

1996-97

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS**

No. 70

TUESDAY, 25 FEBRUARY 1997

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

**2 HANSARD—STATEMENT BY SPEAKER**

The Speaker made a statement concerning the omission of words from the proof *Hansard* of 13 February 1997.

Mr Beazley (Leader of the Opposition), by indulgence, also made a statement in relation to the matter.

**3 QUESTIONS**

Questions without notice being asked—

*Papers:* Mr Sharp (Minister for Transport and Regional Development) presented the following papers:

Precision Aerial Delivery System (PADS)—Purchase by Airservices Australia—Copies of—

Answers from Airservices Australia to questions on 24 February 1997 from—  
Senator Collins, 25 February 1997.

Senator Conroy, 25 February 1997 (2).

Facsimiles from—

Mr John Forsyth, Chairman, Airservices Australia to Mr Sharp, 4 August 1996.

Mr Laurence Gruzman, QC, CEO/Chief pilot, Search and Rescue Pty Ltd to—  
Mr John Forsyth, Chairman, Airservices Australia, 4 September 1996.

Mr Sharp, 3 September 1996.

Letters from—

Mr John Wallis, Senior Adviser to the Minister for Transport and Regional Development to Mr John Forsyth, Chairman, Airservices Australia, 5 August, 3 and 4 September 1996.

Questions without notice continued.

**4 PAPERS**

The following papers were presented:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act—Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commercial Development Corporation—Report for 1995-96.

Commonwealth Grants Commission Act—Commonwealth Grants Commission—Report—General revenue grant relativities—1997 update.

Higher Education Funding Act—Higher education funding for the 1997-99 triennium—Report by the Minister for Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs.

Workplace Relations and Other Legislation Amendment Act—Australian Trade Union Training Authority—Final report, for period 1 July to 4 December 1996.

**5 IMMUNISATION PROGRAM—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

Dr Wooldridge (Minister for Health and Family Services), by leave, made a ministerial statement concerning the Government's immunisation program.

Mr Lee, by leave, also made a statement with reference to the matter.

**6 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—PRECISION AERIAL DELIVERY SYSTEM**

The House was informed that Mr Tanner had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The involvement of the Minister for Transport and his office in the acquisition of the Precision Aerial Delivery System, a system which has been ruled unsafe and inappropriate for use in rescue operations at sea".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Tanner addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

**7 SELECTION COMMITTEE—REPORT**

Mr Nehl (Chair) presented the following paper:

Selection Committee—Report relating to the consideration of committee and delegation reports and private Members' business on Monday, 3 March 1997.

**8 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 3) 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.

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

**9 BILLS REFERRED TO MAIN COMMITTEE**

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

Appropriation (No. 3) 1996-97;

Appropriation (No. 4) 1996-97; and

Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) (No. 2) 1996-97.

Question—put and passed.

**10 PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE INCENTIVES 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 Lee, 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) deplores the Federal Government cuts to public hospitals, pharmaceuticals and public dental services which have been made to fund these incentives in direct breach of an election promise;
- (2) is dismayed by the inefficiency of the measures which will do little to ease the funding pressure on public hospitals; and
- (3) is firmly of the opinion that the \$1.7 billion would be better spent in providing extra Federal Government funding for public hospitals and direct subsidies for private hospital accommodation”—

Debate resumed.

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**11 ADJOURNMENT**

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

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 10.59 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 9.30 a.m.

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**PAPERS**

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 25 February 1997:

Sydney Airport Curfew Act—Dispensations Nos. 3/97, 4/97.

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**ATTENDANCE**

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr K. J. Andrews, Mr Latham and Mr Willis.

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**L. M. BARLIN**  
Clerk of the House of Representatives

1996-97

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
SUPPLEMENT TO VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS**

No. 70

**MAIN COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**TUESDAY, 25 FEBRUARY 1997**

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1 The Main Committee met at 8 p.m.

**2 MARINE PERSONNEL LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1996**

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

*Paper:* Mr Ronaldson presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Debate ensued.

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

Leave granted for the question on the report to be put forthwith.

Question—That the Bill be reported to the House without amendment—put and passed.

**3 FINANCIAL TRANSACTION REPORTS AMENDMENT 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.

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

Leave granted for the question on the report to be put forthwith.

Question—That the Bill be reported to the House without amendment—put and passed.

**4 ADJOURNMENT**

On the motion of Mr M. A. J. Vaile, the Main Committee adjourned at 10.03 p.m.

The Deputy Speaker fixed tomorrow at 10 a.m. for the next meeting of the Main Committee.

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**I. C. HARRIS**  
Clerk of the Main Committee