

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 143

MONDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER 1992

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- 1 The House met, at 2 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Acting Speaker (Mr R. F. Edwards) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
  - 2 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice were asked.
  - 3 **PAPERS:** The following papers were presented:  
 Advance to the Minister for Finance—  
 Statement for August 1992.  
 Supporting applications of issues from the Advance during August 1992.
  - 4 **DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—ECONOMIC FUTURE:**  
 The House was informed that Mr Downer had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The jeopardy to Australia's economic future caused by a Prime Minister continually changing policies regardless of the national interest".  
 The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—  
 Mr Downer addressed the House.  
 Discussion ensued.  
 Discussion concluded.
  - 5 **STANDING AND JOINT COMMITTEES—MEMBERSHIP:** The House was informed of the nominations by the Opposition Whip of Members to be members of the following committees:  
*Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs—Standing Committee:*  
 Mr Ronaldson in place of Dr Wooldridge.  
*Community Affairs—Standing Committee:*  
 Mr Bradford in place of Mrs Bailey.  
*Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade—Joint Committee:*  
 Mr Atkinson in place of Mr Connolly.  
*Legal and Constitutional Affairs—Standing Committee:*  
 Mr Miles in place of Mr Costello.  
*Procedure—Standing Committee:*  
 Mr Charles in place of Mr Rocher.
  - 6 **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—Australia's refugee and humanitarian system: Achieving a balance between refugee and control—  
 Report, incorporating 2 dissenting reports, August 1992.  
 Evidence received by the committee.  
 Minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Dr Theophanous, by leave, moved—That the House take note of the report.  
Debate ensued.

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

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

#### 7 HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES 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—*And on the amendment moved thereto by Dr R. L. Woods, viz.*—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 expresses its concern that the Government:

- (1) has failed to implement a satisfactory eligibility checking system so as to prevent non-Australian residents and other ineligible individuals from wrongly receiving expensive pharmaceuticals at prices subsidised by the Government under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme and ultimately paid for by the Australian taxpayers;
- (2) is attempting to make pharmacists financially responsible for the fraudulent claims of ineligible individuals who obtain subsidised pharmaceuticals under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme at concessional rates;
- (3) presented to the House grossly inaccurate costings of the estimated savings of the on-line computer eligibility checking system; and
- (4) was publicly forced to reverse its proposal to proceed with the on line computer eligibility checking system following the Senate Committee report which found the estimated savings were inaccurate”—

Debate resumed.

*Paper:* Mr Sciacca (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Social Security) presented a supplementary explanatory memorandum on a proposed Government amendment to the Bill.

Amendment negatived.

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.

On the motion of Mr Sciacca, the following amendment was made: Clause 33, page 7, paragraph (d), proposed subsection (1A), line 32, after “a person” insert “(other than a person of a kind referred to in paragraph (1)(h))”.

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

Bill to be reported with an amendment.

The House resumed; Mr Jenkins reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr Sciacca, by leave, the House adopted the report, and, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

#### 8 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 (Ms Fatin—Minister for the Arts and Territories), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

9 **ADJOURNMENT:** Ms Fatin (Minister for the Arts and Territories) moved—  
That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

*Closure:* Mr Tickner (Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander  
Affairs) moved—That the question be now put.

The House continuing to sit until midnight—

**TUESDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER 1992**

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 this day at 2 p.m.

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

Civil Aviation Act—Civil Aviation Regulations—Exemption—1992 No. 4.

Lands Acquisition Act—Statement under subsection 125(3).

Migration Act—Statement under section 137.

*Telecommunications Act 1991*—Notice of declaration under section 267,  
2 September 1992.

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**ATTENDANCE:** All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr  
Anderson, Mr Atkinson, Dr Charlesworth, Mrs Crosio, Mr Goodluck, Mr  
Holding, Mr Howard, Mr Johns, Mr Langmore, Mr McGauran, Mr McLeay,  
Mr P. F. Morris, Mr Price, Mr Punch, Mr Reid, Mrs Sullivan and Mr  
Wright.

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**L. M. BARLIN**

Clerk of the House of Representatives