

1996

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 36

WEDNESDAY, 9 OCTOBER 1996

1 The House met, at 9.30 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (the Honourable Bob Halverson) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

2 STANDING COMMITTEES—MEMBERSHIP

The House was informed of the nominations of Members to be members of the following standing committees:

Communications, Transport and Microeconomic Reform

Ms D. S. Vale had been nominated by the Chief Government Whip, in place of Mr R. C. Baldwin.

Industry, Science and Technology

Mrs Johnston had been nominated by the Chief Government Whip, in place of Mr Broadbent.

Legal and Constitutional Affairs

Mrs Johnston had been nominated by the Chief Government Whip, in place of Mr Broadbent.

3 SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS—ROUTINE OF BUSINESS FOR 10 OCTOBER 1996

Mr Reith (Leader of the House), pursuant to notice, moved—That for the sitting on Thursday, 10 October 1996, so much of the standing and sessional orders be suspended as would prevent the routine of business being as follows, unless otherwise ordered:

1. Members' statements.
2. Grievance debate (at 9.45 a.m.).
3. Notices, government business (at 11.05 a.m.).
4. Reports from committees.
5. Notices and orders of the day, government business.
6. Questions without notice (at 2 p.m.).
7. Presentation of papers.
8. Ministerial statements, by leave.

9. Matter of public importance.
 10. Notices and orders of the day, government business.
- Question—put and passed.

4 BILLS REFERRED TO MAIN COMMITTEE

Mr Cadman (Chief Government Whip), pursuant to notice, moved—That the following Bills be referred to the Main Committee for consideration:

CFM Sale 1996; and

Statute Law Revision 1996.

Debate ensued.

Mr Latham rising to address the House—

Closure: Mr McGauran (Minister for Science and Technology) moved—That the question be now put.

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

And the question—That the motion be agreed to—was put accordingly, and passed.

5 SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS MOVED

Mr Melham moved—That so much of the standing and sessional orders be suspended as would prevent the Member for Banks moving forthwith—That this House:

- (1) reaffirms its commitment to the goals and processes of Aboriginal reconciliation and the importance of reconciliation to the future of the nation;
- (2) consistent with paragraph (e) of the Preamble to the *Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation Act 1991*, calls on all Australian governments to accept an ongoing national commitment to address Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander disadvantage and achieving their aspirations and to agree to set down benchmarks by which to measure the performance of all governments in honouring their commitments;
- (3) welcomes the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation's intention to convene an Australian Reconciliation Convention in Melbourne in May 1997 on the 30th anniversary of the 1967 referendum to consider the benefit to the Australian community as a whole of a document or documents of reconciliation between the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the wider Australian community; and
- (4) undertakes to support the work of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation in the fulfilment of its obligations under the Act.

Closure of Member: Mr McGauran (Minister for Science and Technology) moved—That the Member be not further heard.

Question—put.

The House divided (the Second Deputy Speaker, Mr Jenkins, in the Chair)—

AYES, 80

Mr Abbott	Mr Dondas	Mr Katter	Mr Randall
Mr Anderson	Mr Downer	Mrs D. M. Kelly	Mr Reith
Mr J. N. Andrew	Mrs Elson	Dr Kemp	Mr Ronaldson
Mr K. J. Andrews	Mr Entsch	Mr Lieberman	Mr Sinclair
Mr Anthony	Mr R. D. C. Evans	Mr Lindsay	Mr Slipper
Mrs Bailey	Mr Fahey	Mr Lloyd	Mr A. C. Smith
Mr R. C. Baldwin	Mr Fischer	Mr McArthur*	Mr Somlyay
Mr Barresi	Mrs Gallus	Mr McDougall	Dr Southcott
Mr Bartlett	Ms Gambaro	Mr McGauran	Mrs Stone
Mr Billson	Mrs Gash	Mr Marek	Mr Taylor
Mrs Bishop	Mr Georgiou	Mr Moore	Mr Truss
Mr Bradford	Mrs E. J. Grace	Mrs Moylan	Mr Tuckey
Mr Broadbent	Ms Hanson	Mr Mutch	Mr M. A. J. Vaile
Mr Brough	Mr Hardgrave	Mr Nairn	Ms D. S. Vale
Mr Cadman	Mr Hawker	Mr Nehl	Mr Wakelin
Mr R. A. Cameron	Mr Hicks*	Dr Nelson	Mrs West
Mr Causley	Mr Hockey	Mr Neville	Mr Williams
Mr Charles	Ms Jeanes	Mr Nugent	Dr Wooldridge
Mr Cobb	Mrs Johnston	Mr Prosser	Ms Worth
Mr Costello	Mr Jull	Mr Pyne	Mr Zammit

