

1993

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 22

THURSDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER 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 Aldred, Mr J. N. Andrew, Mr K. J. Andrews, Mr Beale, Mr Bilney, Dr Blewett, Mr Carlton, Mr Connolly, Mr Downer, Mr Duffy, Mr Evans, Ms Fatin, Mr Filing, Mr Forrest, Mr Gorman, Mr Hall, Ms Henzell, Mr Howard, Mr Kerr, Mr Lloyd, Mr McGauran, Mr Mack, Mr MacKellar, Mr McLachlan, Mr Nehl, Mr Nugent, Mr Price, Mr Pyne, Mr Rocher, Mr Ronaldson, Mr Sawford, Mr B. C. Scott, Mr Sharp, Mr Slipper, Mrs S. J. Smith, Mr Somlyay, Mr Swan, Mr Taylor, Mr Vaile, Mr Wakelin, Mr Walker, Mr Williams and Dr Wooldridge, from 14, 469, 98, 43, 798, 173, 155, 260, 320, 518, 32, 65, 88, 107, 186, 125, 63, 198, 127, 107, 22, 43, 871, 300, 790, 152, 479, 46, 101, 76, 347, 124, 44, 198, 220, 114, 703, 32, 792, 500, 109, 152 and 39 petitioners, respectively, praying that Medicare continue to be a universal health insurance system and that all eye examinations by optometrists be covered.

Mr J. N. Andrew, Mr Bilney, Dr Blewett, Mr Costello, Mr Downer, Mrs Gallus, Mr Pyne, Mr Rocher, Mr Sawford, Mr Tuckey, Mr Wakelin and Ms Worth, from 160, 104, 130, 50, 367, 244, 119, 90, 139, 240, 104 and 37 petitioners, respectively, praying that instruments affirming the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child be disallowed.

Mr J. N. Andrew, Mr Carlton, Mr Hawker, Mr Jull and Mr Reid, from 10, 41, 376, 10 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 Beale, Mr Evans, Mr Jull and Mr Reid, from 9, 117, 2 and 8 petitioners, respectively, praying that measures to treat unrealised capital gains and losses on listed securities as income under the *Social Security Act 1991* and the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* be abandoned.

Mr McArthur, Mr Ruddock, Mr Wakelin and Mr Williams, from 2, 20, 53 and 25 petitioners, respectively, in similar terms.

Ms Fatin, Mr Swan, Mr Tuckey and Mr Vaile, from 191, 264, 19 and 76 petitioners, respectively, praying that Medicare continue to be a universal health insurance system and that eye tests be covered.

Mr Sawford, from 41 petitioners, in similar terms.

Mr J. N. Andrew, Dr Kemp and Mrs Sullivan, from 283, 433 and 763 petitioners, respectively, praying that the increases in petrol excise proposed in the 1993-94 Budget be opposed.

Mr Andrew and Ms Worth, from 17 133 and 876 petitioners, respectively, praying that the proposal to increase the level of wholesale sales tax on wine from 20 to 31 per cent be abandoned.

Mr Duffy and Mrs Gallus, from 391 and 122 petitioners, respectively, praying that the lifting of the arms embargo against the Bosnian Government and the bombing of military targets in Serbian held territories be supported.

Mr Fischer and Mr Slipper, from 1068 and 22 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.

Ms Henzell and Mr Swan, from 804 and 380 petitioners, respectively, praying that the proposal to exclude non health care card holders and pensioners from claiming benefits for eye examinations from optometrists and ophthalmologists be abandoned.

Mr Cameron, from 17 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 Costello, from 66 petitioners, praying that the amount of excise on tobacco be restored to the levels announced in the 1993-94 Budget.

Mr Downer, from 197 petitioners, praying that the increases in wholesale sales tax, petrol excise, tax on wine and tax on lump sums received for unused leave proposed in the 1993-94 Budget be rejected.

Mr Downer, from 117 petitioners, praying that tax credits or rebates be provided to encourage private health care funding where it can be afforded.

Mr Forrest, from 537 petitioners, praying that the increased sales tax on wine be abolished.

Mr Gear, from 48 residents of Western Australia, praying that certain action be taken to enable Aboriginal people who have maintained links with particular lands to have their rights at law recognised and enforced.

Mr Halverson, from 993 petitioners, praying that the proposal to increase the level of wholesale sales tax on wine from 20 to 31 per cent be rejected.

Ms Henzell, from 550 petitioners, praying that Higher Education Contribution Scheme rates not be increased.

Ms Henzell, from 20 petitioners, praying that legislative action be taken to implement the Earth Repair Charter.

Mr Kerr, from 727 petitioners, praying that the divisions of Oceanography, Fisheries and Atmospheric Research be retained within CSIRO and the proposed amalgamation of marine science bodies be rejected.

