

1998-99

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 44

WEDNESDAY, 9 JUNE 1999

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 REPUBLIC REFERENDUM—JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE

Mr McGauran (Acting Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That Mr Adams, Mr Danby, Ms Hall, Mr McClelland, Mr Price and Ms Roxon be appointed members of the Joint Select Committee on the Republic Referendum.

Question—put and passed.

3 SOCIAL SECURITY (FAMILY ALLOWANCE AND RELATED MATTERS) LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1999

Mr Truss (Minister for Community Services), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Social Security Act 1991*, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

Paper

Mr Truss 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 A NEW TAX SYSTEM (FAMILY ASSISTANCE) (ADMINISTRATION) BILL 1999

Mr Truss (Minister for Community Services), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to implement A New Tax System by providing assistance to families, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

Paper

Mr Truss presented an explanatory memorandum to the following Bills: A New Tax System (Family Assistance) (Administration) 1999; and

A New Tax System (Family Assistance) (Consequential and Related Measures) (No. 2) 1999.

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

5 A NEW TAX SYSTEM (FAMILY ASSISTANCE) (CONSEQUENTIAL AND RELATED MEASURES) BILL (NO. 2) 1999

Mr Truss (Minister for Community Services), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to implement A New Tax System by amending legislation as a consequence of the *A New Tax System (Family Assistance) Act 1999*, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

6 NATIONAL HEALTH AMENDMENT (LIFETIME HEALTH COVER) 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.

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

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

Dr Wooldridge (Minister for Health and Aged Care) moved—That the Bill be now read a third time.

Debate ensued.

The debate having been closed by Dr Wooldridge having spoken in reply—

Ms Macklin, by leave, addressed the House.

Dr Wooldridge, by leave, again addressed the House.

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

7 STEVEDORING LEVY (COLLECTION) 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.

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.

8 MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS

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

9 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice being asked—

Paper

Mr Howard (Prime Minister) presented the following paper:

Pecuniary interests—Section 44(v) of the Constitution—Possible Disqualification of a Member—Copy of opinion by H Burmester, QC, Acting Solicitor-General of Australia, 9 June 1999.

Paper

Mr McMullan, in accordance with standing order 321, having called for a document quoted from by Mr Howard—

Mr Howard presented the following paper:

Members' Interests—Copy of letter from Mr Entsch to Mr Ian Harris, Clerk of the House of Representatives, 8 June 1999.

Motion of censure of the Prime Minister

Mr Beazley (Leader of the Opposition), by leave, moved—That this House censures the Prime Minister for his failure to uphold his Ministerial Code of Conduct in regard to the actions of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Industry, Science and Resources:

- (1) in failing to include in his Statement of Members' Interests his interests as Director and Company Secretary of Cape York Concrete Pty Ltd;
- (2) in failing to include in his Statement of Members' Interests his interests as Director and Company Secretary of Vervale Pty Ltd;
- (3) in engaging in the business of Vervale Pty Ltd, negotiating with the ANZ Bank while a Parliamentary Secretary over the sale of Hurricane Station on Cape York Peninsula;
- (4) in retaining a directorship in companies in which the shareholdings extend beyond his own family, in breach of the Prime Minister's Code of Conduct;
- (5) in being the beneficiary (through Cape York Concrete) of a business contract with the Australian Defence Force;
- (6) in being thereby in probable contravention of section 44(v) of the Constitution which states that 'Any person who ... holds any direct or indirect pecuniary interest in any agreement with the Public Service of the Commonwealth ... shall be incapable of sitting as a ... member of the House of Representatives'; and
- (7) for blatantly misleading the House during Question Time today.

Debate ensued.

Question—put.

The House divided (the Speaker, Mr J. N. Andrew, in the Chair)—

AYES, 62

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

NOES, 74

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

* Tellers

Pairs

Mr Reith	Mr Bevis
Dr Southcott	Mr Martin
Mrs Moylan	Ms Gillard
Ms Bailey	Ms Hoare

And so it was negatived.

