

1998-99

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES****VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS**

No. 69

MONDAY, 27 SEPTEMBER 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 AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS**

Mr Nehl presented the following paper:

Australian Parliamentary Delegation to the Philippines and Japan, 24 May to 5 June 1999—Report, September 1999.

Mr Nehl, Mr A. P. Thomson and Dr Washer made statements in connection with the report.

**3 MIGRATION—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

Mrs Gallus (Chair) presented the following papers:

Migration—Joint Standing Committee—Going for Gold: Immigration entry arrangements for the Olympic and Paralympic Games—

Report, September 1999.

Evidence received by the committee.

Minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Mrs Gallus, Mr Ripoll and Mrs Irwin made statements in connection with the report.

Mrs Gallus moved—That the House take note of the report.

Mrs Gallus was granted leave to continue her 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 FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

Mr Hawker presented the following papers:

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade—Joint Standing Committee—Defence Sub-Committee visit to Defence establishments in northern Australia, 26-29 July 1999—

Report, September 1999.

Minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Mr Hawker and Mr Snowdon 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.

**5 FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

Mr Jull presented the following papers:

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade—Joint Standing Committee—Bougainville: The peace process and beyond—

Report, September 1999.

Evidence received by the committee.

Minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Mr Jull, Mr Hollis, Dr Southcott and Mr Price made statements in connection with the report.

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

Mr Jull 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.

**6 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—25th—Eight treaties tabled on 11 August 1999—

Report, September 1999.

Evidence received by the committee.

Minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Mr A. P. Thomson and Mr Adams 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.

## **7 INQUIRY INTO THE MEDICAL PROFESSION**

Mr Latham, pursuant to notice, moved—That the House urges the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission to conduct a full-scale inquiry into the medical profession, focussing on:

- (1) anti-competitive practices, particularly among surgeons and specialists;
- (2) reform of medical training practices, particularly within the College of Surgeons; and
- (3) areas where the medical profession does not comply with trade practices law.

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 Lawler 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.

## **8 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

Members' statements were made.

## **9 MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS**

Mr Howard (Prime Minister) informed the House that, during the absence abroad of Mr Costello (Treasurer), Mr Fahey (Minister for Finance and Administration) would be Acting Treasurer.

Mr Howard also informed the House that, during the absence abroad of Mr Downer (Minister for Foreign Affairs), Mr M. A. J. Vaile (Minister for Trade) would be Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs.

## **10 QUESTIONS**

Questions without notice being asked—

*Paper*

Dr Wooldridge (Minister for Health and Aged Care) presented the following papers:

Funding for Magnetic Resonance Imaging—

Letter from Dr J. Earwaker, Acting President, The Royal Australasian College of Radiologists, to Dr Wooldridge, 15 May 1998.

Statutory declaration, Ms P. U. Rogers, 27 September 1999.

E-mail from Ms R. David to Mr K. Smith, 28 September 1999.

Questions without notice continued.

#### **11 PETITIONS**

Petitions lodged for presentation were announced.

#### **12 EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAMS**

Dr Emerson, pursuant to notice, moved—That the House:

- (1) expresses its concern about widening inequality in Australia;
- (2) notes the increasing evidence that the earliest years of childhood are vital in determining the life chances of young people;
- (3) recognises that early intervention in the form of parenting programs, home visiting and literacy and numeracy programs are valuable in improving the life chances of young people; and
- (4) acknowledges that the Commonwealth has an important role to play in the funding of early intervention programs.

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.

#### **13 CHILD CARE AND PARENTAL CHOICE**

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

- (1) acknowledges the financial sacrifice made by parents, one of whom chooses to care for their children full-time, rather than return to paid employment;
- (2) recognises the social and community value of this full-time care, including the reduced burden on Government expenditure;
- (3) notes the social pressure on many of today's women with young children to remain in paid employment; and
- (4) welcomes the Government's ongoing commitment to provide real choice for parents by easing the financial pressure on Australian families by (a) continuing low interest rates, (b) the new, fairer tax system and (c) specifically, recognising the value of full-time care by more than doubling of the tax free threshold for single income families with a child under 5 years of age.

Debate ensued.

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

#### **14 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.

*Paper*

Ms Bailey, by leave, presented the following paper:

Waste disposal—

First version of Internet report.

Second version of Internet report.

Question—That grievances be noted—put and passed.

**15 PRIVILEGES COMMITTEE—REPORT**

Mr Somlyay (Chair) presented the following paper:

Committee of Privileges—Application for the publication of a response to a reference made in the House of Representatives—Report, September 1999.

**16 PUBLIC SERVICE 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.

*Consideration in detail*

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole.

On the motion of Dr Kemp (Minister for Education, Training and Youth Affairs), by leave, Government amendments 1 to 52 were made together, after debate.

*Paper*

Dr Kemp presented a supplementary explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

Consideration in detail concluded.

On the motion of Dr Kemp, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

**17 PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT (CONSEQUENTIAL AND TRANSITIONAL) 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—That the Bill be now read a second time—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

*Message from the Governor-General*

Message No. 121, 11 June 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.

On the motion of Dr Kemp (Minister for Education, Training and Youth Affairs), by leave, Government amendments (1) to (9) were made together, after debate.

*Paper*

Dr Kemp presented a supplementary explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Dr Kemp moved Government amendment (10).

On the motion of the Speaker, an amendment to Government amendment (10) was made, after debate.

Question—That the amendment, as amended, be agreed to—put and passed.

