

1998

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 14

WEDNESDAY, 9 DECEMBER 1998

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

**2 ELECTION PETITION**

The Clerk presented a copy of an election petition, dated 7 December 1998, which he had received from the Registrar of the High Court, sitting as the Court of Disputed Returns, under section 369 of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*, viz.: Petition of Donald Kenneth Ditchburn in the matter of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* and in the matter of the election of a member of the House of Representatives for the Division of Herbert (No. B50 of 1998).

**3 NAVIGATION AMENDMENT (EMPLOYMENT OF SEAFARERS) BILL 1998**

Mr Anderson (Minister for Transport and Regional Services), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Navigation Act 1912*, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

*Paper*

Mr Anderson presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

**4 CIVIL AVIATION AMENDMENT BILL 1998**

Mr Anderson (Minister for Transport and Regional Services), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Civil Aviation Act 1988*, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

*Paper*

Mr Anderson presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

**5 PRIVACY AMENDMENT (OFFICE OF THE PRIVACY COMMISSIONER) BILL 1998**

Mr Williams (Attorney-General), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to create the Office of the Privacy Commissioner, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

*Paper*

Mr Williams presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

**6 SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS—BILLS—LIMITATION OF DEBATE**

Mr Reith (Leader of the House), pursuant to notice, moved—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent:

- (1) the Leader of the House making one declaration of urgency and moving one motion for the allotment of time in respect of the following Bills:

A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) 1998;

A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax Imposition—Excise) 1998;

A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax Imposition—Customs) 1998;

A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax Imposition—General) 1998;

A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax Administration) 1998;

A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax Transition) 1998;

A New Tax System (Fringe Benefits Reporting) 1998;

A New Tax System (Medicare Levy Surcharge—Fringe Benefits) 1998;

A New Tax System (Australian Business Number) 1998;

A New Tax System (Australian Business Number Consequential Amendments) 1998;

A New Tax System (End of Sales Tax) 1998;

A New Tax System (Personal Income Tax Cuts) 1998;

A New Tax System (Compensation Measures Legislation Amendment) 1998;

A New Tax System (Bonuses for Older Australians) 1998;

A New Tax System (Income Tax Laws Amendment) 1998; and

A New Tax System (Aged Care Compensation Measures Legislation Amendment) 1998; and

- (2) (a) the resumption of debate on the second readings of (i) orders of the day Nos. 2 to 10 and (ii) orders of the day Nos. 13 to 16 being called on together;
- (b) one question being put in regard to, respectively, any amendments moved to motions for the second readings, the second readings, the consideration in detail stage and the third readings of (i) orders of the day Nos. 2 to 10 and (ii) orders of the day Nos. 13 to 16 together;
- (c) messages from the Governor-General recommending appropriations being announced together; and
- (d) speech time limits at the second reading stage being 10 minutes for each Member speaking.

Debate ensued.

Question—put.

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

AYES, 76

Mr Abbott	Mr Entsch	Mr Lieberman	Mr St Clair
Mr Anderson	Mr Fahey	Mr Lindsay	Mr Scott
Mr K. J. Andrews	Mr Fischer	Mr Lloyd	Mr Secker
Mr Anthony	Mr Forrest*	Mr McArthur*	Mr Slipper
Ms Bailey	Mrs Gallus	Mr I. E. Macfarlane	Mr Somlyay
Mr Baird	Ms Gambaro	Mr McGauran	Dr Southcott
Mr Barresi	Mrs Gash	Ms May	Mrs Stone
Mr Bartlett	Mr Georgiou	Mr Moore	Mrs Sullivan
Mr Billson	Mr Haase	Mrs Moylan	Mr C. P. Thompson
Mrs B. K. Bishop	Mr Hardgrave	Mr Nairn	Mr A. P. Thomson
Ms J. I. Bishop	Mr Hawker	Mr Nehl	Mr Truss
Mr Brough	Mr Hockey	Dr Nelson	Mr Tuckey
Mr Cadman	Mrs Hull	Mr Neville	Mr M. A. J. Vaile
Mr Cameron	Mr Jull	Mr Nugent	Mrs D. S. Vale
Mr Causley	Mr Katter	Mr Prosser	Mr Wakelin
Mr Charles	Mrs D. M. Kelly	Mr Pyne	Dr Washer
Mr Costello	Jackie Kelly	Mr Reith	Mr Williams
Mrs Draper	Dr Kemp	Mr Ronaldson	Dr Wooldridge
Mrs Elson	Mr Lawler	Mr Ruddock	Ms Worth