NOES, 41

Mr Adams	Mr Fitzgibbon	Ms Macklin	Mr Quick
Mr Albanese	Mr E. L. Grace*	Mr McLeay	Mr Sawford*
Mr P. J. Baldwin	Mr Griffin	Mr McMullan	Mr Sercombe
Mr Beddall	Mr Holding	Mr Martin	Mr S. F. Smith
Mr Bevis	Mr Hollis	Mr Melham	Mr Tanner
Mr Crean	Mr Kerr	Mr A. A. Morris	Dr Theophanous
Ms Ellis	Mr Langmore	Mr P. F. Morris	Mr K. J. Thomson
Mr G. J. Evans	Mr Latham	Mr Mossfield	Mr Wilton
Mr M. J. Evans	Dr Lawrence	Mr O'Connor	
Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Mr Lee	Mr O'Keefe	
Mr M. J. Ferguson	Mr McClelland	Mr Price	

* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Mr Kerr (seconder) addressing the House—

Closure of Member: Mr McGauran moved—That the Member be not further heard.

Question—put.

The House divided (the Second Deputy Speaker, Mr Jenkins, in the Chair)—

AYES, 80

Mr Abbott	Mr Dondas	Mr Katter	Mr Randall
Mr Anderson	Mr Downer	Mrs D. M. Kelly	Mr Reith
Mr J. N. Andrew	Mrs Elson	Dr Kemp	Mr Ronaldson
Mr K. J. Andrews	Mr Entsch	Mr Lieberman	Mr Sinclair
Mr Anthony	Mr R. D. C. Evans	Mr Lindsay	Mr Slipper
Mrs Bailey	Mr Fahey	Mr Lloyd	Mr A. C. Smith
Mr R. C. Baldwin	Mr Fischer	Mr McArthur*	Mr Somlyay
Mr Barresi	Mrs Gallus	Mr McDougall	Dr Southcott
Mr Bartlett	Ms Gambaro	Mr McGauran	Mrs Stone
Mr Billson	Mrs Gash	Mr Marek	Mr Taylor
Mrs Bishop	Mr Georgiou	Mr Moore	Mr Truss
Mr Bradford	Mrs E. J. Grace	Mrs Moylan	Mr Tuckey
Mr Broadbent	Ms Hanson	Mr Mutch	Mr M. A. J. Vaile
Mr Brough	Mr Hardgrave	Mr Nairn	Ms D. S. Vale
Mr Cadman	Mr Hawker	Mr Nehl	Mr Wakelin
Mr R. A. Cameron	Mr Hicks*	Dr Nelson	Mrs West
Mr Causley	Mr Hockey	Mr Neville	Mr Williams
Mr Charles	Ms Jeanes	Mr Nugent	Dr Wooldridge
Mr Cobb	Mrs Johnston	Mr Prosser	Ms Worth
Mr Costello	Mr Jull	Mr Pyne	Mr Zammit

NOES, 41

Mr Adams	Mr Fitzgibbon	Ms Macklin	Mr Quick
Mr Albanese	Mr E. L. Grace*	Mr McLeay	Mr Sawford*
Mr P. J. Baldwin	Mr Griffin	Mr McMullan	Mr Sercombe
Mr Beddall	Mr Holding	Mr Martin	Mr S. F. Smith
Mr Bevis	Mr Hollis	Mr Melham	Mr Tanner
Mr Crean	Mr Kerr	Mr A. A. Morris	Dr Theophanous
Ms Ellis	Mr Langmore	Mr P. F. Morris	Mr K. J. Thomson
Mr G. J. Evans	Mr Latham	Mr Mossfield	Mr Wilton
Mr M. J. Evans	Dr Lawrence	Mr O'Connor	
Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Mr Lee	Mr O'Keefe	
Mr M. J. Ferguson	Mr McClelland	Mr Price	

* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Debate continued.

The time allowed by standing order 91 for debate on the motion having expired—

Question—put.

