

1998-99

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS**

No. 74

TUESDAY, 12 OCTOBER 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 AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORTS

The Speaker presented the following papers:

Auditor-General—Audit reports of 1999-2000—Performance audits—

No. 13—Management of major equipment acquisition projects: Department of Defence.

No. 14—Commonwealth debt management.

Severally ordered to be printed.

4 PAPERS

The following papers were presented:

Aboriginals Benefit Reserve—Report for 1998-99.

Albury-Wodonga Development Corporation—Report for 1998-99.

Australia-Korea Foundation—Report for 1997-98.

Australian Communications Authority—Report for 1998-99

Australian Prudential Regulation Authority—Report for 1998-99.

Australian Safeguards and Non-Proliferation Office—Report for 1998-99.

Centrelink—Reports—Social Security compliance activity in Centrelink—1998-99.

Crimes Act—Controlled operations—Report for 1998-99.

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet—Report for 1998-99.

National Australia Day Council—

Financial statements—

1997-98.

1998-99.

Statement of reasons for non-tabling 1997-98.

National Gallery of Australia—Report for 1998-99.

National Museum of Australia—Report for 1998-99.

Reserve Bank of Australia—Equal Employment Opportunity Program—Report for 1998-99.

Superannuation Complaints Tribunal—Report for 1998-99.

Telstra Corporation Limited—Report for 1998-99.

Torres Strait Regional Authority—Report for 1998-99.

Treaties—

Bilateral—Text, together with national interest analysis—

Agreement between Australia and the Slovak Republic for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income, done at Canberra on 24 August 1999.

Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of New Zealand concerning the Transfer of Uranium, done at Canberra on 14 September 1999.

Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Argentine Republic for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and Protocol, done at Buenos Aires on 27 August 1999.

Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany on Cultural Cooperation, done at Dresden on 7 November 1997.

Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the People's Republic of China concerning the Continuation of the Consular Functions by Australia in the Macau Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, done at Canberra on 8 September 1999.

Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Republic of Singapore concerning the Use of Shoalwater Bay Training Area and the Associated Use of Storage Facilities in Australia, done at Singapore on 15 September 1999.

Agreement on Consular Relations between Australia and the People's Republic of China, done at Canberra on 8 September 1999.

Exchange of notes constituting an Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Multinational Force and Observers concerning Australia's participation in the Multinational Force and Observers.

Exchange of Notes, done at Canberra on 10 September 1999, constituting an Agreement to further amend the Exchange of Letters, constituting an Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of Japan establishing an Implementing Arrangement pursuant to the Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of Japan for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy of 5 March 1982.

Treaty between the Government of Australia and the Government of His Serene Highness the Prince of Monaco on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, done at Paris on 13 September 1999.

Treaty on Development Co-operation between the Government of Australia and the Government of Papua New Guinea, done at Port Moresby on 7 October 1999.

Treaty on Judicial Assistance in Civil and Commercial Matters between Australia and the Republic of Korea, done at Canberra on 17 September 1999.

Multilateral—

Text, together with national interest analysis—

Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, done at New York on 4 December 1995.

Amendments, done at Minneapolis in October to November 1998, to the Constitution and the Convention of the International Telecommunications Union (Geneva 1992) as amended by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994).

International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants of 2 December 1961, as revised at Geneva on 10 November 1972, on 23 October 1978, and on 19 March 1991.

Text, together with national interest analysis and regulation impact statement—

Amendments, done at London on 24 April 1998, to the Convention and Operating Agreement on the International Mobile Satellite Organization of 3 September 1976.

Partial Revision of the Radio Regulations of 5 December 1979, and Final Protocol as incorporated in the International Telecommunications Union Final Acts of the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-97), done at Geneva on 21 November 1997.

United Nations—Committee Against Torture—Australia's Second and Third Report under the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment for period September 1991 to June 1997.

5 PAPER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

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

National Museum of Australia—Report for 1998-99.

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

6 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—COMMUNITY OPINION

The House was informed that Mr Swan had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, “The suppression of community opinion by the Government in relation to its unfair taxation and social policy agenda”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Swan addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

7 MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL—ASSENT TO BILL

A message from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced informing the House that His Excellency, in the name of Her Majesty, had assented to the following Bill:

8 October 1999—Message No. 129—Superannuation Legislation Amendment (No. 3) 1999.

8 MAIN COMMITTEE—DAY OF NEXT MEETING

The Deputy Speaker reported that Wednesday, 13 October 1999, at 9.40 a.m., had been fixed for the next meeting of the Main Committee.