## NOES, 64

Mr Adams	Mr Fitzgibbon	Ms Livermore	Mr Ripoll
Mr Albanese	Ms Gerick	Mr McClelland	Ms Roxon
Mr Andren	Mr Gibbons	Ms J. S. McFarlane	Mr Rudd
Mr Bevis	Ms Gillard	Ms Macklin	Mr Sawford*
Mr Brereton	Mr Griffin	Mr McLeay	Mr Sciacca
Ms Burke	Ms Hall	Mr McMullan	Mr Sercombe*
Mr Cox	Mr Hatton	Mr Martin	Mr Sidebottom
Mr Crean	Ms Hoare	Mr Morris	Mr Smith
Mrs Crosio	Mr Hollis	Mr Mossfield	Mr Snowdon
Mr Danby	Mr Horne	Mr Murphy	Mr Swan
Mr Edwards	Mrs Irwin	Ms O'Byrne	Mr Tanner
Ms Ellis	Ms Kernot	Mr O'Connor	Dr Theophanous
Dr Emerson	Mr Kerr	Mr O'Keefe	Mr K. J. Thomson
Mr M. J. Evans	Mr Latham	Ms Plibersek	Mr Wilkie
Mr M. J. Ferguson	Dr Lawrence	Mr Price	Mr Wilton
Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Mr Lee	Mr Quick	Mr Zahra

\* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

**7 DECLARATION OF BILLS AS URGENT BILLS—LIMITATION OF DEBATE**

Mr Reith (Leader of the House) declared that the following Bills were urgent Bills:

- A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) 1998;
- A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax Imposition—Excise) 1998;
- A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax Imposition—Customs) 1998;
- A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax Imposition—General) 1998;
- A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax Administration) 1998;
- A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax Transition) 1998;
- A New Tax System (Fringe Benefits Reporting) 1998;
- A New Tax System (Medicare Levy Surcharge—Fringe Benefits) 1998;
- A New Tax System (Australian Business Number) 1998;
- A New Tax System (Australian Business Number Consequential Amendments) 1998;
- A New Tax System (End of Sales Tax) 1998;
- A New Tax System (Personal Income Tax Cuts) 1998;
- A New Tax System (Compensation Measures Legislation Amendment) 1998;
- A New Tax System (Bonuses for Older Australians) 1998;
- A New Tax System (Income Tax Laws Amendment) 1998; and
- A New Tax System (Aged Care Compensation Measures Legislation Amendment) 1998.

Question—That the Bills be considered urgent Bills—put.

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

AYES, 77

Mr Abbott	Mr Fahey	Mr Lloyd	Mr Secker
Mr Anderson	Mr Fischer	Mr McArthur*	Mr Slipper
Mr K. J. Andrews	Mr Forrest*	Mr I. E. Macfarlane	Mr Somlyay
Mr Anthony	Mrs Gallus	Mr McGauran	Dr Southcott
Ms Bailey	Ms Gambaro	Ms May	Mrs Stone
Mr Baird	Mrs Gash	Mr Moore	Mrs Sullivan
Mr Barresi	Mr Georgiou	Mrs Moylan	Mr C. P. Thompson
Mr Bartlett	Mr Haase	Mr Nairn	Mr A. P. Thomson
Mr Billson	Mr Hardgrave	Mr Nehl	Mr Truss
Mrs B. K. Bishop	Mr Hawker	Dr Nelson	Mr Tuckey
Ms J. I. Bishop	Mr Hockey	Mr Neville	Mr M. A. J. Vaile
Mr Brough	Mrs Hull	Mr Nugent	Mrs D. S. Vale
Mr Cadman	Mr Jull	Mr Prosser	Mr Wakelin
Mr Cameron	Mr Katter	Mr Pyne	Dr Washer
Mr Causley	Mrs D. M. Kelly	Mr Reith	Mr Williams
Mr Charles	Jackie Kelly	Mr Ronaldson	Dr Wooldridge
Mr Costello	Dr Kemp	Mr Ruddock	Ms Worth
Mrs Draper	Mr Lawler	Mr St Clair	
Mrs Elson	Mr Lieberman	Mr Schultz	
Mr Entsch	Mr Lindsay	Mr Scott	

