

1993-94

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 103

MONDAY, 7 NOVEMBER 1994

1 The House met, at 12.30 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (the Honourable Stephen Martin) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

2 **INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION—PARIS CONFERENCE, 1994—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS**

The Speaker presented the following report:

Inter-Parliamentary Union—91st Conference, Paris, 18 March–2 April 1994—Report of the Australian Delegation, incorporating a report on a bilateral visit to Turkey—

and made a statement in connection with the report.

Mr McLeay also made a statement in connection with the report.

3 **TELECOMMUNICATIONS (STANDARDS OF SERVICE) AMENDMENT BILL 1994**

Mr Forrest, pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Telecommunications Act 1991* and other legislation in respect of standards of service.

Mr Forrest 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 Monday, in accordance with standing order 104A.

4 **MRS HARRY (LORES) BONNEY**

Mrs Sullivan, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House:

- (1) acknowledges the pre-eminent pioneering role played by the late Mrs Harry (Lores) Bonney in the development of Australian and international aviation; and
- (2) urges all Australian governments and relevant semi-government bodies to ensure that Mrs Bonney's contribution to the nation receive appropriate, continuing public recognition.

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 Monday.

5 COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES

Mr Price, pursuant to notice, moved—

- (1) That the following amendment to standing order 26 (Committee of Privileges) be adopted for the remainder of this session: Omit “to inquire into and report upon complaints of breach of privilege which may be referred to it” and substitute “to inquire into and report upon matters of contempt or breach of privilege which may be referred to it”.
- (2) That the following matter be referred to the Committee of Privileges: The question of the level of protection or privilege which should apply to communications between Members of Parliament and Ministers, including communications by letter, facsimile or other electronic or automated means.

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 Monday.

6 MUNICIPAL LIBRARIES

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Latham—That this House declares its support for:

- (1) federal funding of municipal libraries to promote quality, equity and access to those services in areas of greatest need; and
- (2) developing Australia’s network of 1400 municipal libraries as public access points on the so-called information superhighway—

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 Monday, and Mr Dodd was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

7 ECOTERRORISM

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Nehl—That this House condemns any acts of ecoterrorism in Australia, particularly those directed at the forest industries, with consequent danger to the lives of workers, and detrimental effects on families, small business and the community at large—

Debate resumed.

It being 2.45 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 Monday, and Mr Cleeland was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

8 MEMBERS’ STATEMENTS

Members’ statements were made.

9 DEATHS OF FORMER MEMBER (MR E. H. ST JOHN) AND FORMER SENATOR (MR A. E. D. LILICO)

The Speaker informed the House of the deaths of Mr Edward Henry St John, QC, on 24 October 1994, a Member of this House for the Division of Warringah from 1966 to 1969, and Mr Alexander Elliot Davidson Lillico, on 3 November 1994, a Senator for the State of Tasmania from 1959 to 1974.

As a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased all Members present stood, in silence.

10 DEATH OF DR P. S. WILENSKI

The Speaker informed the House of the death, on 3 November 1994, of Dr Peter Stephen Wilenski, AC.

Mr Keating (Prime Minister), Mr Downer (Leader of the Opposition), Mr Fischer (Leader of the National Party of Australia) and Mr Sinclair paid tribute to his memory.

11 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

12 SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS—GRIEVANCE DEBATE

Mr Beazley (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That so much of the standing and sessional orders be suspended as would prevent Grievance debate concluding at 5.30 p.m. this day.

Question—put and passed.

13 PETITIONS

The Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:

Mr Brereton, Mr Fischer and Mr Ruddock, from 86, 289 and 333 petitioners, respectively, praying that importation and use of the drug RU486 be banned.

Mr Beale and Mr Neville, from 584 and 1102 petitioners, respectively, praying for certain changes to the Family Law Act and the Child Support Scheme.

Mr Anderson, from 11 petitioners, praying that funding for breast cancer research be increased tenfold in the Budget and initiatives to encourage donations for research be considered.

Mr Cadman, from 49 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 Cadman, from 11 petitioners, praying that any action which is capable of deeply dividing the people of Australia be desisted from.

Mr Forrest, from 1614 petitioners, praying that certain action be taken to improve the financial position of citrus growers.

Mr Langmore, from 155 petitioners, praying that logging in the Deua wilderness and other forest areas of high conservation value in New South Wales be stopped.

Mr McLeay, from 956 petitioners, praying that certain action be taken to resolve the Turkish occupation of Cyprus.

Mr Moore, from 92 petitioners, praying that the guidelines for homeless rate recipients be reviewed and greater commitment shown to programs which prevent family breakdown.

Mr Neville, from 231 petitioners, praying that discrimination against single-income families in the tax and social security systems be removed.

Mr Neville, from 30 petitioners, praying that certain action be taken to create jobs in State forests.

Mr B. C. Scott, from 60 electors of the Division of Maranoa, praying that the national flag not be changed, replaced or diminished without being voted upon and approved in a national referendum.

Mr Sinclair, from 33 petitioners, praying that inequities faced by rural students in the higher education system be addressed.