Questions without notice concluded.

10 BOUGAINVILLE PEACE PROCESS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

Mr Downer (Minister for Foreign Affairs), by leave, made a ministerial statement concerning the Bougainville peace process and presented the following paper:

Bougainville peace process—Ministerial statement, 9 June 1999.

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

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

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

11 PROPOSED DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—MINISTERIAL CODE OF CONDUCT

The House was informed that Mr Beazley (Leader of the Opposition) had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, “The need for the Prime Minister to uphold his Ministerial code of conduct”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Beazley rising to address the House—

Mr McGauran (Minister for the Arts and the Centenary of Federation) moved—That the business of the day be called on.

Question—put and passed.

12 PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT—JOINT COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

Mr Charles (Chair) presented the following paper:

Public Accounts and Audit—Joint Committee—Report 368—Review of Audit Report No. 34, 1997-98—New Submarine Project: Department of Defence, June 1999.

Ordered to be printed.

Mr Charles, Mr Cox, Mr Georgiou and Mr Griffin, by leave, made statements in connection with the report.

Mr Charles, by leave, moved—That the House take note of the paper.

Mr Charles 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.

13 STEVEDORING LEVY (COLLECTION) 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.

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

Message from the Governor-General

Message No. 69, 8 June 1999, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation for the purposes of the Bill.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Scott (Minister for Veterans' Affairs), the Bill was read a third time.

14 TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 5) 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 by Mr K. J. Thomson who moved, as an amendment—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “whilst not declining to give the bill a second reading, the House notes that:

- (1) the proposals as originally introduced have already been modified because of the actions of Labor in referring them to the Senate;
- (2) the construction and infrastructure industries are still concerned about the potential impact of the legislation on their industries;
- (3) the legislation needs further consultation with relevant stakeholders;
- (4) the government has not achieved real tax reform in Australia, it has merely agreed to introduce an unfair GST;
- (5) the new Howard/Lees GST will involve a massive tax mix switch which will hurt families, which is directly contrary to the balloted policy of the Australian Democrats;
- (6) the Howard/Lees deal will actually increase the tax on food in Australia;
- (7) hardworking people will now face a GST on top of state indirect taxes on bank accounts; and
- (8) the amended tax package is still unfair and will also damage the environment”.

Debate continued.

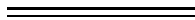
Debate adjourned (Dr Emerson), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

15 ADJOURNMENT

Mr Slipper (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

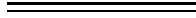
Debate ensued.

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



ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Ms Bailey, Mr Bevis, Mr Costello, Ms Gillard, Ms Hoare, Mr Martin, Mrs Moylan, Mr Reith, Mr Rudd and Dr Southcott.



I. C. HARRIS

Clerk of the House of Representatives

1998-99

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SUPPLEMENT TO VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 44

MAIN COMMITTEE**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

WEDNESDAY, 9 JUNE 1999

1 The Main Committee met at 9.40 a.m.

2 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Members' statements were made.

3 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1999-2000—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.

Paper

Mr Lieberman, by leave, presented the following paper:

Politics of spite—copy of editorial published in *The Border Mail*, 9 June 1999.

Debate continued.

Suspension of sitting

At 1.24 p.m., the Deputy Speaker left the Chair.

Resumption of sitting

At 4.35 p.m., the Deputy Speaker resumed the Chair.

Debate continued.

Suspension of sitting

At 4.43 p.m., a division having been called in the House, the proceedings were suspended.

Resumption of sitting

At 4.53 p.m., the proceedings were resumed.

Debate continued.

Mrs Sullivan (Parliamentary Secretary (Foreign Affairs)) was granted leave to continue her speech when the debate is resumed.

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

4 **ADJOURNMENT**

On the motion of Mr Prosser, the Main Committee adjourned at 7.26 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