

1998-99

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS**

No. 29

TUESDAY, 23 MARCH 1999



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

**2 QUESTIONS**

Questions without notice were asked.

**3 PRIVILEGE—STATEMENT BY SPEAKER**

The Speaker referred to the matter raised by Mr Martin yesterday concerning the premature publication on the *AM* radio program and other media of the contents of the report of the Standing Committee on Economics, Finance and Public Administration on regional banking services.

The Speaker stated that, in accordance with the procedures applicable in such matters, the issues must be considered in the first instance by the committee itself. The committee should consider first whether, in its opinion, the matter has caused or is likely to cause substantial interference with its work, with the committee system or with the functioning of the House. The Speaker stated that the committee must also take whatever steps it can to ascertain the source or sources of any disclosure.

The Speaker concluded by stating that the committee should inform the House of the results of its consideration of the matter and that if it concludes that substantial interference has occurred, it must explain why it reached this conclusion.

**4 PAPERS**

The following papers were presented:

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission—Reports—  
Competitive safeguards 1997-98.

Telecommunications charges in Australia, December 1998.

Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—Digital Broadcasting Industry Action Agenda—Australian industry: “Thinking outside the box”, January 1999.

Migration Agents Registration Authority—Report for period 21 March to 30 June 1998.

**5 DIGITAL BROADCASTING INDUSTRY—ACTION AGENDA—PAPER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

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

Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—Digital Broadcasting Industry Action Agenda—Australian industry: ‘Thinking outside the box’, January 1999.

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

**6 MAIN COMMITTEE—DAY OF NEXT MEETING**

The Speaker reported that the Deputy Speaker had fixed today, 23 March 1999, at 4.30 p.m., for the next meeting of the Main Committee.

**7 SAFETY OF FIRE DOORS—NOTICE OF INVESTIGATION AND WARNING TO PUBLIC—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

Mr Hockey (Minister for Financial Services and Regulation), by leave, made a ministerial statement concerning a notice of investigation and warning to the public on the safety of fire doors and presented the following paper:

Safety of fire doors—Notice of investigation and warning to the public—Ministerial statement.

Mr Tanner, by leave, also made a statement with reference to the matter.

Mr Hockey moved—That the House take note of the paper.

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

**8 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—TERTIARY EDUCATION**

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 damage being done to Australian tertiary education by the policies of the Howard Government”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Lee addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

**9 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, 29 March 1999.

**10 TREATIES—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

Mr A. P. Thomson (Chair) presented the following papers:

Treaties—Joint Standing Committee—19th report—Fifth Protocol to the General Agreement on Trade in Services and five treaties tabled on 30 June 1998—

Report, 9 March 1999.

Evidence received by the committee.

Minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Mr A. P. Thomson, by leave, moved—That the House take note of the report.

Mr A. P. Thomson 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.

**11 REFERENDUM LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1999**

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.

*Paper*

Ms Hoare, by leave, presented the following paper:

Australian Constitution—Proposed preamble.

Debate continued.

Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Williams (Attorney-General), the Bill was read a third time.

**12 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE**

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

23 March 1999—Message No. 58—Taxation Laws Amendment (No. 2) 1998.

**13 TEXTILE, CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR STRATEGIC INVESTMENT PROGRAM BILL 1999**

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 McMullan, viz.*—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “while not declining to give the bill a second reading, the House expresses its concern about the nature of the bill, in particular:

- (1) the lack of legislated detail about the TCF (Strategic Investment Program) Scheme;
- (2) the wide discretion given to the Minister to determine details of the Scheme;
- (3) the failure to require the Minister to formulate the Scheme by a specified date;
- (4) the failure to specify the size of the funding envelope for each of the grants contemplated under the Scheme;
- (5) the failure to specify the range of amounts available for individual grants under the Scheme; and
- (6) the failure to legislate the criteria for receiving grants under the Scheme”—

Debate resumed.

Amendment negatived.

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. 44, 10 February 1999, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation for the purposes of the Bill.

*Consideration in detail*

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole.

Mr McMullan, by leave, moved Opposition amendments (1) and (2) together.

Debate continued.

Amendments agreed to.

Mr McMullan moved Opposition amendment (3).

Debate continued.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

The House divided (the Deputy Speaker, Mrs Crosio, in the Chair)—

## AYES, 63

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

## NOES, 73

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

\* Tellers

*Pairs*

Mr Howard                      Mr Beazley

And so it was negatived.

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

Consideration in detail concluded.

On the motion of Mr Entsch (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Industry, Science and Resources), by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

**14 CUSTOMS TARIFF AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 1) 1999**

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—

Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

*Consideration in detail*

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole.

Mr McMullan, by leave, moved Opposition amendments (1) to (8) together.

Amendments negatived.

Bill agreed to.

Consideration in detail concluded.

On the motion of Mr Entsch (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Industry, Science and Resources), by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

**15 CUSTOMS (ANTI-DUMPING AMENDMENTS) 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.

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**16 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.

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**ATTENDANCE**

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Haase.

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**I. C. HARRIS**

Clerk of the House of Representatives

1998-99

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

No. 29

**MAIN COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**TUESDAY, 23 MARCH 1999**

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1 The Main Committee met at 4.30 p.m.

**2 ASSISTANCE FOR CARERS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1999**

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

**3 ADJOURNMENT**

On the motion of Mr Prosser, the Main Committee adjourned at 6.30 p.m.

The Deputy Speaker fixed tomorrow at 10 a.m. for the next meeting of the Main Committee.

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