

1993-94-95

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 131

TUESDAY, 28 MARCH 1995

1 The House met, at 12.30 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Acting Speaker (Mr Jenkins) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

2 MATTERS REFERRED TO MAIN COMMITTEE

Mr McLeay (Chief Government Whip), having amended, by leave, notice No. 1, government business, moved—That the following orders of the day be referred to the Main Committee for debate:

Government business

Shipping in and around the Great Barrier Reef—Ministerial statement—Motion to take note of paper: Resumption of debate.

Committee and delegation reports

Banking, Finance and Public Administration—Standing Committee—Report on the impact of Australia's taxation regime on the tourism industry—Motion to take note of paper: Resumption of debate.

Native Title—Joint Committee—Report on the National Native Title Tribunal annual report 1993-94—Motion to take note of paper: Resumption of debate.

Question—put and passed.

3 COMMUNICATIONS AND THE ARTS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1994

The order of the day having been read for the second reading—Mr Elliott (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Communications and the Arts) moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Debate ensued.

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

Consideration in detail

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole.

Dr Kemp, by leave, moved the following amendments together:

Schedule—

Page 3, omit item 1, substitute the following item:

“1. Subsection 70(1):

Omit ‘The Corporation shall not, without the approval of the Minister’, substitute ‘The Corporation must, not later than 14 days before it enters into a contract referred to in paragraph (a) or (b) as the case may be, notify the Minister that it proposes to’.”.

Page 16, omit item 122, substitute the following item:

“122. Subsection 67(1):

Omit ‘The SBS must not, without the approval of the Minister’, substitute ‘The SBS must, not later than 14 days before it enters into a contract referred to in this subsection, notify the Minister that it proposes to’.”.

Debate continued.

Amendments negatived.

Bill agreed to.

Consideration in detail concluded.

On the motion of Mr Elliott, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

4 VETERANS’ AFFAIRS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 3) 1994

The order of the day having been read for the second reading—Mr Sciacca (Minister for Veterans’ Affairs) moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Debate ensued.

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

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Sciacca, the Bill was read a third time.

5 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

6 AUDITOR-GENERAL’S REPORT—PUBLICATION OF PAPER

The Acting Speaker presented the following paper:

Audit Act—Auditor-General—Audit report No. 25 of 1994-95—Efficiency audit—Australian Defence Force living-in accommodation: Department of Defence.

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

(1) this House authorises the publication of the Auditor-General’s audit report No. 25 of 1994-95; and

(2) the report be printed.

Question—put and passed.

7 PAPERS

The following papers were presented:

Audit Act—Auditor-General—Audit report No. 20 of 1994-95—Audit of the Australian Wheat Board, 1993-94.

Australia’s Development Cooperation Program—New directions in Australia’s overseas aid program—Ministerial statement by Mr Bilney (Minister for Development Cooperation and Pacific Island Affairs), 2 March 1995.

Australian Land Transport Development Act—Australian Land Transport Development Program—Progress report, for 1993-94.

Australian Sports Drug Agency Act—Australian Sports Drug Agency—Operational plan 1994-95.

Fisheries Act—Western Australian Fisheries Joint Authority—Report for 1993.

Land Fund and Indigenous Land Corporation (ATSIC Amendment) Bill 1994—Explanatory memorandum, Part A (*in substitution for paper presented on 28 February 1995*).

Legal and Constitutional Affairs—Standing Committee—Clearer Commonwealth law: Report of the inquiry into legislative drafting by the Commonwealth, 21 July 1993—Interim government response.

War Crimes Act—Report for 1993-94.

8 PAPERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS

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

Australia's Development Cooperation Program—New directions in Australia's overseas aid program—

Ministerial policy paper and 5th annual report, February 1995.

Ministerial statement by Mr Bilney (Minister for Development Cooperation and Pacific Island Affairs), 2 March 1995.

Australian Land Transport Development Act—Australian Land Transport Development Program—Progress report, for 1993-94.

Legal and Constitutional Affairs—Standing Committee—Clearer Commonwealth law: Report of the inquiry into legislative drafting by the Commonwealth, 21 July 1993—Interim government response.

War Crimes Act—Report for 1993-94.

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

9 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—INTEREST RATES

The House was informed that Mr Costello (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The pressure on interest rates caused by the Government's economic failure".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Costello addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

10 ROAD TRANSPORT REFORM (DANGEROUS GOODS) BILL 1994

The order of the day having been read for the second reading—Mr O'Keefe (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Transport) moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Debate ensued.

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

Consideration in detail

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole, and agreed to, after debate.

Consideration in detail concluded.

On the motion of Mr O'Keefe, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

11 MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL—ASSENT TO BILLS

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

28 March 1995—Message No. 250—

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Financial Support Fund) Repeal 1995.

Prawn Export Promotion 1995.

Prawn Export Charge 1995.

Prawn Boat Levy 1995.

12 CORPORATIONS LAW (SECURITIES AND FUTURES) AMENDMENT BILL 1994

The order of the day having been read for the second reading—Mr Duncan (Parliamentary Secretary to the Attorney-General) 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 opposing the Bill, the House deplores the manner in which the Government and the Attorney-General have handled the Bill to date, and in particular condemns:

- (1) the inappropriate provisions contained in the Bill for facilitating the ASX's desire to trade share ratios;
- (2) the initial attempt to pass the amendments without consultation;
- (3) the Government's clear inability to come to grips with the regulation of derivatives in Australia; and
- (4) the Attorney-General's administrative bungling of the proposed legislation”.

Debate continued.

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

13 TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT (DROUGHT RELIEF MEASURES) BILL 1995

Mr Snowdon (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for the Environment, Sport and Territories) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to taxation.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

14 ADJOURNMENT

Mr Snowdon (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for the Environment, Sport and Territories) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until 8 p.m.—The Acting Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 9.30 a.m.

PAPERS

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 28 March 1995:

Air Navigation Act—Determination 1995 No. 1.

Public Service Act—Determinations 1995 Nos. 16, 17, 18, 19, 32.

Superannuation Act 1976—Determinations under section—

240—No. 2.

241—No. 2.

ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Bilney, Mr Brereton, Mr Crean, Mr Free, Mr Holding, Mr Howe, Mr Johns, Mr Keating, Mr Langmore, Mr McArthur, Mr Martin, Mr Rocher, Mr Sawford, Mr Somlyay, Mr Tickner and Mr Walker.

L. M. BARLIN

Clerk of the House of Representatives