The House divided (the Second Deputy Speaker, Mr Jenkins, in the Chair)—

AYES, 41

Mr Adams	Mr Fitzgibbon	Ms Macklin	Mr Quick
Mr Albanese	Mr E. L. Grace*	Mr McLeay	Mr Sawford*
Mr P. J. Baldwin	Mr Griffin	Mr McMullan	Mr Sercombe
Mr Beddall	Mr Holding	Mr Martin	Mr S. F. Smith
Mr Bevis	Mr Hollis	Mr Melham	Mr Tanner
Mr Crean	Mr Kerr	Mr A. A. Morris	Dr Theophanous
Ms Ellis	Mr Langmore	Mr P. F. Morris	Mr K. J. Thomson
Mr G. J. Evans	Mr Latham	Mr Mossfield	Mr Wilton
Mr M. J. Evans	Dr Lawrence	Mr O'Connor	
Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Mr Lee	Mr O'Keefe	
Mr M. J. Ferguson	Mr McClelland	Mr Price	

NOES, 80

Mr Abbott	Mr Downer	Mr Jull	Mr Randall
Mr Anderson	Mrs Draper	Mr Katter	Mr Reith
Mr J. N. Andrew	Mrs Elson	Mrs D. M. Kelly	Mr Ronaldson
Mr K. J. Andrews	Mr Entsch	Dr Kemp	Mr Sinclair
Mr Anthony	Mr R. D. C. Evans	Mr Lieberman	Mr Slipper
Mrs Bailey	Mr Fahey	Mr Lindsay	Mr A. C. Smith
Mr R. C. Baldwin	Mr Filing	Mr Lloyd	Mr Somlyay
Mr Barresi	Mr Fischer	Mr McArthur*	Dr Southcott
Mr Bartlett	Mrs Gallus	Mr McDougall	Mrs Stone
Mr Billson	Mrs Gambaro	Mr McGauran	Mr Taylor
Mrs Bishop	Mrs Gash	Mr Marek	Mr Truss
Mr Broadbent	Mr Georgiou	Mr Moylan	Mr Tuckey
Mr Brough	Mrs E. J. Grace	Mr Mutch	Mr M. A. J. Vaile
Mr Cadman	Mrs Hanson	Mr Nairn	Ms D. S. Vale
Mr R. A. Cameron	Mr Hardgrave	Mr Nehl	Mr Wakelin
Mr Causley	Mr Hawker	Dr Nelson	Mrs West
Mr Charles	Mr Hicks*	Mr Neville	Mr Williams
Mr Cobb	Mr Hockey	Mr Nugent	Dr Wooldridge
Mr Costello	Ms Jeanes	Mr Prosser	Ms Worth
Mr Dondas	Mrs Johnston	Mr Pyne	Mr Zammit

* Tellers

And so it was negatived.

6 INCOME TAX RATES AMENDMENT (FAMILY TAX INITIATIVE) BILL 1996

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 Mr G. J. Evans (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:*

- (1) notes that only a limited proportion of family types receive the full benefits of the so-called Family Tax Initiative;
- (2) expresses its concerns that other Budget measures leave the average Australian family substantially worse off;

- (3) notes with concern that the Government is only returning to PAYE taxpayers a small proportion of bracket creep/fiscal drag revenue collections via this Bill; and
- (4) expresses its concern that this and other Budget-related measures have established very high Effective Marginal Tax Rates for non-working parents returning to the workforce”—

Debate resumed.

Amendment negatived.

Question—That the Bill be now read a second time—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Abbott (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs), the Bill was read a third time.

7 FAMILY (TAX INITIATIVE) BILL 1996

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—

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

Message from the Governor-General: Message No. 44, dated 17 September 1996, from His Excellency the Governor-General 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 Abbott (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs), the Bill was read a third time.

8 SOCIAL SECURITY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (BUDGET AND OTHER MEASURES) BILL 1996

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.

It being 2 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 a later hour this day.

9 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice being asked—

Mr M. J. Ferguson having asked a question without notice—

Speaker's ruling: The Speaker ruled that the question was out of order.

Dissent from ruling moved: Mr Beazley (Leader of the Opposition) moved—That the ruling be dissented from.

Mr Crean (seconder) addressing the House—

Closure of Member: Mr Reith (Leader of the House) moved—That the Member be not further heard.

Question—put.