NOES, 64

Mr Adams	Mr Fitzgibbon	Ms Livermore	Mr Ripoll
Mr Albanese	Ms Gerick	Mr McClelland	Ms Roxon
Mr Andren	Mr Gibbons	Ms J. S. McFarlane	Mr Rudd
Mr Bevis	Ms Gillard	Ms Macklin	Mr Sawford*
Mr Brereton	Mr Griffin	Mr McLeay	Mr Sciacca
Ms Burke	Ms Hall	Mr McMullan	Mr Sercombe*
Mr Cox	Mr Hatton	Mr Martin	Mr Sidebottom
Mr Crean	Ms Hoare	Mr Morris	Mr Smith
Mrs Crosio	Mr Hollis	Mr Mossfield	Mr Snowdon
Mr Danby	Mr Horne	Mr Murphy	Mr Swan
Mr Edwards	Mrs Irwin	Ms O'Byrne	Mr Tanner
Ms Ellis	Ms Kernot	Mr O'Connor	Dr Theophanous
Dr Emerson	Mr Kerr	Mr O'Keefe	Mr K. J. Thomson
Mr M. J. Evans	Mr Latham	Ms Plibersek	Mr Wilkie
Mr M. J. Ferguson	Dr Lawrence	Mr Price	Mr Wilton
Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Mr Lee	Mr Quick	Mr Zahra

\* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

*Allotment of time*

Mr Reith then moved—That the time allotted in connection with the Bills be as follows:

- (1) A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Bill 1998—
  - (a) For the second reading, until 10.50 a.m. on Thursday, 10 December 1998;
  - (b) For the remaining stages, until 11.40 a.m. on Thursday, 10 December 1998.
- (2) A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax Imposition—Excise) Bill 1998;  
A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax Imposition—Customs) Bill 1998;  
A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax Imposition—General) Bill 1998;  
A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax Administration) Bill 1998;  
A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax Transition) Bill 1998;  
A New Tax System (Fringe Benefits Reporting) Bill 1998;  
A New Tax System (Medicare Levy Surcharge—Fringe Benefits) Bill 1998;  
A New Tax System (Australian Business Number) Bill 1998; and  
A New Tax System (Australian Business Number Consequential Amendments) Bill 1998—For the second readings, until 12.10 p.m. on Thursday, 10 December 1998.
- (3) A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax Imposition—Excise) Bill 1998—For the remaining stages, until 12.35 p.m. on Thursday, 10 December 1998.
- (4) A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax Imposition—Customs) Bill 1998—For the remaining stages, until 12.55 p.m. on Thursday, 10 December 1998.
- (5) A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax Imposition—General) Bill 1998—For the remaining stages, until 1.10 p.m. on Thursday, 10 December 1998.
- (6) A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax Administration) Bill 1998;  
A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax Transition) Bill 1998;  
A New Tax System (Fringe Benefits Reporting) Bill 1998;  
A New Tax System (Medicare Levy Surcharge—Fringe Benefits) Bill 1998;  
A New Tax System (Australian Business Number) Bill 1998; and  
A New Tax System (Australian Business Number Consequential Amendments) Bill 1998—For the remaining stages, until 1.20 p.m. on Thursday, 10 December 1998.

- (7) A New Tax System (End of Sales Tax) Bill 1998—For the remaining stages, until 1.50 p.m. on Thursday, 10 December 1998.
- (8) A New Tax System (Personal Income Tax Cuts) Bill 1998—For the remaining stages, until 4.50 p.m. on Thursday, 10 December 1998.
- (9) A New Tax System (Compensation Measures Legislation Amendment) Bill 1998;  
 A New Tax System (Bonuses for Older Australians) Bill 1998;  
 A New Tax System (Income Tax Laws Amendment) Bill 1998; and  
 A New Tax System (Aged Care Compensation Measures Legislation Amendment) Bill 1998—For the remaining stages, until 5 p.m. on Thursday, 10 December 1998.

