

1996-97-98

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 149

THURSDAY, 26 MARCH 1998

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

2 AUSTRALIAN PRUDENTIAL REGULATION AUTHORITY BILL 1998

Mr Costello (Treasurer), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to establish the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

Paper

Mr Costello presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

3 AUTHORISED DEPOSIT-TAKING INSTITUTIONS SUPERVISORY LEVY IMPOSITION BILL 1998

Mr Costello (Treasurer) presented a Bill for an Act to impose a levy on authorised deposit-taking institutions.

Bill read a first time.

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

Paper

Mr Costello presented an explanatory memorandum to the following Bills:

Authorised Deposit-taking Institutions Supervisory Levy Imposition 1998;

Authorised Non-operating Holding Companies Supervisory Levy Imposition 1998;

Superannuation Supervisory Levy Imposition 1998;

Retirement Savings Account Providers Supervisory Levy Imposition 1998;

Life Insurance Supervisory Levy Imposition 1998;

General Insurance Supervisory Levy Imposition 1998; and
Financial Institutions Supervisory Levies Collection 1998.

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

4 AUTHORISED NON-OPERATING HOLDING COMPANIES SUPERVISORY LEVY IMPOSITION BILL 1998

Mr Costello (Treasurer) presented a Bill for an Act to impose a levy on authorised non-operating holding companies.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

5 SUPERANNUATION SUPERVISORY LEVY IMPOSITION BILL 1998

Mr Costello (Treasurer) presented a Bill for an Act to impose a levy on trustees of certain superannuation entities.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

6 RETIREMENT SAVINGS ACCOUNT PROVIDERS SUPERVISORY LEVY IMPOSITION BILL 1998

Mr Costello (Treasurer) presented a Bill for an Act to impose a levy on providers of retirement savings accounts.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

7 LIFE INSURANCE SUPERVISORY LEVY IMPOSITION BILL 1998

Mr Costello (Treasurer) presented a Bill for an Act to impose a levy on companies registered under the *Life Insurance Act 1995*.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

8 GENERAL INSURANCE SUPERVISORY LEVY IMPOSITION BILL 1998

Mr Costello (Treasurer) presented a Bill for an Act to impose a levy on bodies to which the *Insurance Act 1973* applies.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

9 FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS SUPERVISORY LEVIES COLLECTION BILL 1998

Mr Costello (Treasurer) presented a Bill for an Act to make provision for the collection of levies imposed in respect of various financial institutions, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

10 FINANCIAL SECTOR REFORM (AMENDMENTS AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS) BILL 1998

Mr Costello (Treasurer), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend laws, and to deal with transitional matters, in connection with the reform of the financial sector, and for other purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

Paper

Mr Costello presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

11 PAYMENT SYSTEMS (REGULATION) BILL 1998

Mr Costello (Treasurer), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to provide for the regulation of payment systems and purchased payment facilities, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

Paper

Mr Costello presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

12 FINANCIAL SECTOR (SHAREHOLDINGS) BILL 1998

Mr Costello (Treasurer), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act relating to shareholdings in certain financial sector companies, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

Paper

Mr Costello presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

13 SOCIAL SECURITY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (PENSION BONUS SCHEME) BILL 1998

Mr W. L. Smith (Minister for Family Services), for Mr Ruddock (Minister representing the Minister for Social Security), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Social Security Act 1991* and the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*, and for other purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mr W. L. Smith moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Paper

Mr W. L. Smith presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

14 COMMONWEALTH REHABILITATION SERVICE REFORM BILL 1998

Mr W. L. Smith (Minister for Family Services), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to enact transitional provisions relating to the corporatisation of the Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mr W. L. Smith moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Paper

Mr W. L. Smith presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

15 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT (TRUST LOSS AND OTHER DEDUCTIONS) BILL 1997

A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill with amendments:

23 March 1998—Message No. 441—Taxation Laws Amendment (Trust Loss and Other Deductions) 1997.

Constitutional significance of Senate amendments—Statement by Deputy Speaker

The Deputy Speaker made the following statement:

My attention has been drawn to the alterations proposed by Senate amendments (10) and (11).

I understand that the alteration in amendment (10) will extend the scope of a definition in the Bill. One result would apparently be that some taxpayers will

have tax deductions and other benefits disallowed, so that they would be liable to pay more tax. Amendment (11) is consequential.

It appears that both of these alterations were prepared and circulated in the Senate as requests rather than amendments. This reflected advice received by the Government in terms of compliance with the 3rd paragraph of section 53 of the Constitution.