The House divided (the Speaker, Mr Halverson, in the Chair)—

AYES, 87

Mr Abbott	Mr Downer	Dr Kemp	Mr Scott
Mr Anderson	Mrs Draper	Mr Lieberman	Mr Sharp
Mr Andren	Mrs Elson	Mr Lindsay	Mr Sinclair
Mr J. N. Andrew	Mr Entsch	Mr Lloyd	Mr Slipper
Mr K. J. Andrews	Mr R. D. C. Evans	Mr McArthur*	Mr A. C. Smith
Mr Anthony	Mr Fahey	Mr McDougall	Mr W. L. Smith
Mrs Bailey	Mr Fischer	Mr McGauran	Mr Somlyay
Mr R. C. Baldwin	Mrs Gallus	Mr Marek	Dr Southcott
Mr Barresi	Ms Gambaro	Mr Moore	Mrs Stone
Mr Bartlett	Mrs Gash	Mrs Moylan	Mrs Sullivan
Mr Billson	Mr Georgiou	Mr Mutch	Mr Taylor
Mrs Bishop	Mrs E. J. Grace	Mr Nairn	Mr Truss
Mr Bradford	Ms Hanson	Mr Nehl	Mr Tuckey
Mr Broadbent	Mr Hardgrave	Dr Nelson	Mr M. A. J. Vaile
Mr Brough	Mr Hawker	Mr Neville	Ms D. S. Vale
Mr Cadman	Mr Hicks*	Mr Nugent	Mr Wakelin
Mr R. A. Cameron	Mr Hockey	Mr Prosser	Mrs West
Mr Causley	Mr Howard	Mr Pyne	Mr Williams
Mr Charles	Ms Jeanes	Mr Randall	Dr Wooldridge
Mr Cobb	Mrs Johnston	Mr Reith	Ms Worth
Mr Costello	Mr Jull	Mr Rocher	Mr Zammit
Mr Dondas	Mrs D. M. Kelly	Mr Ronaldson	

NOES, 43

Mr Adams	Mr M. J. Ferguson	Mr Lee	Mr O'Keefe
Mr Albanese	Mr Fitzgibbon	Mr McClelland	Mr Price
Mr P. J. Baldwin	Mr E. L. Grace*	Ms Macklin	Mr Quick
Mr Beazley	Mr Griffin	Mr McLeay	Mr Sawford*
Mr Beddall	Mr Holding	Mr McMullan	Mr Sercombe
Mr Bevis	Mr Hollis	Mr Martin	Mr S. F. Smith
Mr Crean	Mr Jenkins	Mr Melham	Mr Tanner
Ms Ellis	Mr Kerr	Mr A. A. Morris	Dr Theophanous
Mr G. J. Evans	Mr Langmore	Mr P. F. Morris	Mr K. J. Thomson
Mr M. J. Evans	Mr Latham	Mr Mossfield	Mr Wilton
Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Dr Lawrence	Mr O'Connor	

* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Debate continued.

Question—That the ruling be dissented from—put.

The House divided (the Speaker, Mr Halverson, in the Chair)—

AYES, 42

Mr Adams	Mr M. J. Ferguson	Mr Lee	Mr O'Keefe
Mr Albanese	Mr Fitzgibbon	Mr McClelland	Mr Price
Mr P. J. Baldwin	Mr E. L. Grace*	Ms Macklin	Mr Sawford*
Mr Beazley	Mr Griffin	Mr McLeay	Mr Sercombe
Mr Beddall	Mr Holding	Mr McMullan	Mr S. F. Smith
Mr Bevis	Mr Hollis	Mr Martin	Mr Tanner
Mr Crean	Mr Jenkins	Mr Melham	Dr Theophanous
Ms Ellis	Mr Kerr	Mr A. A. Morris	Mr K. J. Thomson
Mr G. J. Evans	Mr Langmore	Mr P. F. Morris	Mr Wilton
Mr M. J. Evans	Mr Latham	Mr Mossfield	
Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Dr Lawrence	Mr O'Connor	

NOES, 88

Mr Abbott	Mrs Draper	Mrs D. M. Kelly	Mr Ronaldson
Mr Anderson	Mrs Elson	Dr Kemp	Mr Scott
Mr J. N. Andrew	Mr Entsch	Mr Lieberman	Mr Sharp
Mr K. J. Andrews	Mr R. D. C. Evans	Mr Lindsay	Mr Sinclair
Mr Anthony	Mr Fahey	Mr Lloyd	Mr Slipper
Mrs Bailey	Mr Filing	Mr McArthur*	Mr A. C. Smith
Mr R. C. Baldwin	Mr Fischer	Mr McDougall	Mr W. L. Smith
Mr Barresi	Mrs Gallus	Mr McGauran	Mr Somlyay
Mr Bartlett	Ms Gambaro	Mr Marek	Dr Southcott
Mr Billson	Mrs Gash	Mr Moore	Mrs Stone
Mrs Bishop	Mr Georgiou	Mrs Moylan	Mrs Sullivan
Mr Bradford	Mrs E. J. Grace	Mr Mutch	Mr Taylor
Mr Broadbent	Ms Hanson	Mr Nairn	Mr Truss
Mr Brough	Mr Hardgrave	Mr Nehl	Mr Tuckey
Mr Cadman	Mr Hawker	Dr Nelson	Mr M. A. J. Vaile
Mr R. A. Cameron	Mr Hicks*	Mr Neville	Ms D. S. Vale
Mr Causley	Mr Hockey	Mr Nugent	Mr Wakelin
Mr Charles	Mr Howard	Mr Prosser	Mrs West
Mr Cobb	Ms Jeanes	Mr Pyne	Mr Williams
Mr Costello	Mrs Johnston	Mr Randall	Dr Wooldridge
Mr Dondas	Mr Jull	Mr Reith	Ms Worth
Mr Downer	Mr Katter	Mr Rocher	Mr Zammit

* Tellers

And so it was negatived.