Question—put.

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

AYES, 77

Mr Abbott	Mr Fahey	Mr Lloyd	Mr Secker
Mr Anderson	Mr Fischer	Mr McArthur*	Mr Slipper
Mr K. J. Andrews	Mr Forrest*	Mr I. E. Macfarlane	Mr Somlyay
Mr Anthony	Mrs Gallus	Mr McGauran	Dr Southcott
Ms Bailey	Ms Gambaro	Ms May	Mrs Stone
Mr Baird	Mrs Gash	Mr Moore	Mrs Sullivan
Mr Barresi	Mr Georgiou	Mrs Moylan	Mr C. P. Thompson
Mr Bartlett	Mr Haase	Mr Nairn	Mr A. P. Thomson
Mr Billson	Mr Hardgrave	Mr Nehl	Mr Truss
Mrs B. K. Bishop	Mr Hawker	Dr Nelson	Mr Tuckey
Ms J. I. Bishop	Mr Hockey	Mr Neville	Mr M. A. J. Vaile
Mr Brough	Mrs Hull	Mr Nugent	Mrs D. S. Vale
Mr Cadman	Mr Jull	Mr Prosser	Mr Wakelin
Mr Cameron	Mr Katter	Mr Pyne	Dr Washer
Mr Causley	Mrs D. M. Kelly	Mr Reith	Mr Williams
Mr Charles	Jackie Kelly	Mr Ronaldson	Dr Wooldridge
Mr Costello	Dr Kemp	Mr Ruddock	Ms Worth
Mrs Draper	Mr Lawler	Mr St Clair	
Mrs Elson	Mr Lieberman	Mr Schultz	
Mr Entsch	Mr Lindsay	Mr Scott	

## NOES, 64

Mr Adams	Mr Fitzgibbon	Ms Livermore	Mr Ripoll
Mr Albanese	Ms Gerick	Mr McClelland	Ms Roxon
Mr Andren	Mr Gibbons	Ms J. S. McFarlane	Mr Rudd
Mr Bevis	Ms Gillard	Ms Macklin	Mr Sawford*
Mr Brereton	Mr Griffin	Mr McLeay	Mr Sciacca
Ms Burke	Ms Hall	Mr McMullan	Mr Sercombe*
Mr Cox	Mr Hatton	Mr Martin	Mr Sidebottom
Mr Crean	Ms Hoare	Mr Morris	Mr Smith
Mrs Crosio	Mr Hollis	Mr Mossfield	Mr Snowdon
Mr Danby	Mr Horne	Mr Murphy	Mr Swan
Mr Edwards	Mrs Irwin	Ms O'Byrne	Mr Tanner
Ms Ellis	Ms Kernot	Mr O'Connor	Dr Theophanous
Dr Emerson	Mr Kerr	Mr O'Keefe	Mr K. J. Thomson
Mr M. J. Evans	Mr Latham	Ms Plibersek	Mr Wilkie
Mr M. J. Ferguson	Dr Lawrence	Mr Price	Mr Wilton
Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Mr Lee	Mr Quick	Mr Zahra

\* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

### 8 A NEW TAX SYSTEM (GOODS AND SERVICES TAX) 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 Crean (Deputy Leader of the Opposition), viz.*—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “the House:

- (1) condemns the Government for seeking to introduce a GST which is an unnecessary, unfair, job destroying tax which discriminates against low and middle income earners, the aged and families;
- (2) condemns the Government for putting at risk the low inflation environment delivered by Labor by proposing to introduce an inflationary GST which will put at risk the low interest rates made possible by low inflation;
- (3) condemns the Government for placing a higher priority on imposing a GST on Australian families that will make the tax system less equitable, rather than addressing tax avoidance loopholes, which would improve the equity of the tax system;
- (4) condemns the Government for the hypocrisy of claiming that hidden indirect taxes are unfair merely because they are not separately disclosed to consumers and then proposing a massive new GST which will also be hidden from consumers even though a retail tax can simply be made transparent to consumers; and