Mr Lloyd, from 35 petitioners, praying that the signing of the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief be disallowed.

Mr Lloyd, from 29 petitioners, in similar terms.

Mr McArthur, from 43 petitioners, praying that the Taxation (Deficit Reduction) Bill 1993 be amended to ensure a healthy Australian wine industry.

Mr Mack, from 60 petitioners, praying that the use of genetic engineering and cloning of human beings, animals, plant life, microbes and foods be prohibited.

Mr Mack, from 46 residents of New South Wales, praying that the Australian judiciary be reformed and re-educated and that women be equally represented.

Mr Prosser, from 252 petitioners, praying that the proposed treatment of unrealised capital gains on listed securities as income be overturned and saving for retirement encouraged.

Mr S. F. Smith, from 103 petitioners, praying that certain action be taken to lift television standards.

Mr Tuckey, from 250 petitioners, praying that the rights of State governments alone to define and issue land title be reaffirmed through a referendum.

Mr Vaile, from 142 petitioners, praying for a referendum before any change is made to the design of the existing Australian flag.

Mr Vaile, from 41 electors of the Division of Lyne, in similar terms.

Ms Worth, from 274 petitioners, praying that the proposal to increase the duty on leaded and unleaded petrol be abandoned.

Petitions received.

3 FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE—JOINT COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

Mr Langmore presented the following report and related papers:

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade—Joint Committee—Australia, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund—

Report.

Evidence received by the committee.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Mr Langmore, Mr Kerin and Mr Lieberman made statements in connection with the report.

Mr Langmore moved—That the House take note of the report.

In accordance with standing order 102B, the debate was adjourned, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting Thursday.

4 BUDGET IMPACT ON VICTORIANS

Mr Chynoweth, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House notes the positive financial and social impact of the Budget on the people of Victoria.

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.

5 DESCENDANTS OF SOUTH SEA ISLANDERS

Mr Braithwaite, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House acts urgently to respond to the recommendations in the Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Commission's report entitled *The call for recognition* to ensure:

- (1) an end to the discrimination against the descendants of South Sea Islanders;
- (2) acceptance of programs to provide these persons with equal opportunities in building, health education and legal representation;
- (3) the retention of their culture, arts and heritage; and
- (4) that descendants of South Sea Islanders remain proud Australians.

Debate ensued.

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

6 PRIME MINISTER'S REWRITING OF AUSTRALIAN HISTORY

Mr Filing, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House:

- (1) deplores the Prime Minister's constant rewriting of Australian history to suit his own political purposes;
- (2) particularly deplores the Prime Minister's denigration of the Menzies years, a period of growth, employment and stability where Australia developed a strong national identity that reflected its role as a positive and beneficial influence in its region; and
- (3) contrasts the Prime Minister's own legacy of record unemployment, economic decline, massive debt, rampant crime, family breakdown and a society where many feel alienated and powerless.

Debate ensued.

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

7 WHOLESALE SALES TAX ON WINE

Mr J. N. Andrew, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House:

- (1) is of the opinion that the effect of the increase in wholesale sales tax on wine will be to:
 - (a) slash revenue from domestic wine sales by \$100 million;
 - (b) reduce the income of grape growers;
 - (c) inevitably lead to the loss of jobs in vineyards, wine production, packaging, transport and marketing;
 - (d) inevitably lead to the demise of approximately 140 of Australia's 738 wineries; and
 - (e) force 500 grape growers to leave the wine industry; and
- (2) calls on the Government to reverse its decision to increase the wholesale sales tax on wine.

Debate ensued.

It being 12.30 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with standing order 104A, the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting Thursday, and Mr Wakelin was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

8 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.

Paper: Mr Aldred, by leave, presented the following paper:

Prescription drugs—Copy of Canadian pharmacy advertisement.

Debate continued.

Question—That grievances be noted—put and passed.

9 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Members' statements were made.

10 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice being asked—

Papers: Mrs Kelly (Minister for the Environment, Sport and Territories) presented the following papers:

National Forest Policy Statement—Copies of letters from Mrs Kelly, Minister for the Environment, Sport and Territories, to—

The Hon. Chris Hartcher, MP, Minister for the Environment, Sydney, 9 September 1993.

The Hon. G. Souris, MP, Minister for Land and Water Conservation, Sydney, 31 May 1993.

Questions without notice continued.

11 AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT—PUBLICATION OF PAPER

The Speaker presented the following paper:

Audit Act—Auditor-General—Audit report No. 6 of 1993-94—An audit commentary on aspects of Commonwealth-State agreements.

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

- (1) this House authorises the publication of the Auditor-General's audit report No. 6 of 1993-94; and
- (2) the report be printed.

Question—put and passed.