Questions without notice concluded.

10 PRIME MINISTER—VISIT TO INDONESIA AND JAPAN AND THE SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

Mr Howard (Prime Minister), by leave, made a ministerial statement concerning his recent visit to Indonesia and Japan and the South Pacific Forum and presented the following paper:

Prime Minister—Visit to Indonesia and Japan and the South Pacific Forum—Ministerial statement, 9 October 1996.

Mr Reith (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the paper.

Debate ensued.

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

11 AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL AUDIT OFFICE—REPORT—PUBLICATION OF PAPER

The Speaker presented the following paper:

Audit Act—Auditor-General—Australian National Audit Office—Report for 1995-96.

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

- (1) this House authorises the publication of the report of the Australian National Audit Office for 1995-96; and
- (2) the report be printed.

Question—put and passed.

12 PAPERS

The following papers were presented:

Industrial Relations Act—Enterprise bargaining in Australia—Report for 1995.

Insurance and Superannuation Commission—Report for 1995-96.

International Air Services Commission Act—International Air Services Commission—Report for 1995-96.

Meat Research Corporation Act—Meat Research Corporation—Report for 1995-96.

Murray-Darling Basin Act—Murray-Darling Basin Commission—Report for 1995-96.

Official Establishments Trust—Report for 1995-96.

Poultry Industry Assistance Act—Report for 1995-96.

Public Service Act—Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet—Report for 1995-96.

13 PAPERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS

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

Industrial Relations Act—Enterprise bargaining in Australia—Report for 1995.

Public Service Act—Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet—Report for 1995-96.

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

14 MAIN COMMITTEE—DAY OF NEXT MEETING

The Speaker reported that the Deputy Speaker had fixed Thursday, 10 October 1996, at 10 a.m., for the next meeting of the Main Committee.

15 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—UNIVERSITY FUNDING

The House was informed that Mr Latham had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, “The damage to Australia’s economy and trading prospects from the reduction in university funding in the 1996 Budget, thereby reducing training and employment opportunities in regional Australia”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Latham addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

16 SOCIAL SECURITY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 1) 1996

Dr Wooldridge (Minister for Health and Family Services), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to social security, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

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

17 NATIONAL HEALTH (BUDGET MEASURES) AMENDMENT BILL 1996

Dr Wooldridge (Minister for Health and Family Services), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *National Health Act 1953*.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

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

18 BANKRUPTCY AMENDMENT BILL 1996

Mr Williams (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to bankruptcy, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

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

19 BANKRUPTCY (ESTATE CHARGES) BILL 1996

Mr Williams (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) presented a Bill for an Act to impose charges in relation to certain matters under the *Bankruptcy Act 1966*.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

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

20 BANKRUPTCY (REGISTRATION CHARGES) BILL 1996

Mr Williams (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) presented a Bill for an Act to impose charges in relation to the registration of trustees under the *Bankruptcy Act 1966*.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

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

21 EDUCATION SERVICES FOR OVERSEAS STUDENTS (REGISTRATION CHARGES) BILL 1996

Mr Abbott (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs) presented a Bill for an Act to impose registration charges in relation to the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

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

22 EDUCATION SERVICES FOR OVERSEAS STUDENTS (REGISTRATION OF PROVIDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATION) AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1996

Mr Abbott (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Education Services for Overseas Students (Registration of Providers and Financial Regulation) Act 1991*, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

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

23 HIGHER EDUCATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1996

Mr Abbott (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend legislation relating to higher education, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

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

24 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1996-97—REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE

The Deputy Speaker reported that the Main Committee had been unable to complete consideration of the Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 1996-97 and returned the Bill with an unresolved question (*see item No. 2, Minutes of Proceedings of the Main Committee*), and presented a certified copy of the Bill together with a schedule of the unresolved question.

Unresolved question—That further proceedings be conducted in the House—put and passed.

Ordered—That the further consideration of the Bill be made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

25 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 2) 1996-97—REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE

The Deputy Speaker reported that the Main Committee had been unable to complete consideration of the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 1996-97 and returned the Bill with an unresolved question (*see item No. 3, Minutes of Proceedings of the Main Committee*), and presented a certified copy of the Bill together with a schedule of the unresolved question.