Mr S. F. Smith, from 338 petitioners, praying that Mr Li Shi Ping and Miss Liu Xiu Ling be granted refugee status and released from custody.

Mr Wakelin, from 76 petitioners, praying that Austudy and Abstudy payments be increased to levels comparable to social security benefits.

Petitions received.

14 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 5.30 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with the resolution agreed to this day.

Question—That grievances be noted—put and passed.

15 DEATHS OF MR E. H. ST JOHN AND DR P. S. WILENSKI

Mr Bilney (Minister for Development Co-operation and Pacific Island Affairs), Mr Abbott, Mr Langmore, Mr Jones, Mr Dobie and Mr Holding paid tribute to the memory of Mr Edward Henry St John, QC and Dr Peter Stephen Wilenski, AC (*see* entries Nos. 9 and 10).

As a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased all Members present stood, in silence.

16 AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT—PUBLICATION OF PAPER

The Deputy Speaker presented the following paper:

Audit Act—Auditor-General—Audit report No. 5 of 1994-95—Follow-up audits—Department of Employment, Education and Training: New Enterprise Incentive Scheme (NEIS), protective security, AUSTUDY.

Ms Crawford (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Housing and Regional Development), by leave, moved—That:

(1) this House authorises the publication of the Auditor-General's audit report No. 5 of 1994-95; and

(2) the report be printed.

Question—put and passed.

17 LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBER

Ms Crawford (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Housing and Regional Development) moved—That leave of absence for one month be given to Mr Mack on the ground of ill health.

Question—put and passed.

18 MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

Messages from the Senate, dated 20 October 1994, were reported:

- (a) returning the Education Services for Overseas Students (Registration of Providers and Financial Regulation) Amendment Bill 1994 without amendment—Message No. 345.
- (b) acquainting the House of the following resolution agreed to by the Senate:
That the following matters be referred to the Joint Standing Committee on Migration for inquiry and report on or before 29 November 1994:
 - (a) the manner and method of appointment, re-appointment and non re-appointment of members to the Immigration Review Tribunal; and
 - (b) the effect this process has on community confidence in, and the ability of, the tribunal to perform its duties—Message No. 349.

19 MESSAGES FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR—ASSENT TO BILLS

Messages from His Excellency the Administrator were announced informing the House that His Excellency, in the name of Her Majesty, had assented to the following Bills:

21 October 1994—Message—

No. 197—Customs Tariff (Uranium Concentrate Export Duty) Act Repeal 1994.

No. 198—

National Residue Survey Administration (Meat Chickens) Amendment 1994.

Primary Industries and Energy Legislation Amendment (No. 2) 1994.

Primary Industries Levies and Charges (Wine Grapes) Collection Amendment 1994.

Wine Grapes Levy Amendment 1994.

Vocational Education and Training Funding Amendment 1994.

20 MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL—ASSENT TO BILLS

Messages from His Excellency the Governor-General were announced informing the House that His Excellency, in the name of Her Majesty, had assented to the following Bills:

1 November 1994—Message—

No. 199—Excise Tariff Legislation Amendment 1994.

No. 200—Education Services for Overseas Students (Registration of Providers and Financial Regulation) Amendment 1994.

21 VETERANS' AFFAIRS (1994-95 BUDGET MEASURES) LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1994—REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE

The Deputy Speaker reported that the Veterans' Affairs (1994-95 Budget Measures) Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 1994 had been fully considered in the Main Committee, an Administrator's message recommending an appropriation had been reported, and the Bill had been agreed to without amendment, and presented a certified copy of the Bill.

Bill agreed to.

On the motion of Ms Crawford (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Housing and Regional Development), by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

**22 VETERANS' AFFAIRS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1994—
REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE**

The Deputy Speaker reported that the Veterans' Affairs Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 1994 had been fully considered in the Main Committee, an Administrator's message recommending an appropriation had been reported, and the Bill had been agreed to without amendment, and presented a certified copy of the Bill.

Bill agreed to.

On the motion of Ms Crawford (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Housing and Regional Development), by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

**23 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—MIGRATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT
BILL (NO. 4) 1994**

Message No. 344, dated 18 October 1994, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for "*An Act to amend the 'Migration Act 1958', and for related purposes*".

Bill read a first time.

Paper: Ms Crawford (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Housing and Regional Development) presented a revised explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Ordered—That the second reading be made an order of the day for the next sitting.

**24 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—COMPLAINTS (AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL
POLICE) AMENDMENT BILL 1994**

Message No. 346, dated 19 October 1994, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for "*An Act to amend the 'Complaints (Australian Federal Police) Act 1981', and for related purposes*".

Bill read a first time.

Paper: Ms Crawford (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Housing and Regional Development) presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Ordered—That the second reading be made an order of the day for the next sitting.

**25 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—CRIMES AND OTHER LEGISLATION
AMENDMENT BILL 1994**

Message No. 347, dated 19 October 1994, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for "*An Act to amend various Acts relating to crimes and other matters, and for related purposes*".

Bill read a first time.

Paper: Ms Crawford (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Housing and Regional Development) presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Ordered—That the second reading be made an order of the day for the next sitting.

