

1996

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 59

TUESDAY, 10 DECEMBER 1996

1 The House met, at 2 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (the Honourable Bob Halverson) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

2 MIGRATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 3) 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.

Debate adjourned (Mrs Gallus), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

3 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

4 INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Mr Howard (Prime Minister), by leave, moved—That this House:

- (1) notes that 10 December is International Human Rights Day;
- (2) reaffirms the strong commitment of the Australian Parliament and the Australian people to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with its fundamental principle that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights; they are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of common humanity, without distinction of any kind such as race, colour, sex, language, religion or birth;
- (3) reiterates the bipartisan support given since 1948 by all Australian governments to international recognition and enhancement of the principle that human rights are universal and indivisible, and that everybody has the right to life, liberty, the security of person, freedom of thought, expression and religion;
- (4) deplores the appalling violation of human rights which threatens life and security, recognising that slavery, ethnic cleansing, torture, racial and

religious discrimination and the arbitrary deprivation of liberty are still widespread throughout the world; and

- (5) encourages the efforts of successive Australian governments to promote the rule of law and the spirit of democracy and tolerance by active participation in international forums and encouraging bilateral and multilateral policies which develop and maintain the rights of individuals and respect for the dignity of the human person.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

5 AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT—PUBLICATION OF PAPER

The Deputy Speaker presented the following paper:

Audit Act—Auditor-General—Audit report No. 19 of 1996-97—Financial statements audit—Results of the 1995-96 financial statements audits of Commonwealth entities.

Mr Prosser (Minister for Small Business and Consumer Affairs), by leave, moved—That:

- (1) this House authorises the publication of the Auditor-General's audit report No. 19 of 1996-97; and
- (2) the report be printed.

Question—put and passed.

6 PAPERS

The following papers were presented:

Australian Law Reform Commission Act—Australian Law Reform Commission—Report No. 82—Integrity: But not by trust alone—AFP & NCA complaints and disciplinary systems.

Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation Act—Nuclear Safety Bureau—Report for 1995-96.

Australian Security Intelligence Organization Act—Australian Security Intelligence Organization—Report for 1995-96.

Housing Loans Insurance Act—Housing Loans Insurance Corporation—Report for 1995-96.

Members of Parliament (Staff) Act—Report for 1995-96 on consultants engaged under section 4.

National Museum of Australia Act—National Museum of Australia—Report for 1995-96—Corrigendum.

Petitions not in accord with standing and sessional orders of the House—Request for the Prime Minister to abandon plans contained in the federal budget in relation to changes to child care subsidy to community-based long day care centres, child care assistance and the child care rebate (Ms Macklin, 123 petitioners)

Request for maintenance of the current ABC charter, finding and staffing levels (Mr Beazley, 152 petitioners).

Support for gun control (Mr Beazley, 1109 petitioners).

Opposition to the Northern Territory Rights of the Terminally Ill Act and request for information and resources for palliative care (Mr Beazley, 227 petitioners).

Opposition to the proposal for an airport in Holsworthy (Mr Beazley, 155 petitioners).

Request for the retention of operational subsidies to community based long day care centres (Mr Beazley, 29, 94 and 29 petitioners, respectively).

Opposition to changes to the current Children's Services Program (Mr Beazley, 42 petitioners).

Support for euthanasia (Mr Beazley, 68 petitioners).

Concern at the proposed changes to provision of housing assistance (Mr Beazley, 38 petitioners).

7 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—LOCAL TELEPHONE CALL PRICES FOR RURAL AND REGIONAL AREAS

The House was informed that Mr Lee had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The widespread concern caused by the Government's failure to guarantee that the residents of rural and regional areas will continue to have access to local telephone calls at the same price as city residents".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Lee addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

8 MATTERS REFERRED TO MAIN COMMITTEE

Mr W. L. Smith (Minister for Sport, Territories and Local Government), for Mr Cadman (Chief Government Whip), pursuant to notice, moved—That:

- (1) the following orders of the day, committee and delegation reports, be referred to the Main Committee for debate:

Environment, Recreation and the Arts—Standing Committee—Report on World Heritage Areas—Motion to take note of paper: Resumption of debate.

Treaties—Joint Standing Committee—Report on Australia-Japan Long-line Tuna Fishing Agreement and Indian Ocean Tuna Commission Agreement—Motion to take note of paper: Resumption of debate; and

- (2) the following order of the day, government business, be referred to the Main Committee for debate:

Relations between the Civil Aviation Authority and Seaview Air—Commission of Inquiry—Report—Motion to take note of paper: Resumption of debate.

Question—put and passed.

9 MIGRATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 3) 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.

Debate adjourned (Mr Billson), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

10 DEVELOPMENT OF OPERATIONAL FACILITIES AT RAAF BASE TINDAL, NT—APPROVAL OF WORK

Mr Jull (Minister for Administrative Services), pursuant to notice, moved—That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, it is expedient to carry out the following proposed work which was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works and on which the committee has duly reported to Parliament: Development of operational facilities at RAAF Base Tindal, NT.

Question—put and passed.

11 MIGRATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 3) 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.

Mr K. J. Thomson addressing the House—

12 ADJOURNMENT

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

Debate ensued.

Debate extended: It being 11 p.m., the debate was interrupted.

Mr Miles (Parliamentary Secretary (Cabinet) to the Prime Minister) required the debate to be extended.

The debate continuing until 11.10 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 10 December 1996:

Acts Interpretation Act—Statement relating to delay in furnishing report within specified period—Western Australian Fisheries Joint Authority—Report for period 1 January to 30 June 1995.

Christmas Island Act—Casino Control Ordinance—Appointment as member of the Casino Surveillance Authority, 2 December 1996.

Civil Aviation Act—Civil Aviation Regulations—Civil Aviation Orders—Part 40—Amendment 30 November 1996.

Part 105—Amendments 15, 18(3), 19(2), 20(2), 26(3), 28(2) November 1996.

Part 107—Amendment 18 November 1996.

Export Control Act—Export Control (Orders) Regulations—Order 1996 No. HW1.

Higher Education Funding Act—Determinations 1996 Nos. T14, T15, T16.

Lands Acquisition Act—Statement under section 40.

Parliament Act—Parliamentary Zone—

Proposal and site plan for improvements to signage and pedestrian access for National Gallery of Australia and High Court of Australia precinct.

Proposal and site plan for redevelopment of Opposition Party Room and demolition of Press Gallery additions at Old Parliament House.

ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr R. A. Cameron, Mr Campbell, Mr Fischer, Mr Griffin, Mr Jones, Mr Katter, Mrs D. M. Kelly, Miss J. M. Kelly, Mr McDougall, Mr McLachlan, Mr Marek, Mr Reid*, Mr S. F. Smith and Mr Willis*.

* On leave

L. M. BARLIN

Clerk of the House of Representatives