Unresolved question—That further proceedings be conducted in the House—put and passed.

Ordered—That the further consideration of the Bill be made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

26 APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENTARY DEPARTMENTS) BILL 1996-97—REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE

The Deputy Speaker reported that the Main Committee had been unable to complete consideration of the Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) Bill 1996-97 and returned the Bill with an unresolved question (*see item No. 4, Minutes of Proceedings of the Main Committee*), and presented a certified copy of the Bill together with a schedule of the unresolved question.

Unresolved question—That further proceedings be conducted in the House—put and passed.

Ordered—That the further consideration of the Bill be made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

27 FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT ON PROVISION OF ACADEMIC STUDIES AND PROFESSIONAL MILITARY EDUCATION TO OFFICER CADETS AND OFFICERS OF THE AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE—GOVERNMENT RESPONSE—REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE

The Deputy Speaker reported that the Main Committee had returned the order of the day relating to the motion to take note of the government response to the report of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade on the provision of academic studies and professional military education to officer cadets and officers of the Australian Defence Force with an unresolved question (*see item No. 5, Minutes of Proceedings of the Main Committee*).

Unresolved question—That further proceedings be conducted in the House—put and passed.

Ordered—That the further consideration of the matter be made an order of the day for the next sitting.

28 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1996-97—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 Mr G. J. Evans (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 that:*

- (1) the Budget betrays the Australian promise of working towards a more fair, just, inclusive and united society;
- (2) the Budget is both mindless and heartless, and its prescriptions are not what the Australian economy needs at present;
- (3) the Budget will have a savagely contractionary impact on economic growth and make impossible the job creation necessary to reduce Australia’s still unacceptably high level of unemployment;
- (4) with stronger economic growth the Budget could be restored to underlying balance over the life of this Parliament through a much more moderate program of fiscal consolidation;
- (5) the spending cuts and tax increases contained in the Budget are, on the evidence of the Government’s own Budget Papers, not necessary to reduce the Commonwealth Government’s debt-to-GDP ratio and will not produce a significant improvement in the current account deficit;
- (6) the Budget not only offers no hope to the unemployed but actively harms their prospects of finding a job by cutting labour market programs and

- privatising the previously publicly provided employment service function of the CES;
- (7) the Budget will have unfair and unjust consequences for the struggling and disadvantaged in our midst—the poor, the old, the sick, indigenous Australians and newly-arrived migrants;
 - (8) the many spending cuts concerned with education and training, research and development, trade development (including breaches of promise with respect to EMDG, ITES and IAMP), production bounties, and other business support, will be counter-productive in their longer term consequences;
 - (9) there is deception involved in the family tax package contained in the Budget, whereby what the Prime Minister appears to be putting into one pocket is for most middle Australian families being taken right out of the other by the Treasurer in higher education fees, Austudy changes, higher nursing home charges, higher fees and charges;
 - (10) there are many breaches of Coalition election promises contained in this Budget, which amount to over \$17 billion over four years, and which will cause hardship, insecurity and dismay for millions of Australians;
 - (11) the Budget involves a massive betrayal of regional Australia through the abolition of the \$150 million regional development program, large cuts to road funding, the closure of regional Government offices such as Medicare and CES offices, and the cuts to the ABC and university funding;
 - (12) the mean-spirited decision to introduce large, up-front entry fees and massively increased daily fees for nursing homes, and increase user-charges will harm elderly Australians;
 - (13) the abolition of Childcare Operational Subsidies will impact heavily upon community based child care centres;
 - (14) the reduction of \$800 million over four years in public hospital funding will cause longer waiting lists for the sick and reduce the quality of hospital and medical assistance for millions of people;
 - (15) the Budget involves a breaking of the Government's so called 'core' commitment to maintain Medicare in its entirety through cuts to rebates for numerous items under Medicare;
 - (16) the cruel decision to abolish the Commonwealth Dental Health Program will cause serious problems for the less well off;
 - (17) harsh and promise-breaking decisions will force Australian families to pay substantially more for the cost of their prescription medicines;
 - (18) the massive funding cuts to education, the increased HECS charges and AUSTUDY changes will penalise the less well-off;
 - (19) the Budget's comprehensive and ideological assault on the public sector will cost 10 500 jobs in 1996-97 alone;