12 PAPERS

The following papers were presented:

Aboriginal Education (Supplementary Assistance) Amendment Bill 1993—Replacement to explanatory memorandum.

Australian Bureau of Statistics Act—Australian Statistics Advisory Council—Report for 1992-93.

Australian Industry Development Corporation Act—Australian Industry Development Corporation—Report for 1992-93.

Defence Act—Army and Air Force Canteen Service Regulations—Army and Air Force Canteen Service Board of Management—Report for period 28 January 1992 to 1 February 1993.

Employment, Education and Training Act—National Board of Employment, Education and Training—Report—Advice of the Employment and Skills

Formation Council, including the Board's comments—Assessment of competency quality related to a standard level, September 1993.

Superannuation (Rolled-Over Benefits) Levy Bill 1993—Supplementary explanatory memorandum.

13 PAPERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS

Mr Beazley (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the following papers:

Australian Bureau of Statistics Act—Australian Statistics Advisory Council—Report for 1992-93.

Australian Industry Development Corporation Act—Australian Industry Development Corporation—Report for 1992-93.

Defence Act—Army and Air Force Canteen Service Regulations—Army and Air Force Canteen Service Board of Management—Report for period 28 January 1992 to 1 February 1993.

Employment, Education and Training Act—National Board of Employment, Education and Training—Report—Advice of the Employment and Skills Formation Council, including the Board's comments—Assessment of competency quality related to a standard level, September 1993.

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

14 LAW REFORM COMMISSION AND THE COMPANIES AND SECURITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE—REPORT—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT AND PAPERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS

Mr Lavarch (Attorney-General), by leave, made a ministerial statement relating to report No. 65 of the Law Reform Commission and the Companies and Securities Advisory Committee and presented the following papers:

Law Reform Commission and the Companies and Securities Advisory Committee—Report No. 65—Collective investments: Other people's money—

Volume 1.

Volume 2.

Summary.

Ministerial statement.

Mr Lavarch moved—That the House take note of the papers.

Mr Costello, by leave, also made a statement in connection with the report.

Debate adjourned (Mr Crean—Minister for Primary Industries and Energy), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

15 LONG TERM STRATEGIES—STANDING COMMITTEE

The House was informed that the Opposition Whip had nominated Mr Evans to be a member of the Standing Committee for Long Term Strategies in place of Mr Beale.

16 MEMBERS' INTERESTS COMMITTEE—PAPERS

Mr Grace (Chairman) presented the following papers:

Committee of Members' Interests—Register of Members' Interests for the 37th Parliament—

Register, incorporating notifications of alterations of interests to 3 September 1993—

Volume 1—A-D.

Volume 2—E-J.

Volume 3—K-Q.

Volume 4—R-Z.

Notifications of alterations of interests received during the period 4 to 29 September 1993.

17 SELECTION COMMITTEE—REPORT

Mr Jenkins (Chairman) presented the following report:

Selection Committee—Report relating to the program of business prior to 12.30 p.m. on Thursday, 7 October 1993.

18 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1993-94—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—*And on the amendment moved thereto by Dr Wooldridge (Deputy Leader of the Opposition), 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 notes:*

- (1) the likelihood of foreshadowed amendments to the Budget;
- (2) the vacillations and confusion about the Budget;
- (3) the pernicious impact on low income Australians;
- (4) the failure to reduce unemployment; and
- (5) the continuing abrogation of responsibilities towards the long-term unemployed”—

Debate resumed.

Mr Vaile 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 a later hour this day.

19 ALTERATION OF DAY OF NEXT MEETING

Mr Crean (Minister for Primary Industries and Energy) moved—That the House, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday next, at 2 p.m.

Question—put and passed.

20 WOOL INTERNATIONAL BILL 1993

Mr Crean (Minister for Primary Industries and Energy), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to make provision for continuing the existence of the Australian Wool Realisation Commission under a new name and with new functions relating to the disposal of the wool stockpile, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

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

21 AUSTRALIAN WOOL RESEARCH AND PROMOTION ORGANISATION BILL 1993

Mr Crean (Minister for Primary Industries and Energy), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to establish an Australian Wool Research and Promotion Organisation, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

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

22 WOOL LEGISLATION (REPEALS AND CONSEQUENTIAL PROVISIONS) BILL 1993

Mr Crean (Minister for Primary Industries and Energy) presented a Bill for an Act to repeal and amend legislation relating to wool and the wool industry, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

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

23 WOOL TAX (NOS. 1 TO 5) AMENDMENT BILLS 1993

Mr Crean (Minister for Primary Industries and Energy) presented the following Bills:

A Bill for an Act to amend the *Wool Tax Act (No. 1) 1964*;

A Bill for an Act to amend the *Wool Tax Act (No. 2) 1964*;

A Bill for an Act to amend the *Wool Tax Act (No. 3) 1964*;

A Bill for an Act to amend the *Wool Tax Act (No. 4) 1964*; and

A Bill for an Act to amend the *Wool Tax Act (No. 5) 1964*.