- (5) condemns the Government for granting the GST a higher legislative priority than all of the following related matters which have not as yet been introduced into the Parliament including:
- (a) those matters listed below which are contingent on the GST package which the Government is hiding from the Australian people and from the Senate inquiry process such as:
    - (i) the mechanism by which the rate of GST is supposed to be locked in;
    - (ii) the amendments to the Trade Practices Act which will grant the ACCC greater power to police the changeover to the GST regime which the Government claims will result in all of the reductions in Commonwealth and State taxes being passed on to consumers;
    - (iii) excise arrangements for petrol and diesel, involving supposedly retail price neutral shifts in petrol prices and a 25 cent reduction in diesel;
    - (iv) the repeal of the so-called safety net excise arrangements which were implemented after the High Court ruled State business franchise fees to be unconstitutional;
    - (v) the luxury car tax;
    - (vi) the wine equalisation tax;
    - (vii) repeal/amendment to the Diesel Fuel Rebate Scheme;
    - (viii) the First Home Buyers Scheme;
    - (ix) the guaranteed distribution of GST revenue to the states; and
    - (x) the \$500 million GST start-up package for small business; and
  - (b) those related taxation/equity matters which are not contingent on the GST but which should be made available to the Australian people for their consideration including:
    - (i) providing a Fringe Benefits Tax exemption for remote area housing provided to employees in the mining industry;
    - (ii) the repeal of Commonwealth Local Government Funding Legislation;
    - (iii) changes to childcare assistance;
    - (iv) excise arrangements for tobacco;
    - (v) the entity taxation regime involving taxing companies, trusts, life insurance etc. under one common set of arrangements;
    - (vi) the business taxation measures involving the deferred company tax (ie full franking of all dividends) and the possible changes to the corporate rate and business concessions arrangements;
    - (vii) the new employer withholding arrangements which will replace the PAYE, PPS and RPS systems;
    - (viii) share buy-backs and liquidations;

- (ix) extending capital gains tax relief and the retirement exemption for small business;
- (x) limiting the existing Fringe Benefits Tax exemption for non-profit organisations to \$17 000 gross-up value for each employee;
- (xi) the anti-avoidance legislation addressing complex chains of trusts;
- (xii) the repeal of provisional tax and the introduction of the new Pay As You Go tax payment arrangements;
- (xiii) the changes to the timing of company tax arrangements; and
- (xiv) refundable imputation credits”—

Debate resumed.

Mr Causley 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.

**9 ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH—REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE**

The Deputy Speaker reported that the order of the day for the resumption of debate on the Address in Reply to the speech of His Excellency the Governor-General had been returned to the House from the Main Committee.

Question proposed—That the Address in Reply to the speech of His Excellency the Governor-General be agreed to.

*Closure*

Mr Hockey (Minister for Financial Services and Regulation) moved—That the question be now put.

Question—That the question be now put—put.

The House divided (the Deputy Speaker, Mr K. J. Andrews, in the Chair)—

## AYES, 73

Mr Abbott	Mr Fahey	Mr Lloyd	Mr Secker
Mr Anderson	Mr Fischer	Mr McArthur*	Mr Slipper
Mr Anthony	Mr Forrest*	Mr I. E. Macfarlane	Mr Somlyay
Ms Bailey	Ms Gambaro	Mr McGauran	Dr Southcott
Mr Baird	Mrs Gash	Ms May	Mrs Stone
Mr Barresi	Mr Georgiou	Mr Moore	Mrs Sullivan
Mr Bartlett	Mr Haase	Mrs Moylan	Mr C. P. Thompson
Mr Billson	Mr Hardgrave	Mr Nairn	Mr A. P. Thomson
Mrs B. K. Bishop	Mr Hawker	Mr Nehl	Mr Truss
Ms J. I. Bishop	Mr Hockey	Dr Nelson	Mr Tuckey
Mr Brough	Mrs Hull	Mr Neville	Mr M. A. J. Vaile
Mr Cadman	Mr Jull	Mr Nugent	Mrs D. S. Vale
Mr Cameron	Mr Katter	Mr Prosser	Mr Wakelin
Mr Causley	Mrs D. M. Kelly	Mr Pyne	Dr Washer
Mr Charles	Jackie Kelly	Mr Reith	Mr Williams
Mr Costello	Dr Kemp	Mr Ronaldson	Dr Wooldridge
Mrs Draper	Mr Lawler	Mr Ruddock	
Mrs Elson	Mr Lieberman	Mr St Clair	
Mr Entsch	Mr Lindsay	Mr Scott	