26 POSTPONEMENT OF NOTICES

Ordered—That notices Nos. 1 and 2, government business, be postponed until the next sitting.

27 AEROSPACE TECHNOLOGIES OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED SALE BILL 1994

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.

Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

Message from the Administrator: Message No. 201, dated 18 October 1994, from His Excellency the Administrator was announced recommending an appropriation for the purposes of the Bill.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Elliott (Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer), the Bill was read a third time.

28 SOCIAL SECURITY (PARENTING ALLOWANCE AND OTHER MEASURES) LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1994

The order of the day having been read for the second reading—Mrs Crosio (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Social Security) moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Mr Ruddock 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 condemns the Government for:

- (1) its inability to solve the unemployment crisis;
- (2) the continued failure to provide adequate assistance to low income families;
- (3) its harsh treatment of older single women with limited employment experience, including the abolition of the widow B pension;
- (4) financially disadvantaging groups of unemployed low income earners by way of changes to the job search/newstart allowance income tests;
- (5) the public confusion created by the introduction of the home child care allowance regime, and the subsequent confusion which will result from the parenting allowance, partner allowance and wife pension changes; and
- (6) its failure to provide additional home child care support to low income families, principally the unemployed”.

Debate continued.

Mr Wakelin addressing the House—

29 ADJOURNMENT

It being 7.30 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until 8 p.m.—The Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 12.30 p.m.

PAPERS

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 7 November 1994: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act—Rules 1994 Regional council election (Amendment) (No. 4).

Aged or Disabled Persons Care Act—Determination No. 1994-95/7.

Antarctic Marine Living Resources Conservation Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1994 No. 345.

Australian Meat and Live-stock Corporation Act—Orders Nos. M71/94, MQ55/94, MQ56/94, MQ57/94.

Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1994 No. 338.

Bounty Acts—Returns for 1993-94 pursuant to the following Acts—

Bounty (Bed Sheeting).

Bounty (Books).

Bounty (Citric Acid).

Bounty (Computers).

Bounty (Machine Tools and Robots).

Bounty (Printed Fabrics).

Bounty (Ships).

Bounty and Capitalisation Grants (Textile Yarns).

Christmas Island Act—Christmas Island Casino Control Ordinance—Approval of forms and financial statements and accounts to be lodged by the casino operator, 28 September 1994.

Civil Aviation (Carriers' Liability) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1994 No. 356.

Civil Aviation Act—Civil Aviation Regulations—Civil Aviation Orders—Parts—

105—Amendments 1994, 11, 12(2), 13(2), 17(6), 19, 20, 26, 28(7), 31(6) October, 1, 2(3), 3 November.

106—Amendments 1994, 13, 17, 31 October.

107—Amendments 1994, 10, 17(2), 18, 19, 31 October.

Coarse Grains Levy Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1994 No. 355.

Construction Industry Reform and Development Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1994 No. 336.

Customs Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1994 No. 351.

Defence Act—Determinations under section 58B 1994 Nos. 47, 48.

Director of Public Prosecutions Act—Ministerial direction under section 8, 3 October 1994.

Export Control Act—Export Control Orders—1994 No. 3.

Family Law Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1994 Nos. 343, 344.

First Home Owners Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1994 No. 347.

Fisheries Levy Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1994 No. 358.

Fishing Levy Act and Fisheries Management Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1994 No. 342.

Foreign Evidence Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1994 No. 333.

Health Insurance Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1994 Nos. 350, 361, 362, 363.

Higher Education Funding Act—Determinations Nos. T22/94, T23/94, T24/94, T25/94, T26/94.

Industrial Relations Act—Rules of Court—Statutory Rules 1994 No. 357.

Insurance (Agents and Brokers) Act—Principles 1994 No. 1.

Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1994 No. 334.

National Health Act—

Determinations 1994 Nos. HIT 11, HIT 12.

Regulations—Statutory Rules 1994 Nos. 348, 349.

Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1994 No. 339.

Plant Breeder's Rights Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1994 Nos. 352, 353.

Primary Industries Levies and Charges Collection Act and Coarse Grains Levy Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1994 No. 354.

Primary Industries Levies and Charges Collection Act, Horticultural Levy Act and Horticultural Export Charge Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1994 No. 337.

Public Service Act—Determination 1994 No. LES 22.

Remuneration Tribunal Act—

Regulations—Statutory Rules 1994 No. 360.

Remuneration Tribunal—Determinations 1994 Nos. 26, 27.

Superannuation Act 1976—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1994 Nos. 335, 346, 359.

Taxation Administration Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1994 No. 340.

Telecommunications Act 1991—Notice under section 247—1994 No. TN 2.

Veterans' Entitlements Act—

Instruments 1994 Nos. 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61.

Regulations—Statutory Rules 1994 No. 341.

ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Braithwaite*, Mr Gorman, Mr Griffin, Mr Griffiths, Mrs Kelly, Mr Kerr, Mr Lavarch, Ms McHugh, Mr Mack*, Mr Sciacca, Mr Snowdon, Mr Staples*, Mr Walker and Mr Willis.

*On leave

L. M. BARLIN

Clerk of the House of Representatives