

1998-99

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 20

MONDAY, 15 FEBRUARY 1999

1 The House met, at 12.30 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (the Honourable Neil Andrew) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

2 PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS NOTICE

Upon notice No. 1, private Members' business being called on, Mr Albanese, in the absence of Mrs Crosio, and at her request, fixed the next sitting as the day for presenting the Employee Protection (Wage Guarantee) Bill 1999.

3 BREAST CANCER

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

- (1) places on record concern about the lack of sufficient funding for clinical trials for the treatment and prevention of breast cancer;
- (2) notes that over 8000 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in 1998 and that over 2700 women will die of breast cancer in that year; and
- (3) calls on the Government to consider infrastructure funding which will give the foundation and security for planning and completion of quality, evidence-based research.

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.

4 MILITARY PERSONNEL EXPOSED TO RADIATION

Mr L. D. T. Ferguson, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House:

- (1) notes that the Royal Commission into British Nuclear Tests in Australia concluded that the 1983 Survey of Health of Former Atomic Test Personnel cannot be regarded as an adequate epidemiological study;
- (2) expresses concern that there has been no further official study into the health and mortality of Australian personnel who participated in British nuclear tests and subsequent clean-up operations;

- (3) acknowledges that the USA accepts as radiogenic a range of cancers and other conditions experienced by military personnel who were exposed to ionising radiation;
- (4) notes that studies of British nuclear veterans have been conducted by the UK National Radiological Protection Board in 1988 and 1993 and, more recently, through Dundee University for the British Nuclear Tests Veterans Association;
- (5) calls on the Minister for Defence to commission as a matter of urgency a rigorous health and mortality study of Australian atomic ex-service personnel and their children and grandchildren; and
- (6) supports the involvement of independent researchers and representatives of the ex-service community in the design and conduct of such a study.

Debate ensued.

At 1.45 p.m., the time allotted for the debate having expired, the debate was interrupted in accordance with standing order 106A, Mr Snowdon was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed, and the resumption of the debate was made an order of the day for the next sitting.

5 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Members' statements were made.

6 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice being asked—

Paper

Mr Sercombe, in accordance with standing order 321, having called for documents quoted from by Mr Tuckey (Minister for Forestry and Conservation)—

Mr Tuckey presented the following paper:

Regional forestry agreements—Towards an Eden Regional Forest Agreement—
Page 26.

Questions without notice continued.

7 PETITIONS

Petitions lodged for presentation were announced.

8 FOOD REGULATORY SYSTEM

Ms Bailey, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House:

- (1) recognises that food is a growth industry;
- (2) acknowledges that the 'food industry' comprises primary industry production, processing and manufacturing, retail and catering; and
- (3) calls on the Government to ensure a national uniform food regulatory system.

Debate ensued.

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

9 PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND STAFFING AND PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE STANDING ORDERS

Mr Price, pursuant to notice, moved the following motions—

- (1) That a Standing Committee on Appropriations and Staffing be appointed to inquire into:
 - (a) proposals for the annual estimates and the additional estimates for the House of Representatives;
 - (b) proposals to vary the staff structure of the House of Representatives, and staffing and recruitment policies; and
 - (c) such other matters as are referred to it by the House;
- (2) That the committee shall:
 - (a) in relation to estimates—
 - (i) determine the amounts for inclusion in the parliamentary appropriation bills for the annual and the additional appropriations; and
 - (ii) report to the House upon its determinations prior to the consideration by the House of the relevant parliamentary appropriation bill; and
 - (b) in relation to staffing—
 - (i) make recommendations to the Speaker; and
 - (ii) report to the House on any matter its determinations prior to the consideration by the House of the relevant parliamentary appropriation bill;
- (3) That the committee consist of the Speaker and 11 other members, 6 members to be nominated by the Chief Government Whip or Whips and 5 members to be nominated by the Chief Opposition Whip or Whips or any independent Member;
- (4) That the committee elect a Government member as its chair;
- (5) That the committee elect a deputy chairman who shall act as chair of the committee at any time when the chair is not present at a meeting of the committee, and at any time when the chair and deputy chair are not present at a meeting of the committee the members present shall elect another member to act as chairman at that meeting;
- (6) That the committee have power to appoint subcommittees consisting of 3 or more of its members and to refer to any subcommittee any matter which the committee is empowered to examine;
- (7) That the committee appoint the chair of each subcommittee who shall have a casting vote only, and at any time when the chair of a subcommittee is not present at a meeting of the subcommittee the members of the

subcommittee present shall elect another member of that subcommittee to act as chair at that meeting;

