

1996-97-98

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS**

No. 160

MONDAY, 25 MAY 1998

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- 1 The House met, at 12.30 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (the Right Honourable Ian Sinclair) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
- 2 **FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**
- Mr Brereton presented the following papers:
- Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade—Joint Standing Committee—Asian currency crisis: Seminar on the Asian currency crisis and its effect on Australia, 19 March 1998—
- Report, May 1998.
- Minutes of proceedings.
- Ordered—That the report be printed.
- Mr Brereton, Mr Taylor, Mrs Gallus, Dr Southcott and Mr Price made statements in connection with the report.
- The time allotted for making statements on the report having expired—
- Mr Brereton moved—That the House take note of the report.
- Mr Brereton was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.
- In accordance with standing order 102B, the debate was adjourned, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 3 **LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**
- Mr K. J. Andrews (Chair) presented the following papers:
- Legal and Constitutional Affairs—Standing Committee—Saving our census and preserving our history: Inquiry into the treatment of name-identified census forms—
- Report, May 1998.

Evidence received by the committee.

Minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Mr K. J. Andrews, Mr McClelland and Mr Mutch made statements in connection with the report.

The time for consideration of committee and delegation reports having expired—

Mr K. J. Andrews moved—That the House take note of the report.

Mr K. J. Andrews was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

In accordance with standing order 102B, the debate was adjourned, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

#### **4 FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY (COMMONWEALTH SUPPORT OF NON-PUBLIC SECTOR BODIES) BILL 1998**

Mr Rocher, pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to require financial accountability in relation to Commonwealth support of non-public sector bodies.

Mr Rocher made a statement in relation to the Bill.

*Paper*

Mr Rocher, by leave, presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Bill read a first time.

Ordered—That the second reading be made an order of the day for the next sitting, in accordance with standing order 104A.

#### **5 AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY IN CROATIA**

Mr Filing, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House calls upon the Government to replace its existing consulate in Zagreb with an Australian Embassy to the Republic of Croatia as soon as possible.

Debate ensued.

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

#### **6 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

Members' statements were made.

#### **7 MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS**

Mr Howard (Prime Minister) informed the House that, during the absence abroad of Mr Costello (Treasurer), Mr Fahey (Minister for Finance and Administration) would answer questions on his behalf.

Mr Howard also informed the House that, during the absence abroad of Dr Wooldridge (Minister for Health and Family Services), Mr W. L. Smith (Minister for Family Services) would answer questions on his behalf.

## 8 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

## 9 PETITIONS

The Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:

Mr Anderson, Mr Causley, Mr Lee and Mr McDougall, from 10, 75, 36 042 and 22 petitioners, respectively, praying that the unfairness of prohibiting the use of the term “drug free” in describing and advertising vitamin and herbal remedies be recognised.

Mr M. J. Ferguson, Mr Howard, Mr Lee and Mr Mossfield, from 4086, 39, 57 and 9 residents of New South Wales, respectively, praying that the privatisation of the New South Wales Adult Migrant English Service be reviewed.

Mr Brown, from 21 petitioners, Mr Jenkins, from 63 residents of Victoria, and Mr Mossfield, from 14 residents of New South Wales, respectively, praying that legislation that would impact upon existing quality, affordable childcare not be passed.

Mr Cadman, Mr Lee and Mrs West, from 147, 31 and 10 petitioners, respectively, praying that legislation to implement a proposed therapeutic goods advertising code be rejected.

Mr K. J. Andrews and Mr Halverson, from 7 and 46 petitioners, respectively, praying that action be taken to remove the exclusion of members of the Royal Australian Navy, who served in the Malaya campaign, from repatriation benefits under the Veterans’ Entitlements Act.

Mr Bevis and Mr Lee, from 87 and 1215 residents of Queensland, respectively, praying that Medicare/Medibank offices be re-opened.

Mr Abbott, from 131 petitioners, praying that the Government’s aged care reforms be withdrawn and a national strategy on ageing developed.

Mr P. J. Baldwin, from 23 petitioners, praying that certain action be taken to ensure that the proposed Multilateral Agreement on Investment does not have an adverse effect on Australia.