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

Consideration in detail concluded.

On the motion of Dr Kemp, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

**18 PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE 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—

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

*Consideration in detail*

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole.

On the motion of the Speaker, by leave, amendments 1 to 43 were made together, after debate.

*Paper*

The Speaker presented a supplementary explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Question—That the Bill, as amended, be agreed to—put.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed—Bill, as amended, agreed to.

Consideration in detail concluded.

On the motion of the Speaker, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

**19 WORKPLACE RELATIONS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (MORE JOBS, BETTER PAY) 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 Bevis, viz.*—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words:

“(1) the House condemns the Government for introducing a bill which:

- (a) further entrenches unfairness and bias in the existing industrial relations system;
- (b) ensures that the role of the Australian Industrial Relations Commission is further restricted and the independence of the Commission is compromised;

- (c) reduces the minimum conditions available to all Australian workers by further undermining the award system as the dynamic framework for the protection and advancement of wages and conditions, through further award stripping;
  - (d) denies Australia's lowest paid workers any further wage increase unless their award is stripped of basic entitlements such as long service leave, superannuation and paid jury service leave;
  - (e) further removes workplace and enterprise bargaining from the protection of the Australian Industrial Relations Commission, placing it solely in the hands of the Office of the Employment Advocate, which is run by one of the Minister's former senior personal political staffers;
  - (f) further weakens opportunities for employees to organise and bargain collectively;
  - (g) aggravates problems of inequality for women and the most vulnerable in the labour market;
  - (h) further restricts workers who are denied proper industrial protection in their state from accessing federal protection;
  - (i) prevents the Australian Industrial Relations Commission from conducting much of its traditional conciliation role;
  - (j) further dismantles the framework for the prevention and settlement of industrial disputes;
  - (k) amends the termination of employment provisions to limit an employee's right to pursue an application and extends the cost provisions;
  - (l) emphasises the punishment and prevention of industrial action rather than its resolution;
  - (m) unduly hinders the entry and inspection of premises by relevant organisations;
  - (n) demonstrates a lack of balance in freedom of association provisions;
  - (o) fails to ensure that Australia's labour standards meet our international obligations;
  - (p) continues to breach international standards as identified by the ILO panel of experts' findings concerning the right to strike and to bargain collectively;
  - (q) has a short title which is deliberately misleading and fails to represent the actual intention and impact of the bill; and
  - (r) exposes workers to loss of award or agreement entitlements when ownership of a business is transferred;
- (2) the House also condemns the Government for its eagerness in tabling a bill that will specifically strip workers of their basic rights while failing to protect workers' legally accrued entitlements in cases of corporate insolvency; and

- (3) recommends that a new bill be introduced which:
- (a) delivers fair and equitable outcomes for Australian workers;
  - (b) preserves basic conditions for all Australian workers;
  - (c) provides for an independent commission with the appropriate power to conciliate fairly and settle disputes; and
  - (d) provides jobs and income security” —

Debate resumed.

Ms Gillard addressing the House—

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## 20 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.

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## PAPERS

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 27 September 1999:

Australian National Railways Commission Act—Railways agreement in relation to the non-metropolitan railways of the State of South Australia, 30 June 1997—First Amending Agreement, 21 September 1999.

Australian Prudential Regulation Authority Act—Instrument fixing charges to be paid to APRA—Variation, 19 August 1999.

Civil Aviation Act—Civil Aviation Regulations—Exemptions 1999 Nos. CASA 30, CASA 31, CASA 32, CASA 33, CASA 34.

Defence Act—Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal—Determination 1999 No. 12.

Defence (Visiting Forces) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 No. 218.

Endangered Species Protection Act—Declarations under section 18 Nos. 99/ESP6, 99/ESP7, 99/ESP9, 99/ESP10.

Health Insurance Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 No. 219.

Lands Acquisition Act—Statements under section—  
40(3), 20 September 1999.  
125, 20 September 1999.

Migration Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1999 No. 220.

National Health Act—Determinations 1999 Nos. IHS 14, IHS 15.

Public Service Act—Determinations—Foreign Affairs and Trade 1999 Nos. 13, 14, 15, 17.

Sydney Airport Curfew Act—Dispensations 1999 No. 12.



**ATTENDANCE**

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Brereton, Ms Burke\*, Mr Costello, Mr Downer, Mr Georgiou, Mr Katter, Mr Lee, Mr Prosser\* and Mr Swan.

\* On leave



**I. C. HARRIS**

Clerk of the House of Representatives

1998-99

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

No. 69

**MAIN COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

MONDAY, 27 SEPTEMBER 1999

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1 The Main Committee met at 4 p.m.

2 **EAST TIMOR—UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL—RESOLUTION 1264,  
15 SEPTEMBER 1999—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Reith (Leader of the House)—That the House take note of the paper (*presented on 21 September 1999*), viz.:

East Timor—United Nations Security Council—Resolution 1264, 15 September 1999—

Debate resumed.

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*Suspension of sitting*

At 6.31 p.m., the Deputy Speaker left the Chair.

*Resumption of sitting*

At 8 p.m., the Deputy Speaker resumed the Chair

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Debate continued

Mr Wilkie moved—that further proceedings be conducted in the House.

Question—put and passed.

3 **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr Hawker moved—That the Main Committee do now adjourn.

Question put and passed.

At 10.03 p.m. the Deputy Speaker adjourned the Main Committee until Wednesday, 27 September 1999, at 9.40 a.m. unless an alternative day or hour is fixed.



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