

1993

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 3

THURSDAY, 6 MAY 1993

1 The House met, at 9.30 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (the Honourable Stephen Martin) 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 Cobb, Mr Lloyd and Mr Truss, from 703, 15, 8 and 149 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 J. N. Andrew, Mr Connolly and Mr Jull, from 170, 35 and 70 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 Lloyd, Mr McGauran and Mr Reith, from 57, 11 and 90 residents of Victoria, respectively, praying that Medicare funding of abortion be terminated by support for the Abortion Funding Abolition Bill 1990.

Mr Dobie and Mr Ruddock, from 22 and 463 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 Mack and Mr Moore, from 324 and 20 petitioners, respectively, praying that the proposed ABC television service to Asia be wholly funded by the Government or that the service not commence until Government funds are available.

Mr MacKellar and Mr Tickner, from 7 and 18 petitioners, respectively, praying that legislative action be taken to implement the Earth Repair Charter.

Mr Anderson, from 244 petitioners, praying that the existing Australian flag be retained and Australians be given the opportunity to express that wish through a referendum.

Mr J. N. Andrew, from 923 petitioners, praying that capital punishment be re-introduced for serious crimes committed against innocent victims.

Mr J. N. Andrew, from 104 petitioners, praying that the Civil Aviation Authority not be allowed to require gliders to carry Mode C transponders.

Mr J. N. Andrew, from 17 petitioners, praying that tax credits or rebates be provided to encourage private health care funding where it can be afforded.

Mr Beale, from 93 petitioners, praying that no change be made to the national flag without a full referendum.

Mr Beale, from 9 petitioners, praying that legislation preventing the right to advertise electoral material on radio and television be rejected.

Mr Bradford, from 35 petitioners, praying that the House affirm its support for the Australian flag and that the flag not be changed.

Mr Braithwaite, from 851 residents of Queensland, praying that certain action be taken in relation to the provision of television services to the Collinsville district, Qld, following aggregation.

Mr Braithwaite, from 61 petitioners, praying that the plastic five dollar note be withdrawn from circulation and replaced with a paper note similar to the previous one.

Mr Fischer, from 5221 petitioners, praying that action be taken to ensure that the registered publications service is saved.

Mr Fischer, from 74 petitioners, praying that the new five dollar note be reviewed.

Mr Howard, from 348 petitioners, praying that Medicare funding of abortion be terminated and the practice be outlawed.

Mrs Kelly, from 975 petitioners, praying that certain action be taken in response to the shipment of plutonium from France to Japan.

Dr Kemp, from 21 petitioners, praying that the Australian National University Amendment (Autonomy) Bill 1992 be debated and passed in the House at the earliest opportunity.

Mr Langmore, from 360 petitioners, praying that action be taken to ensure that Serbian Chetniks do not take part in future Anzac Day marches.

Mr Lindsay, from 146 residents of Queensland, praying that the program of certain roadworks in Townsville be accelerated.

Mr Lloyd, from 127 users of the services of the Australian and Overseas Telecommunications Corporation (AOTC), praying that existing AOTC residential customer service offices in the city and country be kept open and AOTC be stopped from cutting staff in the residential customer service area.

Mr O'Keefe, from 228 petitioners, praying that the Family Law Act be amended to re-introduce adultery as a ground for divorce.

Mr O'Keefe, from 57 petitioners, praying that importation of goods supported by subsidies and other non-tariff or dumping measures be stopped and that tariffs remain in place while other nations use such measures.

Mr Peacock, from 32 petitioners, praying that no further reductions in funding for the ABC be agreed to.

Mr Reid, from 176 petitioners, praying that legislation which enables the Industrial Relations Commission to interfere in contracts between builders and subcontractors be repealed.

Mr Simmons, from 101 petitioners, praying that Australia Post's current mechanisms for price constraints be supported.

Mr Walker, from 529 petitioners, praying that the Indonesian Government be persuaded to bring a speedy end to suffering in East Timor.

Mr Walker, from 33 petitioners, praying that all members of the United Nations be called upon to end the financial, commercial and economic blockade on Cuba.

Ms Worth, from 13 petitioners, praying that certain action be taken to restore profitability to Australian farms and factories, and provide employment opportunities to Australians and a future for youth.

Petitions received.