Mr Bevis, from 148 residents of Queensland, praying that the House ensure that the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme does not discriminate against those with the greatest incapacity to pay for prescription medicines.

Mr Bevis, from 89 residents of Queensland, praying that nursing home care be equally available to all Australians on the basis of medical need alone.

Mr Bevis, from 84 residents of Queensland, praying that changes to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme be reversed.

Mr Bevis, from 58 residents of Queensland, praying that data communication services be charged on an untimed basis.

Mr Bevis, from 28 residents of Queensland, praying that the proposal to introduce nursing home entry fees be abandoned and full funding for capital assistance to nursing homes be restored.

Mr Bevis, from 18 petitioners, praying that a high profile anti-racism campaign be mounted.

Mr Crean, from 1086 petitioners, praying that the Australian paper market be protected from the dumping of cheap Indonesian paper.

Mrs Crosio, from 254 petitioners, praying that the Badgerys Creek airport project not proceed and such an airport be built outside the Sydney Basin.

Mr Entsch, from 542 residents of Cooktown, Qld, praying that door-to-door mail delivery service in Cooktown, be supported.

Mr Jenkins, from 63 residents of Victoria, praying that the decision to allow mining at Jabiluka be reversed.

Mr Latham, from 32 petitioners, praying that post-secondary education be returned to a system which is fair and accessible for all Australians.

Dr Lawrence, from 7983 petitioners, praying that certain action be taken to protect high conservation value forests.

Mr Lee, from 165 petitioners, praying that the ABC's funding base be restored to its pre 1996-97 Budget level and maintained in real terms.

Mr Lee, from 98 petitioners, praying that the ban on the importation of cooked chicken meat be maintained.

Mr McArthur, from 3006 petitioners, praying that the decline in ABC funding be reversed, Radio Australia's Cox Peninsula transmitter be restored and adequate funds be provided to the ABC for digitising its operations.

Mr Miles, from 76 petitioners, praying that everything possible be done to combat illicit drug use and trafficking in Australia.

Mr P. F. Morris, from 188 electors of the Division of Shortland, praying that all families have access to affordable and quality child care.

Mr P. F. Morris, from 147 electors of the Division of Shortland, praying that the Belmont, NSW, Medicare office remain open.

Mr P. F. Morris, from 95 electors of the Division of Shortland, praying that the decision to close the Medicare office in Belmont, NSW, be reversed and dismantling of the Medicare services cease.

Mrs Moylan, from 223 petitioners, praying that certain action be taken in response to the practices and policies of the Taliban against the Afghan people.

Dr Nelson, from 79 petitioners, praying that banking and communication legislation be enacted to limit the potential harm of legalised gambling from the home.

Mr O'Keefe, from 394 residents of Victoria, praying that a Medicare facility be urgently provided in Sunbury, Vic.

Mr Slipper, from 17 petitioners, praying that no measures be taken to implement the Multilateral Agreement on Investment until a referendum has been held.

Mr A. C. Smith, from 784 petitioners, praying that the child support system be completely overhauled.

Mr M. A. J. Vaile, from 114 electors of the Division of Lyne, praying that SBS television services be extended to the lower mid-north coast, NSW.

Mrs D. S. Vale, from 422 petitioners, praying that increased nuclear activity in Sydney be opposed.

Mrs D. S. Vale, from 373 petitioners, praying that construction of a nuclear waste reprocessing plant in Sutherland Shire, NSW, be opposed.

Mr Zammit, from 521 residents of New South Wales, praying that a commission of inquiry or judicial inquiry be established to investigate all aspects of the long term operating plan for Sydney (Kingsford-Smith) Airport including the part played by senior members of the Government.

Mr Zammit, from 82 residents of New South Wales, in similar terms.

Mr Zammit, from 181 residents of New South Wales, praying that operational subsidies for community-based non-profit child care centres be reinstated.

Mr Zammit, from 175 residents of New South Wales, praying that operational subsidies for Outside School Hours Child Care Centres be retained.

Petitions received.