## NOES, 64

Mr Adams	Mr Gibbons	Mr McClelland	Mr Ripoll
Mr Albanese	Ms Gillard	Ms J. S. McFarlane	Ms Roxon
Mr Andren	Mr Griffin	Ms Macklin	Mr Rudd
Mr Bevis	Ms Hall	Mr McLeay	Mr Sawford*
Ms Burke	Mr Hatton	Mr McMullan	Mr Sciacca
Mr Cox	Ms Hoare	Mr Martin	Mr Sercombe*
Mr Crean	Mr Hollis	Mr Melham	Mr Sidebottom
Mrs Crosio	Mr Horne	Mr Morris	Mr Smith
Mr Danby	Mrs Irwin	Mr Mossfield	Mr Snowdon
Ms Ellis	Mr Jenkins	Mr Murphy	Mr Swan
Dr Emerson	Ms Kernot	Ms O'Byrne	Mr Tanner
Mr M. J. Evans	Mr Kerr	Mr O'Connor	Dr Theophanous
Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Mr Latham	Mr O'Keefe	Mr K. J. Thomson
Mr M. J. Ferguson	Dr Lawrence	Ms Plibersek	Mr Wilkie
Mr Fitzgibbon	Mr Lee	Mr Price	Mr Wilton
Ms Gerick	Ms Livermore	Mr Quick	Mr Zahra

\* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

And the question—That the Address in Reply to the speech of His Excellency the Governor-General be agreed to—was put accordingly, and passed.

*Presentation of Address in Reply*

The Deputy Speaker informed the House that the Speaker had ascertained that His Excellency the Governor-General would be pleased to receive the Address in Reply at Government House at 5.30 p.m. this day. The Speaker would be glad if the mover and seconder, together with other Members, would accompany him to present the Address.

**10 A NEW TAX SYSTEM (GOODS AND SERVICES TAX) 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 Crean (Deputy Leader of the Opposition)(see item No. 8, page 212)*—

Debate having been resumed by Mr Causley—

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

**11 QUESTIONS**

Questions without notice being asked—

*Paper*

Mr Costello (Treasurer) presented the following paper:

A guide to tax reform, July 1985—Extract.

Questions without notice continuing—

*Paper*

Mrs B. K. Bishop (Minister for Aged Care) presented the following paper:

Aged care—Total aged care places—Australia, 1986 to 2002—Graph.

Questions without notice continued.

**12 PAPERS**

The following papers were presented:

Anglo-Australian Telescope Agreement Act—Anglo-Australian Telescope Board—Report for 1997-98

Australian Securities and Investments Commission Act—

Australian Accounting Standards Board—Report for 1997-98.

Companies and Securities Advisory Committee—Report for 1997-98.

Corporations and Securities Panel—Report for 1997-98.

Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act—Australian Law Reform Commission—Report for 1997-98.

Department of Defence—Special purpose flights—Schedule for period January to July 1998—Erratum.

Employment, Education and Training Act—National Board of Employment, Education and Training— Australian Research Council and Higher Education Council—Report for 1997-98.

International Labour Organisation—

Australia's submission report on International Labour Organisation (ILO) maritime instruments adopted in 1996.

Conventions—

No. 178—Inspection of seafarers' working and living conditions.

No. 179—Recruitment and placement of seafarers.

No. 180—Seafarers' hours of work and the manning of ships.

Protocol of 1996 to the Merchant Shipping (Minimum Standards) Convention 1976.

Recommendations—

No. 185—The inspection of seafarers' working and living conditions.

No. 186—Recruitment and placement of seafarers.

No. 187—Seafarers' wages and hours of work and the manning of ships.

Landcare Australia Limited—9th report, for 1997-98.

Murray-Darling Basin Act—Murray-Darling Basin Commission—Report for 1997-98.