3 ADDRESS IN REPLY TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH

Mrs Easson presented the Address in Reply to His Excellency's Speech, prepared by the committee appointed on 4 May 1993, which was read by the Clerk, as follows:

May it please Your Excellency:

We, the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia, in Parliament assembled, express our loyalty to the Sovereign, and thank Your Excellency for the speech you have been pleased to address to the Parliament.

Mrs Easson moved—That the Address be agreed to.

Mr Tanner seconded the motion.

Debate ensued.

It being 12.30 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with the resolution agreed to on 5 May 1993, and Mr L. J. Scott was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

4 GRIEVANCE DEBATE

Pursuant to the provisions of standing 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 standing order 106.

Question—That grievances be noted—put and passed.

5 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Members' statements—Guidelines—Statement by Speaker

The Speaker made a statement outlining guidelines for the conduct of the period of Members' statements.

Members' statements were made.

6 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

7 PAPERS

The following papers were presented:

Aboriginal Land Commissioner—Reports to the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs and to the Administrator of the Northern Territory, relating to—

Harts Range Land Claim (Report No. 44).

North-West Simpson Desert Land Claim (Report No. 41).

Tanami Downs Land Claim (Report No. 42).

Yurrkuru (Brookes Soak) Land Claim (Report No. 43).

Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act—Aboriginal Land Commissioner—Report for 1991-92.

Advance to the Minister for Finance—

Statements for December 1992 and January, February, March and April 1993.

Supporting applications of issues from the Advances during December 1992 and January, February, March and April 1993.

Australian National Maritime Museum Act—Australian National Maritime Museum—Report for 1991-92.

Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission Act—Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission—Report—The call for recognition: A report on the situation of Australian South Sea Islanders.

8 NORTHERN LAND COUNCIL—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

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

Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act—Northern Land Council—Report for 1991-92.

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

9 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY

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 cavalier attitude displayed by the Government towards ministerial responsibility in the pay TV affair”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Howard addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

10 PUBLIC WORKS—PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORK—HOUSING DEVELOPMENT, FLINDERS VIEW NEAR IPSWICH, QLD

Mr Willis (Minister representing the Minister for the Arts and Administrative Services), pursuant to notice, moved—That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, the following proposed work be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for consideration and report: Housing development at Flinders View near Ipswich, Qld.

Mr Willis presented plans in connection with the proposed work.

Question—put and passed.

11 PUBLIC WORKS—PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE—PROPOSED REFERENCE OF WORK—HMAS WATERHEN FACILITIES MODERNISATION, WAVERTON, NSW

Mr Willis (Minister representing the Minister for the Arts and Administrative Services), pursuant to notice, moved—That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, the following proposed work be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for consideration and report: HMAS *Waterhen* facilities modernisation, Waverton, NSW.

Mr Willis presented plans in connection with the proposed work.

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

12 POSTPONEMENT OF NOTICE

Ordered—That notice No. 3, government business, be postponed until the next sitting.

13 BROADCASTING SERVICES AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1993

Mr Beddall (Minister for Communications), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992*.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

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

14 ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the following Address in Reply to the speech of His Excellency the Governor-General be agreed to:

May it please Your Excellency:

We, the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia, in Parliament assembled, express our loyalty to the Sovereign, and thank Your Excellency for the speech you have been pleased to address to the Parliament—

Debate resumed.

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

15 ADJOURNMENT

Mr Duncan (Parliamentary Secretary to the Attorney-General) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 11.48 p.m., adjourned until Monday next at 2 p.m.

PAPERS

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 6 May 1993:

Australian Bureau of Statistics Act—Australian Bureau of Statistics—Proposal for the collection of information—1993 No. 6.

Migration Act—Instrument under section 179, 29 January 1993.

Military Superannuation and Benefits Act—Instrument—1993 No. 3.

Proclamations by His Excellency the Governor-General fixing the dates on which the following provisions of Acts shall come into operation—

Customs Legislation Amendment Act 1992—Paragraphs 4(b) and (c), sections 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10, subsection 13(2), section 14, paragraph 15(d) and sections 16, 17, 24, 25 and 27—1 June 1993.

Qantas Sale Act 1992—Sections 30, 31, 35, 37, 39, 43 and 50 and Parts 1 and 2 of the Schedule—10 March 1993.

ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Halverson, Mr Jones and Mr P. F. Morris.

L. M. BARLIN

Clerk of the House of Representatives