

1996

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS**

No. 8

MONDAY, 20 MAY 1996

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

**2 BLAXLAND ELECTORAL DIVISION—ISSUE OF WRIT**

The Speaker informed the House that he had issued a writ on 13 May 1996 for the election of a Member to serve for the electoral division of Blaxland, in the State of New South Wales, in place of Mr Keating. The dates in connection with the election were fixed as follows:

Close of roll .....Monday, 20 May 1996.

Date of nominations .....Friday, 24 May 1996.

Date of polling .....Saturday, 15 June 1996.

Return of writ .....On or before Wednesday, 21 August 1996.

**3 ELECTION PETITIONS**

The Clerk presented copies of election petitions which he had received from the Registrar of the High Court, sitting as the Court of Disputed Returns, under section 369 of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*, viz.:

Petition of Warren Snowdon in the matter of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* and the election of a member for the Division of the Northern Territory (No. S95 of 1996)

Petition of Paul Anthony Keith Stevenage in respect of the election of a member of the House of Representatives for the Division of Moore (No. P26 of 1996).

**4 PUBLIC SERVICE (PARLIAMENTARY DEPARTMENTS) AMENDMENT BILL 1996**

Mr Martin, pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Public Service Act 1922*, and for related purposes.

Mr Martin made a statement in relation to the Bill.

*Paper:* Mr Martin, by leave, presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Bill read a first time.

Ordered—That the second reading be made an order of the day for the next sitting, in accordance with standing order 104A.

## 5 WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS

Mr R. D. C. Evans, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House:

- (1) celebrates 1996 marking the 75th anniversary of Edith Cowan entering the Western Australian Parliament;
- (2) acknowledges that Edith Cowan was the first woman to enter any Australian parliament;
- (3) congratulates the largest contingent of women parliamentarians ever to enter the federal Parliament, formed from the 1996 federal election;
- (4) recognises that the majority of these new parliamentarians enter Parliament on their own abilities without the need of a quota system; and
- (5) encourages more female Australians to enter the service of their country by active participation within the political process.

Debate ensued.

It being 1.45 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with standing order 101A, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

## 6 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Members' statements were made.

## 7 MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Mr Howard (Prime Minister) informed the House that, during the absence of Mr Costello (Treasurer), Mr Fahey (Minister for Finance) would answer questions on his behalf.

## 8 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice being asked—

*Paper:* Mr K. J. Thomson, in accordance with standing order 321, having called for a document quoted from by Mr Fahey (Minister for Finance)—

Mr Fahey presented the following paper:

Budget deficit—Question time brief, 14 May 1996.

Questions without notice continued.

*Paper:* Mr McLeay, in accordance with standing order 321, having called for a document quoted from by Mr Fahey—

Mr Fahey presented the following paper:

Telstra—Democrats proposal—Question time brief.

Questions without notice continued.

*Paper:* Dr Kemp (Minister for Schools, Vocational Education and Training) presented the following paper:

Labour Market Program funding—1995-96—Copy of minute from Mr D. A. Hollway, Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs to area managers, 9 May 1996.

Questions without notice continued.

## 9 PETITIONS

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

Mr McGauran, Mr Neville, Mr Slipper and Mr Truss, from 22, 89, 9 and 57 petitioners, respectively, praying that the exclusiveness of marriage as being between one male and one female be preserved and that the Marriage Act be amended to prohibit certain marriages.

Mr Adams, from 82 petitioners, praying that Australia's foreign aid program focus on direct poverty eradication and that the overseas aid budget attain 0.7 per cent of gross national product by the year 2000.

Mr Langmore, from 47 petitioners, praying that an Australian Embassy be established urgently in the Republic of Croatia.

Mr Neville, from 195 petitioners, praying that the Child Support Assessment Act be repealed and replaced with a system which provides an incentive for child support payees to keep working.

Mr Sinclair, from 22 private domiciliary nursing service providers and other members of the community in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory, praying that private domiciliary nursing care in New South Wales by registered nurses be continued to those who are entitled to it.

Dr Southcott, from 46 petitioners, praying that certain action be taken to promote the recognition of human rights in Sudan.

Mr Truss, from 300 petitioners, praying that the Gunalda Range section of the Bruce Highway in Queensland be upgraded.

Mr Truss, from 64 residents of Queensland, praying that ABC Television reinstate State-based versions of the "7.30 Report".

Mr Tuckey, from 9 petitioners, praying that certain legislative action be taken to prevent the transmission of indecent or obscene material on the information superhighway.

Mr Wakelin, from 302 residents of South Australia, praying that funding be provided for the installation of automatic warning devices at the level crossing at Abattoirs Road, Warnertown, SA.

Petitions received.

## 10 ITALIAN GENERAL ELECTIONS

Mr Brown, pursuant to notice, moved—That the House:

- (1) congratulates Romano Prodi, Massimo D'Alema and all members of the Olive Tree coalition for their magnificent win in the Italian general elections;
- (2) acknowledges the results as the most significant national success of the political Left in Italy since World War II;
- (3) conveys its best wishes for the success of the Government in pursuing social and constitutional reform; and
- (4) recognises that this historic change represents a rejection by the Italian electorate of the sterility of political conservatism and a pursuit of political stability.