9 MATTER REFERRED TO MAIN COMMITTEE

Mr Ronaldson (Chief Government Whip), by leave, moved—That the following order of the day, committee and delegation reports, be referred to the Main Committee for debate:

Industry, Science and Resources—Standing Committee—Report on the effect of certain public policy changes in Australia’s R&D—Motion to take note of paper: Resumption of debate.

Question—put and passed.

10 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, 18 October 1999.

11 MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

Messages from the Senate, 11 October 1999, were reported returning the following Bills without amendment:

Message—

No. 214—Australian National Training Authority Amendment 1998.

No. 215—Vocational Education and Training Funding Amendment 1999.

12 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—APPROPRIATION (SUPPLEMENTARY MEASURES) BILL (NO. 1) 1999

A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill with an amendment:

11 October 1999—Message No. 212—Appropriation (Supplementary Measures) (No. 1) 1999.

Ordered—That the amendment be considered at the next sitting.

13 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—APPROPRIATION (SUPPLEMENTARY MEASURES) BILL (NO. 2) 1999

A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill with an amendment:

11 October 1999—Message No. 213—Appropriation (Supplementary Measures) (No. 2) 1999.

Ordered—That the amendment be considered at the next sitting.

14 SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS—FURTHER 1998 BUDGET MEASURES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (SOCIAL SECURITY) BILL 1999

Mr Anthony (Minister for Community Services), pursuant to notice, moved—That so much of the standing and sessional orders be suspended as would prevent a Minister moving amendments to the Further 1998 Budget Measures Legislation Amendment (Social Security) Bill 1999 during the consideration of Senate's message No. 195.

Question—put and passed.

15 MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL—FURTHER 1998 BUDGET MEASURES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (SOCIAL SECURITY) BILL 1999

Message No. 130, 22 September 1999, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation for the purpose of requests for amendments of a Bill for an Act to amend the *Social Security Act 1991*, and for related purposes.

16 FURTHER 1998 BUDGET MEASURES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (SOCIAL SECURITY) BILL 1999—SENATE'S REQUESTS

The order of the day having been read for the consideration of the amendments requested by the Senate—

Mr Anthony (Minister for Community Services) moved—That the requested amendments be made.

Debate ensued.

Closure

Mr Anthony moved—That the question be now put.

Question—That the question be now put—put and passed.

And the question—That the requested amendments be made—was put accordingly and passed.

On the motion of Mr Anthony, Government amendments (1) to (3) were made together.

Paper

Mr Anthony presented a supplementary explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Mr Anthony moved—That in the message returning the Bill to the Senate, the Senate be requested to reconsider the Bill in respect of the amendments made by the House of Representatives to the Bill.

Question—put and passed.

17 TELECOMMUNICATIONS (INTERCEPTION) 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.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

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

18 DIESEL AND ALTERNATIVE FUELS GRANTS SCHEME (ADMINISTRATION AND COMPLIANCE) 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 by Mr Crean (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) 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 condemns the Government for:

- (1) continuing the uncertainty in the transport industry by not releasing the details of the boundaries of urban conurbations for the purposes of the Diesel and Alternative Fuels Grants Scheme (the Scheme);
- (2) not disclosing, prior to the last election, the new powers being proposed for the Commissioner of Taxation to stop, detain and search vehicles;
- (3) imposing a complex new layer of administration on transport operators in connection with the Scheme, in addition to the new compliance burden associated with the Goods and Services Tax; and
- (4) its failure to disclose the basis of its claims that the programs agreed with the Democrats will counter the greenhouse gas increasing effects of the Scheme.”

Debate continued.

Debate adjourned (Mr Truss—Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

19 ADJOURNMENT

Mr Truss (Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 10.57 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 9.30 a.m.



PAPERS

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 12 October 1999:
Australian Bureau of Statistics Act—Australian Bureau of Statistics—Proposals 1999 Nos. 11, 12.

Radiocommunications Act—Declaration 1999 Spectrum Re-allocation No. 1.



ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Barresi, Ms Burke*, Mrs Crosio, Mrs Gallus, Mr Katter, Mr Moore, Mrs Moylan, Mr Prosser* and Mr Somlyay.

* On leave



I. C. HARRIS

Clerk of the House of Representatives