Following a statement by the Chairman of Committees in the Senate these alterations were however treated as amendments.

On their face the alterations fail the test proposed by our Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee as to the type of amendments open to the Senate. The committee referred, *inter alia*, to a request being required where an alteration moved in the Senate will make an increase in the total tax payable legally possible.

I note however, that the supplementary explanatory memorandum presented stated “the amendments to the Bill will not affect the financial impact outlined in paragraph 1.45 of the explanatory memorandum to the Bill”.

Matters such as these often raise difficult questions of interpretation.

Having drawn attention to this matter, I acknowledge the House may choose not to take any objection and proceed to consider the Senate amendments.

On this occasion the House may wish to follow that course.

Ordered—That the amendments be considered forthwith.

On the motion of Mrs Bishop (Minister for Defence Industry, Science and Personnel), the amendments were agreed to, after debate.

16 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill without amendment:

25 March 1998—Message No. 446—Charter of Budget Honesty 1996 [No. 2].

17 INTERNATIONAL MONETARY AGREEMENTS AMENDMENT BILL 1998

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.

Message from the Governor-General

Message No. 243, 23 March 1998, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation for the purposes of the Bill.

Consideration in detail

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole.

Mr G. J. Evans (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) moved the Opposition amendment as circulated.

Amendment agreed to.

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

Consideration in detail concluded.

On the motion of Mr Costello (Treasurer), by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

18 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:

24 March 1998—Message No. 244—

Civil Aviation Legislation Amendment 1998.

Flags Amendment 1998.

19 HEALTH LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (HEALTH CARE AGREEMENTS) BILL 1998

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 is of the opinion that the Government:

- (1) is placing Australia’s world renowned health system in jeopardy by failing to achieve new Medicare Agreements with State and Territory governments;
- (2) is misrepresenting its offer to the States and Territories which amounts to little more than double-counting and putting back health funding which has been cut in the first two Howard budgets; and
- (3) has failed to adequately consult with the States and Territories regarding the provisions of this bill”—

Debate resumed.

Question—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the question—put.

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

AYES, 80

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

NOES, 40

Mr Albanese	Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Dr Lawrence	Mr O'Connor
Mr P. J. Baldwin	Mr Fitzgibbon	Mr Lee	Mr Price
Mr Bevis	Mr E. L. Grace*	Mr McClelland	Mr Quick
Mr Brereton	Mr Griffin	Ms Macklin	Mr Sawford*
Mr Brown	Mr Hatton	Mr McLeay	Mr Sercombe*
Mr Crean	Mr Hollis	Mr Martin	Mr S. F. Smith
Mrs Crosio	Mr Jenkins	Mr Melham	Dr Theophanous
Mr Dargavel	Mr Jones	Mr A. A. Morris	Mr K. J. Thomson
Ms Ellis	Mr Kerr	Mr P. F. Morris	Mr Willis
Mr M. J. Evans	Mr Latham	Mr Mossfield	Mr Wilton

* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

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

Message from the Governor-General

Message No. 245, 3 March 1998, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation for the purposes of the Bill.

Consideration in detail

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole.

Mr Lee, by leave, moved Opposition amendments (1) to (5) as circulated, together.

Debate continued.

It being 2 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with standing order 101A, and further consideration of the Bill made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

20 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice being asked—

Paper

Mr Howard (Prime Minister) presented the following paper:

Minister for Resources and Energy—Copy of letter from Harold W. Shand to Mr Howard, 26 March 1998.

Questions without notice continued.

21 PAPERS

Mr McLeay, in accordance with standing order 321, having called for documents quoted from during the question period by Mr Reith (Minister for Workplace Relations and Small Business)—

Mr Reith presented the following papers:

Waterfront workers—Copies of—

Annual gross salary per full time MUA (excludes oncosts)—Table.

Cartoon published in the *West Australian*, 24 March 1998.

Facsimile to Mr Reith.

Letters to Mr Reith (2).

MUA salaries, Fisherman Islands and Maritime Wharf—Table.

Note to Mr Reith.

Patrick's pain self-inflicted, claims competitor—Article published in the *Australian*, 26 March 1998.

Taxation group certificates, 1997 (2).

Wharfies work for strip show: Reith—Article published in the *West Australian*, 24 March 1998.

22 AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT

The Speaker presented the following paper:

Audit Act—Auditor-General—Audit report No. 38 of 1997-98—Performance audit—Sale of Brisbane, Melbourne and Perth airports.

Ordered to be printed.