National Residue Survey Administration Act—National Residue Survey—Report for 1997-98.

*Telecommunications Act 1997*—Digital data inquiry—

Ministerial statement by the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts (Senator Alston), December 1998.

Report, August 1998.

### 13 PAPERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS

Mr Reith (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the following papers:

Australian Securities and Investments Commission Act—

Australian Accounting Standards Board—Report for 1997-98.

Companies and Securities Advisory Committee—Report for 1997-98.

Corporations and Securities Panel—Report for 1997-98.

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

### 14 PAPER

The Speaker presented the following paper:

House of Representatives—Schedule showing the allocation of annual reports of departments, agencies, authorities and companies to general purpose standing committees and certain joint committees.

### 15 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—AVIATION SAFETY

The House was informed that Ms Kernot had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The failure of the Government to accept responsibility for the administration of

aviation safety in Australia, in particular its failure to address and resolve air safety concerns surrounding the Class G airspace demonstration”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Ms Kernot addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

#### **16 BILLS REFERRED TO MAIN COMMITTEE**

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

Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Amendment (No. 1) 1998; and

National Environment Protection Measures (Implementation) 1998.

Question—put and passed.

#### **17 LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS—STANDING COMMITTEE**

Mr Tuckey (Minister for Forestry and Conservation), by leave, moved—That Mr Ronaldson be appointed as a member of the Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs.

Question—put and passed.

#### **18 CORPORATIONS AND SECURITIES—PARLIAMENTARY JOINT COMMITTEE**

Mr Tuckey (Minister for Forestry and Conservation), by leave, moved—That Ms J. I. Bishop be appointed as a member of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Corporations and Securities.

Question—put and passed.

#### **19 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE**

Message No. 24, 8 December 1998, from the Senate was reported acquainting the House of the appointment of Senators to the following joint committees:

Corporations and Securities—Parliamentary Joint Committee—Senators Chapman, Conroy, Cooney, Gibson and Murray.

Australian Security Intelligence Organization—Parliamentary Joint Committee—Senators Sandy Macdonald, MacGibbon and Ray.

National Crime Authority—Parliamentary Joint Committee—Senators George Campbell, Denman, Ferris, McGauran and Stott Despoja.

Native Title and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Fund—Parliamentary Joint Committee—Senators Abetz, Crossin, Ferris, Reynolds and Woodley.

Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings—Joint Committee—Senators Knowles and West.

Public Accounts and Audit—Joint Committee—Senators Coonan, Crowley, Gibson, Hogg, Murray and Watson.

Public Works—Parliamentary Standing Committee—Senators Calvert, Ferguson and Murphy.

Electoral Matters—Joint Standing Committee—Senators Bartlett, Faulkner, Lightfoot and Synon.

Migration—Joint Standing Committee—Senators Bartlett, Eggleston, McKiernan and Tierney.

National Capital and External Territories—Joint Standing Committee—Senators Allison, Crossin, Lightfoot, Lundy and McGauran.

Treaties—Joint Standing Committee—Senators Bourne, Brownhill, Coonan, Cooney, O’Chee, Reynolds and Schacht.

**20 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—PAYMENT PROCESSING LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (SOCIAL SECURITY AND VETERANS’ ENTITLEMENTS) BILL 1998**

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

8 December 1998—Message No. 23—Payment Processing Legislation Amendment (Social Security and Veterans’ Entitlements) 1998.

Ordered—That the amendments be considered at the next sitting.

**21 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:

7 December 1998—Message—

No. 20—

States Grants (General Purposes) Amendment 1998.

States Grants (Primary and Secondary Education Assistance) Amendment 1998.

No. 21—

Film Licensed Investment Company 1998.

Taxation Laws Amendment (Film Licensed Investment Company) 1998.

8 December 1998—Message No. 22—Higher Education Funding Amendment 1998.

**22 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—NATIONAL TRANSMISSION NETWORK SALE BILL 1998**

Message No. 25, 9 December 1998, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for an Act relating to the sale of the National Transmission Network.

Bill read a first time.

Ordered—That the second reading be made an order of the day for the next sitting.

