

1996-97-98

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 155

TUESDAY, 7 APRIL 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 being asked—

Paper

Dr Wooldridge (Minister for Health and Family Services) presented the following paper:

Influenza—Elderly people urged to get vaccinated against influenza—Media release by Dr Wooldridge, 3 April 1998.

Questions without notice continued.

3 PAPER

Mr Costello (Treasurer), during a point of order, presented the following paper:
Tax reform—Copy of transcript of interview with Mr Beazley (Leader of the Opposition).

4 PAPER

Australian Horticultural Corporation Act—Australian Dried Fruits Board—6th report, for 1996-97.

5 REPATRIATION IN AUSTRALIA—80TH ANNIVERSARY—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

Mr Scott (Minister for Veterans' Affairs), by leave, made a ministerial statement concerning the 80th anniversary of repatriation in Australia, and presented the following paper:

Repatriation in Australia—80th anniversary—Ministerial statement, 7 April 1998.

Mr L. D. T. Ferguson, by leave, also made a statement with reference to the matter.

Mr W. L. Smith (Minister for Family Services) moved—That the House take note of the paper.

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

6 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

The House was informed that Mr G. J. Evans (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, “The Government’s continued failure to explain to lower and middle income earners the huge negative impact upon them of its proposed GST”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr G. J. Evans addressed the House.

Paper

Mr G. J. Evans, by leave, presented the following paper:

Tax reform—The great tax tune-up—Article published in *Consuming interest*, Winter 1997.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

**7 AUSTRALIAN SECURITY INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATION—
PARLIAMENTARY JOINT COMMITTEE**

The House was informed that the Speaker had received advice from Mr Howard (Prime Minister) nominating a change to the membership of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on the Australian Security Intelligence Organization.

Mr A. P. Thomson (Minister for Sport and Tourism), by leave, moved—That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Australian Security Intelligence Organization Act 1979*, Mr McArthur be appointed a member of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on the Australian Security Intelligence Organization in place of Mr Zammit.

Question—put and passed.

8 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:

6 April 1998—Message No. 251—

Chemical Weapons (Prohibition) Amendment 1998.

Family Trust Distribution Tax (Primary Liability) 1998.

Family Trust Distribution Tax (Secondary Liability) 1998.

9 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

Message No. 476, 6 April 1998, from the Senate was reported acquainting the House that Senator Carr had been appointed a member of the Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories.

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.

Mr McDougall 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 SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS—LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Mr Reith (Leader of the House) moved—That so much of the standing and sessional orders be suspended as would prevent the Leader of the Opposition from coming into the House forthwith and for a period not exceeding 15 minutes substantiating the scurrilous and cowardly claims made by Senator Robert Ray in the Senate last night and today.

Debate ensued.

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

Question—put.

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

AYES, 82

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

NOES, 39

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

* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

12 **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.

Mrs Gash addressing the House—

13 **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Debate ensued.

Debate extended

It being approximately 11 p.m., the debate was interrupted.

Ms Worth (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Family Services) required the debate to be extended.

Member ordered to withdraw

At 11.02 p.m. the Member for Werriwa (Mr Latham) was ordered, under standing order 304A, to withdraw from the House for one hour for persisting in interjecting, and he accordingly withdrew from the Chamber.

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 7 April 1998:

Civil Aviation Act—Civil Aviation Regulations—Civil Aviation Orders—Part 20—Amendment 1998 31 March.

Defence Act—Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal—Determinations 1998 Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12.

ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Bradford, Mr Brereton, Ms Gambaro, Mr Halverson, Mr Holding, Mr Kerr, Mr McLeay, Mr Reid, Mr Sawford and Mr Tanner.

I. C. HARRIS

Clerk of the House of Representatives