- (20) the Government has failed to honour its election commitment to maintain the environment budget and to provide an additional \$84 million in the 1996-97 Budget, instead cutting by 13 per cent the environmental budget and forward estimates;
- (21) the reckless decision to reduce funding for the National Highway by \$622 million over four years, breaches a clear Coalition election commitment at the 1996 election, and with other decisions will reduce the level of public infrastructure investment, especially in regional Australia;
- (22) the decision to impose a 500 per cent increase in the taxation arrangements for visits to the Great Barrier Reef will discourage tourism and cost jobs in Queensland;
- (23) the Government has failed to honour its promise to not cut Australia's foreign aid beyond the election commitment to abolish the DIFF program, and in doing so will allow the estimated ODA/GDP ratio for Australia in 1996-97 to fall to 0.29 per cent;
- (24) the Government has failed to honour its election promise that Defence expenditure would not be cut, whilst cutting \$165 million from the 1995 Defence Budget estimates for 1996-97, and reducing Defence expenditure as a percentage of GDP to its lowest level since 1939;
- (25) the mean-spirited and discriminatory approach to migrants and ethnic communities will harm outworkers, hurt newly-arrived migrants and refugees, cut humanitarian aid and penalise asylum seekers;
- (26) the substantial cuts to ATSIC and to indigenous-related Commonwealth programs represent a massive setback to the process of reconciliation in Australia;
- (27) the savage cuts to the ABC, of \$209 million over four years, are in complete breach of the Coalition's solemn election promise to maintain existing levels of Commonwealth funding to the ABC;
- (28) the Budget has failed to honour the promise to maintain levels of arts funding and spend an additional \$60 million over three years; and
- (29) the Government's plan to substantially increase Commonwealth court and tribunal fees, coupled with deep cuts to legal aid, will result in a severe curtailment of access to justice by many Australians"—

Debate resumed.

29 ADJOURNMENT

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

Alleged purchase of laptop computer—Statement by Speaker

The Speaker made a statement in response to a question asked of him earlier today by Mr L. D. T. Ferguson concerning the alleged purchase of a laptop computer by the Department of the House of Representatives from Southmark Computer Systems Pty Ltd.

Chief Opposition Whip speaking from despatch box—Statement by Speaker

The Speaker made a statement in response to a question asked of him yesterday by Mr Charles regarding the Chief Opposition Whip as Deputy Manager of Opposition Business speaking from the despatch box.

Debate ensued.

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

PAPERS

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 9 October 1996:

Australian Bureau of Statistics Act—Australian Bureau of Statistics—Proposal for the collection of information 1996 No. 15.

Lands Acquisition Act—Statement under section 40.

Migration Act—Statement under section 417.

Motor Vehicle Standards Act—Road Vehicle (National Standards) Determination 1996 No. 1.

National Road Transport Commission Act—Determination under section 15.

Social Security Act—Social Security (Prospective Determinations for Newstart Recipients) Guidelines 1996 No. 1.

ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Brereton, Mr Brown, Mr E. H. Cameron, Mrs Crosio, Mr Forrest, Mr Hatton, Mr Jones, Mr McLachlan, Mr Miles, Mr Reid, Mr Ruddock, Mr A. P. Thomson and Mr Willis.

L. M. BARLIN
Clerk of the House of Representatives

1996

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SUPPLEMENT TO VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 36

MAIN COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY, 9 OCTOBER 1996

1 The Main Committee met at 10 a.m.

2 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1996-97—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 Mr G. J. Evans (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 that:

- (1) the Budget betrays the Australian promise of working towards a more fair, just, inclusive and united society;
- (2) the Budget is both mindless and heartless, and its prescriptions are not what the Australian economy needs at present;
- (3) the Budget will have a savagely contractionary impact on economic growth and make impossible the job creation necessary to reduce Australia’s still unacceptably high level of unemployment;
- (4) with stronger economic growth the Budget could be restored to underlying balance over the life of this Parliament through a much more moderate program of fiscal consolidation;
- (5) the spending cuts and tax increases contained in the Budget are, on the evidence of the Government’s own Budget Papers, not necessary to reduce the Commonwealth Government’s debt-to-GDP ratio and will not produce a significant improvement in the current account deficit;
- (6) the Budget not only offers no hope to the unemployed but actively harms their prospects of finding a job by cutting labour market programs and privatising the previously publicly provided employment service function of the CES;