**23 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—NATIONAL TRANSMISSION NETWORK SALE (CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS) BILL 1998**

Message No. 26, 9 December 1998, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for an Act to make consequential amendments relating to the sale of the National Transmission Network, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Ordered—That the second reading be made an order of the day for the next sitting.

**24 A NEW TAX SYSTEM (GOODS AND SERVICES TAX) 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 Crean (Deputy Leader of the Opposition)(see item No. 8, page 212)—*

Debate resumed.

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

**25 PRESENTATION OF ADDRESS IN REPLY**

At 4.57 p.m., the sitting was suspended until 7 p.m.

The Speaker, after resuming the Chair, reported that, accompanied by Members he had waited that day upon His Excellency the Governor-General at Government House, and had presented to him the Address in Reply to His Excellency's speech on the Opening of the 1st Session of the 39th Parliament, agreed to by the House on 9 December 1998, and that His Excellency had been pleased to make the following reply:

Mr Speaker

Thank you for your Address in Reply.

It will be my pleasure and my duty to convey to Her Majesty The Queen the message of loyalty from the House of Representatives, to which the Address gives expression.

**26 MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL—ASSENT TO BILL**

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 Bill:

7 December 1998—Message No. 23—Data-matching Program (Assistance and Tax) Amendment 1998.

**27 SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS—MAIN COMMITTEE—ADJOURNMENT DEBATE**

Mr Slipper (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration), by leave, moved—That so much of the standing and sessional orders be suspended as would prevent the adjournment debate in the Main

Committee on Thursday, 10 December 1998, continuing without interruption until 1.30 p.m.

Question—put and passed.

**28 A NEW TAX SYSTEM (GOODS AND SERVICES TAX) 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 Crean (Deputy Leader of the Opposition)(see item No. 8, page 212)*—

Debate resumed.

Mr Lieberman addressing the House—

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*Adjournment negatived*

It being 7.30 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Mr Hockey (Minister for Financial Services and Regulation) requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate—

Question—put and negatived.

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Debate continued.

Mr Wakelin 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 the next sitting.

**29 ADJOURNMENT**

Mr Hockey (Minister for Financial Services and Regulation) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

The House continuing to sit until 8 p.m.—The Deputy Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 9.30 a.m.

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**PAPERS**

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 9 December 1998:

Australian Meat and Live-stock Industry Act—Orders Nos. MQ1/98, MQ2/98.

Carriage of Goods by Sea Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1998 No. 324.

Defence Act—Determinations under section 58B 1998 Nos. 39, 40, 41.

Federal Court of Australia Act—Rules of Court—Statutory Rules 1998 No. 323.

Film Licensed Investment Company Act—  
Determination—1998—Film Licensed Investment Company (Criteria and  
Procedures).

Rules—1998—Film Licensed Investment Company (Application).

*Income Tax Assessment Act 1936*—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1998 No.  
325.

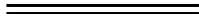
Loan (Income Equalization Deposits) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1998  
No. 326.

Migration Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1998 No. 322.



**ATTENDANCE**

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr G. J. Evans  
and Mr Howard.



**I. C. HARRIS**

Clerk of the House of Representatives

1998

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

No. 14

**MAIN COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**WEDNESDAY, 9 DECEMBER 1998**

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1 The Main Committee met at 10 a.m.

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*Suspension of sitting*

At 10 a.m., the Deputy Speaker left the Chair due to the lack of a quorum.

*Resumption of sitting*

At 10.01 a.m., the Deputy Speaker resumed the Chair, and a quorum being present—

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2 **ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH**

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the Address in Reply to the speech of His Excellency the Governor-General be agreed to (*see item number 19, page 13*)—

Debate resumed.

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*Suspension of sitting*

At 10.24 a.m., a division having been called in the House, the proceedings were suspended.

*Resumption of sitting*

At 10.41 a.m., the proceedings were resumed.

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Debate continued.

Mr Neville moved—That further proceedings be conducted in the House.

Question—put and passed.

**3 ADJOURNMENT**

On the motion of Mr Neville, the Main Committee adjourned at 1.05 p.m.

The Deputy Speaker fixed tomorrow at 9.40 a.m. for the next meeting of the Main Committee.



**B. C. WRIGHT**  
Clerk of the Main Committee