners, praying that the Baltic Nations' efforts to achieve a prompt and orderly withdrawal of Russian military forces and armaments from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania be supported.

Mr Sharp, from 224 petitioners, praying that the existing Australian flag be retained and Australians be given the opportunity to express that wish through a referendum.

Mr Smith, from 194 petitioners, praying that the importation of X-rated videos, films and publications be prohibited and certain other action be taken in relation to that material.

Mr Somlyay, from 484 residents of the Caloundra Catholic community, Qld, praying that certain action relating to the starving children of the world be taken.

Mr Webster, from 215 petitioners, praying that Australia remain a democratic constitutional monarchy with the Queen as head of state, represented in Australia by a Governor-General.

Mr Wilson, from 184 electors of the division of Sturt, praying that the House urge Commonwealth fisheries to bring about an immediate and complete ban on monofilament shark gill nets.

Mr Wright, from 20 residents of Queensland, praying that any proposal to change the Australian flag be rejected.

Petitions received.

3 TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS AND INFRASTRUCTURE—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: Mr P. F. Morris (Chairman) presented the following report and related papers:

Transport, Communications and Infrastructure—Standing Committee—Inquiry into possible uses of the sixth high power television channel—Report, 10 September 1992.

Minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Mr P. F. Morris 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 Mr P. F. Morris was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

4 LONG TERM STRATEGIES—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: Mr Johns presented the following report and related papers:

Long Term Strategies—Standing Committee—Patterns of urban settlement: Consolidating the future?—

Report, August 1992.

Minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Mr Johns 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 Mr Johns was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

5 ELECTORAL MATTERS—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: Mr Bevis (Chairman) presented the following report:

Electoral Matters—Joint Standing Committee—The conduct of elections: New boundaries for cooperation—Report, September 1992.

Ordered to be printed.

Mr Bevis and Mr Miles made statements in connection with the report.

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

Mr Bevis 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.

- 6 **TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS AND INFRASTRUCTURE—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 P. F. Morris—That the House take note of the report (*see* entry No. 3), viz.:

Transport, Communications and Infrastructure—Standing Committee—
Inquiry into possible uses of the sixth high power television channel—
Report, 10 September 1992—

Debate resumed.

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 Gorman was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

- 7 **LONG TERM STRATEGIES—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 Johns—That the House take note of the report (*see* entry No. 4), viz.:

Long Term Strategies—Standing Committee—Patterns of urban settlement:
Consolidating the future?—Report, August 1992—

Debate resumed.

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

- 8 **RESERVE BANK AMENDMENT BILL 1992:** Mr Scholes, pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Reserve Bank Act 1959*.

Mr Scholes 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.

- 9 **CRISIS IN BOSNIA-HERCEGOVINA:** The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Dr Theophanous—That this House calls on the Australian Government to:

- (1) commence formal recognition of the independence of Bosnia-Herzegovina;
- (2) assist in the relocation of refugees from war-torn Bosnia-Herzegovina; and
- (3) support a peaceful resolution to the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina, especially through the UN—

Debate resumed.

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.

- 10 **TAXATION REFORM FOR SMALL BUSINESS:** Mr Bradford, pursuant to notice, moved—That, recognising the important role played by small business in the Australian economy, the Parliament calls upon the Government to reconsider its response to the report of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology, entitled *Small business in Australia: Challenges, problems and opportunities*, with a view to implementing fully the committee's recommendations in chapter 5 of the report, entitled "Taxation reform".

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.

- 11 **AGRICULTURAL PROTECTION:** The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Cobb—That the Parliament:
- (1) welcomes the initial steps taken by the European Community to lower its massive levels of agricultural protection; and
 - (2) urges that the USA match these reductions in the interests of freeing up world trade in primary products—

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.

- 12 **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.

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

- 14 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice being asked—

Paper: Mr K. J. Andrews, in accordance with standing order 321, having called for a document quoted from by Dr Blewett (Minister for Social Security)—

Dr Blewett laid upon the Table the following paper:

Social welfare—Copy of article by David Washington published in the *ANU Reporter* of 9 September 1992 entitled “‘Welfare cheat’ myths exploded”.

Questions without notice continued.

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

Archives Act—

Advisory Council on Australian Archives—Report for 1991-92.

