

1996-97-98

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS**

No. 151

TUESDAY, 31 MARCH 1998

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

2 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

3 PAPERS

The following papers were presented:

Equal Employment Opportunity (Commonwealth Authorities) Act—Equal Employment Opportunity Program—Australian National Railways Commission (Australian National)—Report for 1996-97.

Higher Education Funding Act—Higher education funding for the 1998-2000 triennium—Report by the Minister for Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs.

Multilateral Agreement on Investment—Consolidated text, together with attachment—Australia: Revised schedule of preliminary reservations, October 1997.

Telstra carrier charges price control compliance 1996—Report of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, February 1998.

4 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—HEALTH AND AGED CARE

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 failure of the Prime Minister to keep his personal reassurances to older Australians in relation to health and aged care”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Lee addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

5 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, 6 April 1998.

6 PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT—JOINT COMMITTEE—REPORTS—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS

Mr Charles (Chairman) presented the following papers:

Public Accounts and Audit—Joint Committee—

Report 358—Review of Auditor-General's reports 1996-97—Third quarter.

Report 359—Review of Auditor-General's reports 1996-97—Fourth quarter.

Severally ordered to be printed.

Mr Charles, Mr Beddall and Mr Georgiou, by leave, made statements in connection with the reports.

Mr Charles, by leave, moved—That the House take note of each report.

Mr Charles was granted leave to continue his speech when each debate is resumed.

Debate on each motion was adjourned, and the resumption of each debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

7 BILLS REFERRED TO MAIN COMMITTEE

Mr J. N. Andrew (Chief Government Whip), pursuant to notice, moved—That the following Bills be referred to the Main Committee for further consideration:

Child Support Legislation Amendment 1998; and

Social Security and Veterans' Affairs Legislation Amendment (Pension Bonus Scheme) 1998.

Question—put and passed.

8 SOCIAL SECURITY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (YOUTH ALLOWANCE CONSEQUENTIAL AND RELATED MEASURES) 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 Ms Macklin, 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 condemns the Government for:

- (1) forcing poor families on as little as \$23,500 per annum to support their young unemployed adults following the introduction of a parental income test on unemployment benefits for those aged between 18 and 21 from 1 July 1998;
- (2) completely abolishing unemployment benefits for young unemployed adults living in families earning more than \$42,000 per annum and forcing parents to find an extra \$87 a week to support their adult offspring;

- (3) adding insult to injury by labelling families caught in the parental income test, 'well-off';
- (4) cutting funding to the nation's secondary schools at the same time as young people under 18 will be forced back to school to receive the Youth Allowance;
- (5) failing to provide the same incentives for young unemployed people to work part-time as it has provided to students;
- (6) failing to reduce youth unemployment; and
- (7) handing responsibility for the costs of youth unemployment back onto the nation's parents making them pay the price for unacceptable levels of youth unemployment"—

Debate resumed.

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

The House divided (the Deputy Speaker, Mrs D. M. Kelly, in the Chair)—

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Mr Abbott	Mrs Elson	Mr Lindsay	Mr Scott
Mr J. N. Andrew	Mr Entsch	Mr Lloyd	Mr Sharp
Mr K. J. Andrews	Mr R. D. C. Evans	Mr McArthur*	Mr Slipper*
Mr Anthony	Mr Fahey	Mr McDougall	Mr A. C. Smith
Mrs Bailey	Mr Fischer	Mr McGauran	Mr W. L. Smith
Mr R. C. Baldwin	Mr Forrest	Mr McLachlan	Mr Somlyay
Mr Barresi	Mrs Gallus	Mr Miles	Dr Southcott
Mr Bartlett	Ms Gambaro	Mr Moore	Mrs Stone
Mr Billson	Mrs Gash	Mrs Moylan	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 Cadman	Mr Hardgrave	Dr Nelson	Mr Tuckey
Mr E. H. Cameron	Mr Hawker	Mr Neville	Mr M. A. J. Vaile
Mr R. A. Cameron	Mr Hicks*	Mr Nugent	Mrs D. S. Vale
Mr Causley	Mrs Johnston	Mr Prosser	Mrs West
Mr Charles	Mr Jull	Mr Pyne	Dr Wooldridge
Mr Cobb	Mr Katter	Mr Randall	Ms Worth
Mr Costello	Miss J. M. Kelly	Mr Reid	Mr Zammit
Mr Dondas	Dr Kemp	Mr Ronaldson	
Mrs Draper	Mr Lieberman	Mr Ruddock	

NOES, 39

Mr Adams	Ms Ellis	Mr Jenkins	Mr A. A. Morris
Mr Albanese	Mr G. J. Evans	Mr Kerr	Mr P. F. Morris
Mr Andren	Mr M. J. Evans	Mr Latham	Mr Mossfield
Mr P. J. Baldwin	Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Dr Lawrence	Mr O'Keefe
Mr Beddall	Mr M. J. Ferguson	Mr Lee	Mr Quick
Mr Bevis	Mr Fitzgibbon	Mr McClelland	Mr Sawford*
Mr Brown	Mr E. L. Grace*	Ms Macklin	Mr Sercombe
Mr Crean	Mr Griffin*	Mr McLeay	Dr Theophanous
Mrs Crosio	Mr Hatton	Mr McMullan	Mr Willis
Mr Dargavel	Mr Hollis	Mr Melham	

* 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. 246, 11 March 1998, 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 Ruddock (Minister representing the Minister for Social Security), the Bill was read a third time.

9 POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY

Ordered—That order of the day No. 2, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.

10 TELSTRA (TRANSITION TO FULL PRIVATE OWNERSHIP) 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.

Dr Southcott was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

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

11 OVERSEAS AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENERGY MISSION TO EUROPE AND KOREA—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Mr Anderson (Minister for Primary Industries and Energy), by leave, made a ministerial statement giving an assessment of relevant agricultural reform and trade policy developments gathered during his recent mission to Europe and Korea.

Mr O'Keefe, by leave, also made a statement with reference to the matter.

12 MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL—ASSENT TO BILLS

Messages from His Excellency the Governor-General were announced informing the House that His Excellency, in the name of Her Majesty, had assented to the following Bills:

26 March 1998—Message No. 247—
NRS Levy Imposition 1997.
Telecommunications Amendment 1998.

27 March 1998—Message No. 248—
Appropriation (No. 3) 1997-98.
Appropriation (No. 4) 1997-98.
Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) (No. 2) 1997-98.

13 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

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

30 March 1998—Message No. 454—Productivity Commission (Repeals, Transitional and Consequential Amendments) 1996.

14 TELSTRA (TRANSITION TO FULL PRIVATE OWNERSHIP) 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.

Mr O’Keefe addressing the House—

15 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 9.30 a.m.

PAPERS

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 31 March 1998:

Australian Bureau of Statistics Act—Australian Bureau of Statistics—Proposal 1998 No. 4.

Broadcasting Services Act—Notices—Broadcasting Services (Events) No. 1 of 1994—Amendments 1998 Nos. 1, 2, 3.

Corporations Act—Accounting standard No. AASB 1019.

Defence Act—Determinations under section 58B 1998 Nos. 11, 12, 13.

National Health Act—Declaration 1998 No. PB 5.

Pasture Seed Levy Act—Declaration 1998 No. 1.

ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Brereton, Mr Brough, Mr Holding, Mr Jones, Mr Marek, Mr Martin, Mr O'Connor, Mr Tanner, Mr K. J. Thomson and Mr Wilton.

I. C. HARRIS

Clerk of the House of Representatives