#### 10 IMMIGRATION POLICY

Mr Pyne, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House:

- (1) endorses the Government's progressive immigration policy and its emphasis on skilled immigrants which creates additional demand for goods and services and community infrastructure and the consequent employment opportunities that it brings;
- (2) supports the Government in building community confidence in an immigration program that reflects the needs of the Australian economy while also recognising that there remains a requirement for family reunions; and
- (3) agrees that immigration has played a positive role in the building of the Australian population and nation since the Second World War.

Debate ensued.

The time allotted for the debate having expired, the debate was interrupted, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

#### 11 PUBLIC EDUCATION FUNDING

Mr McClelland, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House:

- (1) notes that the current federal Government has diverted funding into private education at the direct expense of public education;
- (2) acknowledges that a properly resourced public education system is vitally important to equity of access to quality education; and
- (3) calls upon the Minister for Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs to properly resource public education.

Debate ensued.

The time allotted for private Members' business having expired, the debate was interrupted, the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting, and Mr Cobb was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

**12 GRIEVANCE DEBATE**

Pursuant to the provisions of standing order 106, the order of the day having been read—

Question proposed—That grievances be noted.

Debate ensued.

Question—That grievances be noted—put and passed.

**13 NATIVE TITLE AND THE ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER LAND FUND—PARLIAMENTARY JOINT COMMITTEE—EXTENSION OF TIME FOR ADVISORY REPORT**

Mr Miles (Parliamentary Secretary (Cabinet) to the Prime Minister), by leave, moved—That the time for the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Native Title and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Fund to present its advisory report on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Bill 1998 be extended to 1 June 1998.

Question—put and passed.

**14 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE**

Message No. 485, 13 May 1998, from the Senate was reported transmitting a resolution agreed to by the Senate extending the time for the presentation of the report of the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties on its inquiry into the Multilateral Agreement on Investment currently being negotiated by the Australian Government, to 1 June 1998.

**15 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1998-99—BUDGET DEBATE**

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

**16 ADJOURNMENT**

Mr Cadman (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Workplace Relations and Small Business) moved—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 2 p.m.



**PAPERS**

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 25 May 1998:

Airports Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1998 Nos. 96, 97, 98.

Census and Statistics Act—Australian Bureau of Statistics—Statement 1998 No. 1.

Defence Act—Determination 1998 No. 20.

*Income Tax Assessment Act 1936*—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1998 No. 92.

*Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1998 No. 85.

Indigenous Education (Supplementary Assistance) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1998 No. 88.

Lands Acquisition Act—Statement under section 125.

Migration Act—General direction under section 499 1998 No. 5.

National Health Act—Determination 1998 No. PB 9.

Parliament Act—Parliamentary Zone—Proposal to erect signage on and around the headquarters of the National Archives of Australia at East Block.

Primary Industries and Energy Research and Development Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1998 No. 90.

Primary Industries Levies and Charges Collection Act, Horticultural Levy Act and Horticultural Export Charge Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1998 No. 89.

Proclamation by His Excellency the Governor-General fixing 15 May 1998 as the date on which Part 3.1 of the *Protection of the Sea (Oil Pollution Compensation Fund) Act 1993* shall come into operation.

Protection of the Sea (Oil Pollution Compensation Fund) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1998 No. 87.

Public Service Act—Determinations 1998 Nos. SESROB 26, SESROB 27, SESROB 28, SESROB 29, SESROB 30, SESROB 31, SESROB 32, SESROB 33, SESROB 34.

Remuneration Tribunal Act—Remuneration Tribunal—Determinations 1998 Nos. 13, 14.

Student and Youth Assistance Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1998 No. 86.  
*Superannuation Act 1976*—

Declaration—Statutory Rules 1998 No. 94.

Regulations—Statutory Rules 1998 No. 91.

*Superannuation Act 1990*—Declarations—Statutory Rules 1998 Nos. 93, 95.

Superannuation Contributions Tax (Assessment and Collection) Act—Determinations Nos. SCD 98/1, SCD 98/2.

Therapeutic Goods Act—Determination 1998 No. MP1.

Veterans' Entitlements Act—Instrument 1998 No. 4.

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**ATTENDANCE**

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Andren, Mr Costello, Mr Fischer, Mr Latham, Mr Lieberman, Dr Nelson, Mrs Sullivan and Dr Wooldridge.

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**I. C. HARRIS**  
Clerk of the House of Representatives