Mr Sinclair moved, as an amendment—That paragraphs (2), (3) and (4) be omitted from the motion.

Debate continued.

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.

## 11 LEARNING DISORDERS

Mr R. D. C. Evans, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House:

- (1) give consideration to the problems associated with the disabling conditions of dyslexia and attention deficit disorders in primary school children;
- (2) undertake to heighten the awareness of the prevalence and the adverse effects of learning and behaviour/attention disorders, in particular raising Government awareness that a significant percentage of primary school children are unable to benefit from current classroom instruction in the early years of school as a result of learning and attention disorders and that subsequently this population is found unable to benefit from secondary education; and
- (3) conduct an inquiry through the relevant parliamentary standing committee into these disorders and their effects with a view to recommending preventive and remedial measures which will enable child learning and attention disability to be addressed optimally and that the terms of reference cover but not necessarily be restricted to:
  - (a) the incidence, within the Australian primary school population, of learning disorders consistent with the diagnostic category of dyslexia and attention deficit disorder or subtypes of these disorders;
  - (b) the findings which correlate learning disorder/behavioural/attention disorder and illiteracy;

- (c) the findings which correlate illiteracy/behavioural/attention disorder with the adolescent problems of unemployment, crime and youth suicide; and
- (d) the methods by which these disorders are currently treated and the facilities available to the classroom teacher to provide beneficial instruction.

Debate ensued.

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

## 12 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.

The time allotted for the debate having expired—

Question—That grievances be noted—put and passed.

## 13 AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORTS—PUBLICATION OF PAPERS

The Deputy Speaker presented the following papers:

Audit Act—Auditor-General—Audit reports of 1995-96—Performance audits—

No. 23—Procurement of training services: Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs.

No. 24—Impact of sunset clause on investigatory powers: Health Insurance Commission.

Mr Ruddock (Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs), by leave, moved—That:

- (1) this House authorises the publication of the Auditor-General's audit reports Nos. 23 and 24 of 1995-96; and
- (2) the reports be printed.

Question—put and passed.

## 14 MAIN COMMITTEE—DAY OF NEXT MEETING

The Deputy Speaker reported that Wednesday, 22 May 1996, at 10 a.m., had been fixed for the next meeting of the Main Committee.

## 15 SUPPLY BILL (NO. 1) 1996-97

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.

Mr Cobb addressing the House—

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## 16 ADJOURNMENT

It being 10.30 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until 11 p.m.—The Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 2 p.m.

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## PAPERS

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 20 May 1996:

Christmas Island Act—Casino Control Ordinance—Appointment of—  
Casino Controller, 3 May 1996.

Deputy Casino Controllers, 3 May 1996.

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

Exemptions 1996 Nos. 132/FRS/144/1996, 133/FRS/145/1996,

134/FRS/146/1996, 135/FRS/147/1996, 136/FRS/148/1996,

137/FRS/149/1996, 138/FRS/150/1996, 139/FRS/151/1996.

Defence Act—Determinations under section 58B 1996 Nos. 13, 14, 15, 16, 17,  
18.

Endangered Species Protection Act—Declarations under section 18 Nos.  
96/ESP2, 96/ESP3, 96/ESP4.

Fisheries Management Act—

Determination No. SBT 02.

Directions Nos. NPDF 09, NPDF 10.

Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery Management Plan 1995—Determination of the  
provisional national catch allocation for 1995-96.

Lands Acquisition Act—Statement under section 125.

Meat and Live-stock Industry Act—Order No. L16/96.

Ozone Protection Act—Exemptions under section 40, 18 December 1995 (7).

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

*Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act 1995*—Except  
sections 1 and 2—1 January 1996.

*First Corporate Law Simplification Act 1995*—Sections 3, 4, 5 and 6 and  
Schedules 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7—9 December 1995.

*Health and Other Services (Compensation) Act 1995*—1 February 1996.

*Industrial Relations and other Legislation Amendment Act 1995*—Schedules  
other than Schedules 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10—15 January 1996.

*Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Legislation Amendment Act 1995—*  
Items 8, 9, 13 to 24, 72 and 79 to 94 and paragraphs 95(d) and 96(c) of  
Schedule 5—19 April 1996.

Public Service Act—Determinations 1996 Nos. 21, 22, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30,  
65, 68, 69, 105, LES 9, LES 10, LES 11.

Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act—Notice 1996 No. CA1.

Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Act—Determination 1996 No.  
SGD96/1.

Taxation Administration Act—

Determinations 1996 Nos. TD 96/12, TD 96/18, TD 96/19, TD 96/20, TD  
96/21.

Ruling 1996 No. TR 96/14.



#### ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Costello, Mr  
Neville and Mr Tuckey.



**L. M. BARLIN**

Clerk of the House of Representatives