23 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—HEALTH SYSTEM

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 community concern about the damage being done to Australia's health system by the Howard Government".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Lee addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

24 MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

Messages from the Senate, 26 March 1998, were reported returning the following Bills without amendment:

No. 447—Ballast Water Research and Development Funding Levy 1997 (*without requests*).

No. 449—Customs and Excise Legislation Amendment (No. 1) 1998.

No. 450—Chemical Weapons (Prohibition) Amendment 1997.

25 HEALTH LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (HEALTH CARE AGREEMENTS) BILL 1998

The order of the day having been read for the further consideration in detail of the Bill—

Bill, as a whole—

Debate resumed on the Bill and on the amendments moved together by Mr Lee (*see item No. 19*).

Question—That the amendments be agreed to—put.

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

AYES, 41

Mr Adams	Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Mr McClelland	Mr Quick
Mr Albanese	Mr Fitzgibbon	Ms Macklin	Mr Sawford*
Mr Beddall	Mr E. L. Grace*	Mr McLeay*	Mr Sercombe
Mr Bevis	Mr Griffin	Mr Martin	Mr Tanner
Mr Breerton	Mr Hatton	Mr Melham	Dr Theophanous
Mr Brown	Mr Holding	Mr A. A. Morris	Mr K. J. Thomson
Mr Crean	Mr Hollis	Mr P. F. Morris	Mr Willis
Mrs Crosio	Mr Kerr	Mr Mossfield	Mr Wilton
Mr Dargavel	Mr Latham	Mr O'Connor	
Ms Ellis	Dr Lawrence	Mr O'Keefe	
Mr M. J. Evans	Mr Lee	Mr Price	

NOES, 71

Mr J. N. Andrew	Mrs Elson	Miss J. M. Kelly	Mr Sharp
Mr K. J. Andrews	Mr Entsch	Dr Kemp	Mr Slipper*
Mr Anthony	Mr R. D. C. Evans	Mr Lindsay	Mr A. C. Smith
Mrs Bailey	Mr Forrest	Mr McArthur*	Mr W. L. Smith
Mr R. C. Baldwin	Mrs Gallus	Mr McDougall	Dr Southcott
Mr Bartlett	Ms Gambaro	Mr Marek	Mrs Stone
Mr Billson	Mr Georgiou	Mr Miles	Mrs Sullivan
Mrs Bishop	Mrs E. J. Grace	Mr Mutch	Mr Taylor
Mr Bradford	Mr Halverson	Mr Nairn	Mr A. P. Thomson
Mr Broadbent	Mr Hardgrave	Mr Nehl	Mr Truss
Mr Brough	Mr Hawker	Mr Neville	Mr M. A. J. Vaile
Mr Cadman	Mr Hicks*	Mr Nugent	Mrs D. S. Vaile
Mr E. H. Cameron	Mr Hockey	Mr Pyne	Mr Wakelin
Mr Causley	Ms Jeanes	Mr Randall	Mr West
Mr Charles	Mrs Johnston	Mr Reid	Mr Williams
Mr Cobb	Mr Jull	Mr Reith	Ms Worth
Mr Dondas	Mr Katter	Mr Ronaldson	Mr Zammit
Mrs Draper	Mrs D. M. Kelly	Mr Scott	

* Tellers

And so it was negated.

Mr Cadman (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Workplace Relations and Small Business), by leave, moved Government amendments (1) to (3) as circulated, together.

Debate continued.

Paper

Mr Cadman presented a supplementary explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Debate continued.

Amendments agreed to.

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

Consideration in detail concluded.

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

26 SUPERANNUATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1997—REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE

The Deputy Speaker reported that the Bill had been considered by the Main Committee and was returned 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 the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the question—put.

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

AYES, 70

Mr J. N. Andrew	Mrs Elson	Dr Kemp	Mr Slipper*
Mr K. J. Andrews	Mr Entsch	Mr Lindsay	Mr A. C. Smith
Mrs Bailey	Mr R. D. C. Evans	Mr McArthur*	Mr W. L. Smith
Mr R. C. Baldwin	Mr Fahey	Mr McDougall	Dr Southcott
Mr Bartlett	Mrs Gallus	Mr Marek	Mrs Stone
Mr Billson	Ms Gambaro	Mr Miles	Mrs Sullivan
Mrs Bishop	Mr Georgiou	Mr Mutch	Mr Taylor
Mr Bradford	Mrs E. J. Grace	Mr Nairn	Mr A. P. Thomson
Mr Broadbent	Mr Halverson	Mr Nehl	Mr Truss
Mr Brough	Mr Hardgrave	Mr Neville	Mr M. A. J. Vaile
Mr Cadman	Mr Hawker	Mr Nugent	Mrs D. S. Vale
Mr E. H. Cameron	Mr Hicks*	Mr Pyne	Mr Wakelin
Mr Causley	Mr Hockey	Mr Randall	Mrs West
Mr Charles	Ms Jeanes	Mr Reid	Mr Williams
Mr Cobb	Mrs Johnston	Mr Reith	Dr Wooldridge
Mr Costello	Mr Jull	Mr Ronaldson	Ms Worth
Mr Dondas	Mrs D. M. Kelly	Mr Scott	
Mrs Draper	Miss J. M. Kelly	Mr Sharp	