- (7) the Budget will have unfair and unjust consequences for the struggling and disadvantaged in our midst—the poor, the old, the sick, indigenous Australians and newly-arrived migrants;
- (8) the many spending cuts concerned with education and training, research and development, trade development (including breaches of promise with respect to EMDG, ITES and IAMPS), production bounties, and other business support, will be counter-productive in their longer term consequences;
- (9) there is deception involved in the family tax package contained in the Budget, whereby what the Prime Minister appears to be putting into one pocket is for most middle Australian families being taken right out of the other by the Treasurer in higher education fees, Austudy changes, higher nursing home charges, higher fees and charges;
- (10) there are many breaches of Coalition election promises contained in this Budget, which amount to over \$17 billion over four years, and which will cause hardship, insecurity and dismay for millions of Australians;
- (11) the Budget involves a massive betrayal of regional Australia through the abolition of the \$150 million regional development program, large cuts to road funding, the closure of regional Government offices such as Medicare and CES offices, and the cuts to the ABC and university funding;
- (12) the mean-spirited decision to introduce large, up-front entry fees and massively increased daily fees for nursing homes, and increase user-charges will harm elderly Australians;
- (13) the abolition of Childcare Operational Subsidies will impact heavily upon community based child care centres;
- (14) the reduction of \$800 million over four years in public hospital funding will cause longer waiting lists for the sick and reduce the quality of hospital and medical assistance for millions of people;
- (15) the Budget involves a breaking of the Government's so called 'core' commitment to maintain Medicare in its entirety through cuts to rebates for numerous items under Medicare;
- (16) the cruel decision to abolish the Commonwealth Dental Health Program will cause serious problems for the less well off;
- (17) harsh and promise-breaking decisions will force Australian families to pay substantially more for the cost of their prescription medicines;
- (18) the massive funding cuts to education, the increased HECS charges and AUSTUDY changes will penalise the less well-off;
- (19) the Budget's comprehensive and ideological assault on the public sector will cost 10 500 jobs in 1996-97 alone;
- (20) the Government has failed to honour its election commitment to maintain the environment budget and to provide an additional \$84 million in the

- 1996-97 Budget, instead cutting by 13 per cent the environmental budget and forward estimates;
- (21) the reckless decision to reduce funding for the National Highway by \$622 million over four years, breaches a clear Coalition election commitment at the 1996 election, and with other decisions will reduce the level of public infrastructure investment, especially in regional Australia;
 - (22) the decision to impose a 500 per cent increase in the taxation arrangements for visits to the Great Barrier Reef will discourage tourism and cost jobs in Queensland;
 - (23) the Government has failed to honour its promise to not cut Australia's foreign aid beyond the election commitment to abolish the DIFF program, and in doing so will allow the estimated ODA/GDP ratio for Australia in 1996-97 to fall to 0.29 per cent;
 - (24) the Government has failed to honour its election promise that Defence expenditure would not be cut, whilst cutting \$165 million from the 1995 Defence Budget estimates for 1996-97, and reducing Defence expenditure as a percentage of GDP to its lowest level since 1939;
 - (25) the mean-spirited and discriminatory approach to migrants and ethnic communities will harm outworkers, hurt newly-arrived migrants and refugees, cut humanitarian aid and penalise asylum seekers;
 - (26) the substantial cuts to ATSIC and to indigenous-related Commonwealth programs represent a massive setback to the process of reconciliation in Australia;
 - (27) the savage cuts to the ABC, of \$209 million over four years, are in complete breach of the Coalition's solemn election promise to maintain existing levels of Commonwealth funding to the ABC;
 - (28) the Budget has failed to honour the promise to maintain levels of arts funding and spend an additional \$60 million over three years; and
 - (29) the Government's plan to substantially increase Commonwealth court and tribunal fees, coupled with deep cuts to legal aid, will result in a severe curtailment of access to justice by many Australians"—

Debate resumed.

Suspension of sitting: At 10.07 a.m., a division having been called in the House, the proceedings were suspended.

Resumption of sitting: At 10.45 a.m., the proceedings were resumed.

Debate continued.

Mr L. D. T. Ferguson moved—That further proceedings on the Bill be conducted in the House.

Question—put and not being resolved—Bill to be returned to the House.

3 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 2) 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—

Mr Sawford moved—That further proceedings on the Bill be conducted in the House.

Question—put and not being resolved—Bill to be returned to the House.

4 APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENTARY DEPARTMENTS) BILL 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—

Mr Sawford moved—That further proceedings on the Bill be conducted in the House.

Question—put and not being resolved—Bill to be returned to the House.

5 FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT ON PROVISION OF ACADEMIC STUDIES AND PROFESSIONAL MILITARY EDUCATION TO OFFICER CADETS AND OFFICERS OF THE AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE—GOVERNMENT RESPONSE—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper (*presented on 30 May 1996*), viz.:

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade—Joint Standing Committee—Officer education: The Military after next—Report, October 1995—Government response—

Mr Sawford moved—That further proceedings be conducted in the House.

Question—put and not being resolved—Order of the day to be returned to the House.

6 ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Mr Sawford, the Main Committee adjourned at 11.11 a.m.

I. C. HARRIS
Clerk of the Main Committee