Bills together read a first time.

Mr Crean moved—That the Bills be now read a second time.

Paper: Mr Crean presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bills.

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

24 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—ARTS, ENVIRONMENT AND TERRITORIES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1993

Message No. 67, dated 28 September 1993, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for “*An Act to amend legislation relating to arts, environment and Territories, and for related purposes*”.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Walker (Special Minister of State) moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Paper: Mr Walker 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.

25 HEALTH LEGISLATION (PROFESSIONAL SERVICES REVIEW) AMENDMENT BILL 1993

Dr Theophanous (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Health Insurance Act 1973*, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Dr Theophanous moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Paper: Dr Theophanous presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

26 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—PROTECTION OF THE SEA (SHIPPING LEVY) AMENDMENT BILL 1993

Message No. 66, dated 29 September 1993, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for “*An Act to amend the ‘Protection of the Sea (Shipping Levy) Act 1981’*”.

Bill read a first time.

Mr O’Keefe (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Transport and Communications) moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Paper: Mr O’Keefe presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

27 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1993-94—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—*And on the amendment moved thereto by Dr Wooldridge (Deputy Leader of the Opposition), 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 notes:

- (1) the likelihood of foreshadowed amendments to the Budget;
- (2) the vacillations and confusion about the Budget;
- (3) the pernicious impact on low income Australians;
- (4) the failure to reduce unemployment; and
- (5) the continuing abrogation of responsibilities towards the long-term unemployed”—

Debate resumed.

Closure: Mr Beazley (Leader of the House) moved—That the question be now put.

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

And the question—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the question—was put accordingly, and passed.

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

Schedule 3—

Ordered—That the proposed expenditures for the purposes and services in the Schedule be considered in the following order, either separately or together, as shown:

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	}	together
Department of Finance		
Department of the Treasury		
Advance to the Minister for Finance		
Provision for Running Costs Borrowings		
Attorney-General's Department		
Department of Transport and Communications		
Department of Employment, Education and Training		
Department of Defence		
Department of Primary Industries and Energy	}	together
Department of Tourism		
Department of Social Security		
Department of the Arts and Administrative Services		
Department of Health, Housing, Local Government and Community Services	}	together
Department of Veterans' Affairs		
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade		
Department of Industry, Technology and Regional Development	}	together
Department of Industrial Relations		
Department of the Environment, Sport and Territories		
Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs		

Proposed expenditures—

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, \$1 081 431 000—

Department of Finance, \$206 462 000—

Department of the Treasury, \$1 500 546 000—

Advance to the Minister for Finance, \$170 000 000—

Provision for Running Costs Borrowings, \$20 000 000—

together—

Progress to be reported, and leave asked to sit again.

The House resumed; Mr Jenkins reported accordingly.

Ordered—That the House will, at its next sitting, again resolve itself into the said committee.

28 ADJOURNMENT

Mr Beazley (Leader of the House) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Hansard report—Statement by Speaker

The Speaker made a statement in response to a question asked of him earlier today by Mrs Sullivan concerning guidelines relating to the preparation of the *Hansard* report of the proceedings of the House. The Speaker advised the House that he had not authorised any changes to the guidelines and reminded Members that the *Daily Hansard* is a proof copy only and that corrections would appear in the *Weekly Hansard* which is the official *Hansard* report of the proceedings.

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until after midnight—

FRIDAY, 1 OCTOBER 1993

Debate continued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 12.05 a.m., adjourned until Tuesday next at 2 p.m., in accordance with the resolution agreed to at this sitting.

PAPERS

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 30 September 1993:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act—Rules 1993 Regional Council Election (Casual Vacancies) (Amendment).

Australian Bureau of Statistics Act—Australian Bureau of Statistics—Proposals for the collection of information—1993 No. 18.

Health Insurance Act—Statement under section 106AA (Dr Sultan Akhtar Siddiqui), 15 September 1993.

Radiocommunications Act—

Class licences—Nos. RCL 1993/1, RCL 1993/2, RCL 1993/3.

Determinations—Nos. RD 1993/1, RL 1993/1, RR 1993/1, RT 1993/1.

ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Adams, Mr Cleland, Mr Downer, Mr Duffy, Mr Gibson, Mr Hawker, Mr Howe, Mr Jones, Mr Lindsay, Mr MacKellar, Mr Peacock, Mr Prosser, Mr Simmons, Mr Sinclair, Mr Snow, Mr Somlyay, Mr Taylor, Mr Truss, Mr Williams and Mr Willis.

L. M. BARLIN

Clerk of the House of Representatives