Australian Archives—Report for 1991-92.

Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission Act—Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission—Report on review of permanent exemptions under the *Sex Discrimination Act 1984*.

- 16 **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, 17 September 1992.

- 17 **DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—UNEMPLOYMENT:** The House was informed that both Dr Hewson (Leader of the Opposition) and Mr Sawford had proposed that definite matters of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion today. In accordance with the provisions of standing order 107, the Acting Speaker had given priority to the matter proposed by Dr Hewson, namely, “The Government’s failure to deal effectively with Australia’s continuing disastrous level of unemployment”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Dr Hewson addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

18 **SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS—PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICE:** Mr Johns (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health, Housing and Community Services), by leave, moved—That so much of the standing and sessional orders be suspended as would prevent notice No. 10, private Members' business, being called on forthwith.

Question—put and passed.

19 **FEDERAL AIRPORTS CORPORATION REGULATIONS—MOTION FOR DISALLOWANCE:** Mr Mack, pursuant to notice, moved—That the Federal Airports Corporation Regulations, as contained in Statutory Rules 1992 No. 255, and made under the *Federal Airports Corporation Act 1986*, be disallowed.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and negatived—Mr Mack dissenting.

20 **LONG TERM STRATEGIES—STANDING COMMITTEE—PAPER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Mr Jones (Chairman), by leave, presented the following paper:

Long Term Strategies—Standing Committee—Inquiry into Australia as an information society: The role of Parliament in an age of Executive dominance—Issues paper.

Mr Beazley (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That the House take note of the paper.

Debate ensued.

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

21 **MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE:** Message No. 512, dated 8 September 1992, from the Senate was reported acquainting the House of a resolution agreed to by the Senate approving, in accordance with section 5 of the *Parliament Act 1974*, proposals contained in the report of the Joint Committee on the Parliamentary Zone presented to the Senate on 20 August 1992.

22 **APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1992-93—BUDGET DEBATE:** 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 (Mr Cadman), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

23 **ADJOURNMENT:** Mr R. J. Brown (Minister for Land Transport) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Closure: Mr Baldwin (Minister for Higher Education and Employment Services) moved—That the question be now put.

The House continuing to sit until midnight—

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Question—That the question be now put—put and passed.

And the question—That the House do now adjourn—was put accordingly, and passed.

And then the House, at midnight, adjourned until Monday next at 2 p.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 10 September 1992:

Australian Federal Police Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1992 No. 284.
Civil Aviation Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1992 No. 279.

- Complaints (Australian Federal Police) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1992 No. 285.
- Corporations Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1992 No. 281.
- Crimes Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1992 No. 276.
- Customs Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1992 Nos. 277, 286.
- Family Law Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1992 No. 287.
- Health Insurance Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1992 No. 273.
- Industrial Chemicals (Notification and Assessment) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1992 No. 282.
- Industrial Relations Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1992 No. 274.
- International Organizations (Privileges and Immunities) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1992 No. 272.
- Judiciary Act—Rule of Court, 25 August 1992.
- Migration Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1992 No. 278.
- Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1992 No. 263.
- National Crime Authority Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1992 No. 280.
- Naval Defence Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1992 No. 264.
- Proclamations by His Excellency the Governor-General fixing the dates on which the following provisions of Acts shall come into operation—
- Coal Mining Industry (Long Service Leave Funding) Act 1992*—Sections 3 to 34, 36 to 43 and 50 to 55, 4 September 1992.
- Customs and Excise Legislation Amendment Act 1992*—Paragraphs 4(a), (b), and (e), sections 5 to 9, 15 to 20, 22, 23, 25 to 29, 37 to 39, 42, 43, 45 to 47 and paragraphs 49(a) and (b), 1 September 1992.
- Superannuation Act 1976*—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1992 Nos. 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271.
- Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1992 No. 288.
- Superannuation Supervisory Levy Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1992 No. 283.
- Tradesmen's Rights Regulation Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1992 No. 275.

ATTENDANCE: All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Atkinson, Mr Gayler, Mr Goodluck, Mr Holding, Mr McGauran, Mr McLeay, Mr Martin, Mr Punch, Mrs Sullivan, Mr H. F. Woods, Dr R. L. Woods and Mr Wright.

L. M. BURLIN
Clerk of the House of Representatives