- (8) That the quorum of a subcommittee be a majority of the members of that subcommittee;
 - (9) That members of the committee who are not members of a subcommittee may participate in the public proceedings of that subcommittee but shall not vote, move any motion or be counted for the purpose of a quorum;
 - (10) That the committee or any subcommittee have power to send for persons, papers and records;
 - (11) That the committee or any subcommittee have power to move from place to place;
 - (12) That a subcommittee have power to adjourn from time to time and to sit during any sittings or adjournment of the House;
 - (13) That the committee have leave to report from time to time; and
 - (14) That the foregoing provisions of this resolution, so far as they are inconsistent with the standing orders, have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the standing orders.
- (1) That standing order 28B be amended by inserting the following paragraph after paragraph (b):
 - (*ba*) annual and additional estimates contained in the appropriation bills presented to the House shall stand referred for consideration by Members of the relevant committee (as determined in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (b) for the consideration of annual reports), and, for the purposes of this consideration:
 - (i) six Members of each committee, determined by the committee in each case, shall consider the estimates;
 - (ii) the Members of the committee selected to consider the estimates shall meet with Members of the relevant Senate legislation committee so that the Members and Senators may meet together for the purposes of considering the estimates;
 - (iii) members of the relevant House and Senate committees, when meeting together to consider estimates, shall choose a Member or a Senator to chair the joint meetings;
 - (iv) the provisions of Senate standing order 26 shall, to the extent that they are applicable, apply to the consideration of estimates under this paragraph, and
 - (v) that, upon the completion of joint meetings at which evidence is received or written answers or additional information considered, it shall then be a matter for the Members of the relevant committee to consider the terms of any report to the House on the estimates.

- (2) That a message be sent to the Senate acquainting it of this resolution and requesting that it concur and take action accordingly.

That the standing orders be amended by amending standing order 94 to read as follows:

Closure of Member

94 A motion may be made that a Member who is speaking, except a Member giving a notice of motion or formally moving the terms of a motion allowed under the standing orders or speaking to a motion of dissent (from any ruling of the Speaker under standing order 100), “be not further heard”, and such question shall be put forthwith and decided without amendment or debate.

That standing order 129 be omitted and the following standing order substituted:

Presentation of petitions

129 At the time provided for the presentation of petitions, the following arrangements shall apply to the presentation of petitions certified to be in conformity with the standing orders:

- (a) in respect of each petition, the petitioner, or one of the petitioners, may present the petition to the House by standing at the Bar of the House and reading to the House the prayer of the petition, and
- (b) where a petitioner is not able to present the petition in accordance with paragraph (a) of this standing order, the Member who has lodged the petition may present it to the House by reading to the House the prayer of the petition.

That the standing orders be amended by inserting the following standing order after standing order 143:

Questions to committee chairs

143A Questions may be put to a Member in his or her capacity as Chair of a committee of the House, or of a joint committee, in connection with the work or duties of the committee in question.

That the standing orders be amended by inserting the following standing order after standing order 145:

Questions without notice—Time limits

145A During question time:

- (a) the asking of each question may not exceed 1 minute and the answering of each question may not exceed 4 minutes;
- (b) the asking of each supplementary question may not exceed 1 minute and the answering of each supplementary question may not exceed 1 minute; and
- (c) the time taken to make and determine points of order is not to be regarded as part of the time for questions and answers.

That standing order 275A be omitted and the following standing order be substituted:

Statements by Members

275A Notwithstanding standing order 275, when the Main Committee meets on a Thursday, the business before the Committee shall be interrupted at 1 p.m. and the Chair shall call for statements by Members. A Member, other than a Minister, may be called by the Chair to make a statement for a period not exceeding 3 minutes. The period for Members' statements may continue for a maximum of 1 hour. Any business under discussion at 1 p.m. and interrupted under the provisions of this standing order shall be set down on the Notice Paper for the next sitting.

Debate ensued.

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

10 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.

11 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 3) 1998-99

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.

Papers

Mr Jenkins, by leave, presented the following papers:

Jobskill participants—Copies of photographs published in the *Age* (3).

Debate continued.

Mr Fitzgibbon addressing the House—

12 ADJOURNMENT

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

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 10.59 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 2 p.m.

PAPERS

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 15 February 1999:

Civil Aviation Act—Civil Aviation Regulations—Instrument 1999 No. ML 002.

Corporations Act—Accounting standards Nos. AASB 1006, AASB 1039.

Customs Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 No. 9.

Export Control Act—Export Control (Orders) Regulations—Orders—Export Control (Animals) Amendment 1999 (No. 1).

Hazardous Waste (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 Nos. 6, 7.

Income Tax Assessment Act 1997—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 No. 12.

Interstate Road Transport Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 No. 11.

Lands Acquisition Act—Statements under section—
40.
125.

Migration Act—
Notices under section 502—
15 December 1998.
18 January 1999.

Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 No. 8.

Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 No. 10.

National Health Act—
Declaration 1999 No. PB 2.
Determination 1999 No. PB 3.

Retirement Savings Accounts Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 No. 13.
Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 No. 14.

Therapeutic Goods Act—Determination under section 19A—18 December 1998.

ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mrs Crosio, Mr Edwards, Mrs Gallus, Ms Roxon and Mrs Sullivan.

I. C. HARRIS
Clerk of the House of Representatives