NOES, 41

Mr Adams	Mr Fitzgibbon	Mr McClelland	Mr Quick
Mr Albanese	Mr E. L. Grace*	Ms Macklin	Mr Sawford*
Mr Beddall	Mr Griffin	Mr McLeay*	Mr Sercombe
Mr Bevis	Mr Hatton	Mr Martin	Mr Tanner
Mr Brereton	Mr Holding	Mr Melham	Dr Theophanous
Mr Brown	Mr Hollis	Mr A. A. Morris	Mr K. J. Thomson
Mr Crean	Mr Jenkins	Mr P. F. Morris	Mr Willis
Mrs Crosio	Mr Kerr	Mr Mossfield	Mr Wilton
Mr Dargavel	Mr Latham	Mr O'Connor	
Ms Ellis	Dr Lawrence	Mr O'Keefe	
Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Mr Lee	Mr Price	

* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

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 Cadman (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Workplace Relations and Small Business), the Bill was read a third time.

27 **ADJOURNMENT**

It being 5.30 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until 6 p.m.—The Speaker adjourned the House until Monday next at 12.30 p.m.

PAPERS

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 26 March 1998:

Antarctic Marine Living Resources Conservation Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1998 No. 40.

Banks (Shareholdings) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1998 Nos. 49, 50.

Child Support (Assessment) Act—Determination 1998 No. CSD 1.

Consular Fees Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1998 No. 43.

Customs Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1998 No. 52.

Family Law Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1998 No. 39.

Health Insurance Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1998 No. 44.

International Organisations (Privileges and Immunities) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1998 No. 41.

Ombudsman Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1998 No. 47.

Passports Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1998 No. 42.

Patents Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1998 No. 45.

Primary Industries Levies and Charges Collection Act, Horticultural Levy Act and Horticultural Export Charge Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1998 No. 46.

Proclamation by His Excellency the Governor-General fixing 1 April 1998 as the date on which items 1, 2 and 4 of Schedule 16 of the *Social Security and Veterans' Affairs Legislation Amendment (Family and Other Measures) Act 1997* shall come into operation.

Public Service Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1998 No. 48.

ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Abbott, Mr R. A. Cameron, Mr Downer, Mr M. J. Ferguson, Mr Filing, Ms Hanson, Mr Lieberman, Mr Lloyd, Mr McLachlan, Mr McMullan, Mrs Moylan and Mr Ruddock.

I. C. HARRIS

Clerk of the House of Representatives

1996-97-98

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SUPPLEMENT TO VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 149

MAIN COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

THURSDAY, 26 MARCH 1998

1 The Main Committee met at 9.41 a.m.

2 **MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

Members' statements were made.

3 **SUPERANNUATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1997**

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 moved, as an amendment—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 expresses its concern about the Government’s administration of Australia’s superannuation system and, in particular, calls on the Government to:

- (1) admit that its policy announcement on divorce and superannuation was vacuous and designed to deceive the Australian public into thinking this Government has a policy on superannuation and divorce;
- (2) explain why it has taken two years to announce it is having discussions with industry when a substantial amount of work was done by Labor, in government;
- (3) release what policy information it has developed on this issue to date, if any;
- (4) ensure that the principles of division of superannuation apply to the ending of all relationships, not just divorces, but also common law marriages which dissolve; and
- (5) ensure that any policy proposals brought forward are consistent with broader retirement incomes policy”.

Debate continued.

Question—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the question—put and not being resolved—Bill to be returned to the House.

4 TAXATION LAWS (TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS) BILL 1997

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.

On the motion of Mr Rocher, further proceedings to be conducted in the House.

5 ADJOURNMENT

It being approximately 12.30 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the Main Committee do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

At 1 p.m. the Deputy Speaker adjourned the Main Committee until Wednesday, 1 April 1998, at 10 a.m.

B. C. WRIGHT
Clerk of the Main Committee