

1998-99

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 57

MONDAY, 23 AUGUST 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 **ECONOMICS, FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

Mr Hawker (Chair) presented the following papers:

Economics, Finance and Public Administration—Standing Committee—Review of the Reserve Bank of Australia Annual Report 1997-98—

Report, August 1999.

Minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Mr Hawker, Mr Wilton, Dr Southcott and Mr Latham made statements in connection with the report.

The time allotted for making statements on the report having expired—

Mr Hawker moved—That the House take note of the report.

Mr Hawker 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 **TREATIES—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

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

Treaties—Joint Standing Committee—23rd report—Amendments proposed to the International Whaling Convention—

Report, August 1999.

Evidence received by the committee.

Minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Mr A. P. Thomson, Mr Adams, Mr Hardgrave and Mrs D. M. Kelly made statements in connection with the report.

The time allotted for making statements on the report having expired—

Mr A. P. Thomson 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.

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 SELF-FUNDED RETIREES AND THE GST

Mrs Crosio, pursuant to notice, moved—That the House:

- (1) notes the high number of self-funded retirees in Australia who are struggling financially at the present time;
- (2) recognises that the Howard Government's GST will create greater financial hardship for thousands of self-funded retirees because it taxes the essentials of life, will make people receiving low fixed incomes from superannuation or other measures pay the same rate of tax as people on higher incomes and offers inadequate financial compensation; and
- (3) investigates other means of offering financial assistance and incentive to struggling self-funded retirees distinct from a Goods and Services Tax.

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 Horne 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 were asked.

7 PETITIONS

Petitions lodged for presentation were announced.

8 PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND THEIR CARERS

Mrs Gash, pursuant to notice, moved—That the House:

- (1) understands the need to work towards addressing the needs of people with disabilities and their carers throughout Australia;
- (2) recognises the particular difficulties for people with disabilities and their carers and the need for respite care services and facilities in regions such as Gilmore and Macquarie;
- (3) welcomes the federal Government's specific commitment of over \$1.7 billion to the Commonwealth/State Disability Agreement to assist them in

their primary areas of responsibility and to increase the support for carers of people with disabilities; and

- (4) calls on governments at all levels to cooperate with one another to identify, fund and maintain services and facilities for respite care for people with disabilities and their carers.

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.

9 PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Mr Hardgrave, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House acknowledges the value to all Australians of their country's growing trade and friendship with the People's Republic of China.

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 MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

Messages from the Senate, 12 August 1999, were reported returning the following Bills without amendment:

Message—

No. 179—Damage by Aircraft 1999.

No. 180—Australian Sports Commission Amendment 1999.

12 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

Message No. 174, 12 August 1999, from the Senate was reported acquainting the House that Senator Allison had been discharged from attendance on the Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories, and Senator Bourne had been appointed a member of the committee.

13 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER COMMISSION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 1) 1999

Message No. 173, 12 August 1999, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for an Act to amend the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act 1989*, 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.

14 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—CUSTOMS AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 1) 1999

Message No. 177, 12 August 1999, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for an Act to amend the *Customs Act 1901*, 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.

15 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—CUSTOMS AMENDMENT (TEMPORARY IMPORTATION) BILL 1999

Message No. 178, 12 August 1999, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for an Act to amend the *Customs Act 1901*, 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.

16 SOCIAL SECURITY AMENDMENT (DISPOSAL OF ASSETS) 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.

Mr Anthony (Minister for Community Services) moved—That the Bill be now read a third time.

Debate ensued.

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

AYES, 75

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

NOES, 65

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

* Tellers

Pairs

Mr Howard Mr Beazley

And so it was resolved in the affirmative—Bill read a third time.

17 AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 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.

On the motion of Mr Truss (Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry), the Bill was read a third time.

18 TELEVISION LICENCE FEES 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.

Mr Lee addressing the House—

19 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 2 p.m.

PAPERS

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 23 August 1999:

Australian Bureau of Statistics Act—Australian Bureau of Statistics—Proposals 1999 Nos. 8, 9.

Christmas Island Act—Casino Control Ordinance—Casino Operation Agreement Approval Form.

Civil Aviation Act—

Civil Aviation Regulations—Civil Aviation Orders—

Part 105—Amendments 1999 6, 12(3), 15, 19(2), 26(2), 27(5), 28(3), 29(4), 30(8) July, 2, 4(8) August.

Part 82—Amendment 12 August 1999.

Civil Aviation Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 Nos. 166, 167.

Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act—Notice under section 45—Disposal by the Commonwealth of shares in Employment National Limited.

Customs Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 Nos. 164, 165.

Higher Education Funding Act—Guidelines 1999 No. T12.

National Health Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 No. 162.

Petroleum Retail Marketing Sites Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 No. 163.

Remuneration Tribunal Act—Remuneration Tribunal Determinations 1999 Nos. 11, 12.

Sales Tax Assessment Act—Determinations 1999 No. STD 5.

Superannuation Contributions Tax (Assessment and Collection) Act—Determination 1999 No. SCD 5.

Taxation Administration Act—

Determinations 1999 Nos. TD 92/166 (Addendum), TD 93/234 (Addendum), TD 94/40 (Addendum), TD 95/40 (Addendum), TD 95/41 (Addendum), TD 95/42 (Addendum), TD 95/44 (Addendum), TD 41, TD 42.

Rulings 1999 Nos. IT 2154 (Addendum), IT 2546 (Addendum), IT 2552 (Addendum), TR 95/28 (Addendum No. 2), TR 96/10 (Addendum).



ATTENDANCE

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



I. C. HARRIS

Clerk of the House of Representatives