

1998-1999-2000

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 96

MONDAY, 13 MARCH 2000



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 PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONAL SERVICES—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

Fran Bailey (Chair) presented the following papers:

Primary Industries and Regional Services—Standing Committee—Time running out: Shaping regional Australia's future—Report of the inquiry into infrastructure and the development of Australia's regional areas—

Report, incorporating a dissenting report, 24 February 2000.

Evidence received by the committee.

Minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Fran Bailey, Mr Adams and Mr Andren made statements in connection with the report.

Fran Bailey moved—That the House take note of the report.

Fran Bailey 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.

3 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 1998-99—

Interim report, 7 March 2000.

Minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Mr Hawker, Mr Wilton, Mr Pyne and Ms Burke 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.

4 EMPLOYEE PROTECTION (EMPLOYEE ENTITLEMENTS GUARANTEE) BILL 2000

Mrs Crosio, pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to provide for the establishment and administration of a scheme to guarantee the payment of wages and other accrued liabilities owed to employees in the event of employer insolvency, and for related purposes.

Mrs Crosio made a statement in relation to the Bill.

Paper

Mrs Crosio, by leave, presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Bill read a first time.

Ordered—That the second reading be made an order of the day for the next sitting, in accordance with sessional order 104A.

5 CRIMINAL ASSETS RECOVERY BILL 2000

Mr Kerr, pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to provide for a civil forfeiture scheme for the proceeds of criminal activity and other related purposes.

Mr Kerr making a statement in relation to the Bill—

At 1.45 p.m., the statement was interrupted in accordance with standing order 101 and Mr Kerr was granted leave to continue his statement when private Members' business is resumed.

6 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Members' statements were made.

7 MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Mr Howard (Prime Minister) informed the House that, during the absence of Jackie Kelly (Minister for Sport and Tourism), Mr Hockey (Minister for Financial Services and Regulation) would continue to act as Minister for Sport and Tourism.

Mr Howard also informed the House that on 10 March 2000 the current Parliamentary Secretaries were appointed by the Governor-General under section 64 of the Constitution to administer their respective departments. In accordance with the *Ministers of State Act 1952* each had been designated by

the Governor-General as Parliamentary Secretary, and directed to hold the office of Parliamentary Secretary to the relevant portfolio Minister. These appointments replace the appointments under the *Parliamentary Secretaries Act 1980* which was repealed upon commencement on 10 March 2000 of the *Ministers of State and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2000*.

8 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

9 LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBER

Mr Reith (Leader of the House) moved—That the leave of absence given to Jackie Kelly (Minister for Sport and Tourism) for maternity purposes be extended to 17 March 2000.

Question—put and passed.

10 MATTERS REFERRED TO MAIN COMMITTEE

Mr Reith (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That:

- (1) the following Bills be referred to the Main Committee for further consideration:

Appropriation (No. 3) 1999-2000;

Appropriation (No. 4) 1999-2000;

Fisheries Legislation Amendment (No. 2) 1999;

Transport and Territories Legislation Amendment 1999; and

Telecommunications (Numbering Charges) Amendment 1999; and

- (2) the following order of the day, committee and delegation reports, be referred to the Main Committee for debate:

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade—Joint Standing Committee—Report on visit to East Timor, 2 December 1999—Motion to take note of paper: Resumption of debate.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

11 MAIN COMMITTEE—DAY OF NEXT MEETING

The Speaker reported that the Deputy Speaker had fixed Monday, 13 March 2000, at 3.30 p.m., or such later time as the Deputy Speaker takes the Main Committee Chair, as the time for the next meeting of the Main Committee, unless an alternative day or hour is fixed.

12 PETITIONS

Petitions lodged for presentation were announced.

13 CRIMINAL ASSETS RECOVERY BILL 2000

Notice No. 2, private Members' business, having again been called on—

Mr Kerr continued to make a statement in relation to the Bill.

Bill read a first time.

Ordered—That the second reading be made an order of the day for the next sitting, in accordance with sessional order 104A.

14 NATIONAL CRIME AUTHORITY AMENDMENT BILL 2000

Mr Kerr, pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *National Crime Authority Act 1984*, and other related purposes.

Mr Kerr made a statement in relation to the Bill.

Bill read a first time.

Ordered—That the second reading be made an order of the day for the next sitting, in accordance with sessional order 104A.

15 SEX DISCRIMINATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (PREGNANCY AND WORK) BILL 2000

Ms Macklin, pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the law in respect of the prohibition of discrimination against pregnant women in the workplace, and for related purposes.

Ms Macklin made a statement in relation to the Bill.

Paper

Ms Macklin, by leave, presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Bill read a first time.

Ordered—That the second reading be made an order of the day for the next sitting, in accordance with sessional order 104A.

16 CEMENT INDUSTRY

Mr Adams, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House:

- (1) notes that dumping of cement from Indonesia, China, Malaysia and Thailand is significantly undercutting Australian cement prices;
- (2) notes substantial industry investment and cost cutting has made the Australian cement industry cost competitive, but the companies cannot compete against imports being sold below their cost of manufacture;
- (3) notes dumping is threatening the viability of Australia's cement industry operations, with a real threat of plant closures unless urgent action is taken; and
- (4) calls on the Government to:
 - (a) recognise the threats to the cement industry by dumping;
 - (b) recognise the efforts of the Australian industry to comply with environmental safeguards that the dumping countries are not being made to follow;
 - (c) ensure that immediate action is taken under our current anti-dumping legislation to protect the Australian industry; and
 - (d) take steps to protect all industries that are susceptible to dumping.

Debate ensued.

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

17 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.

18 MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL—ASSENT TO BILLS

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 Bills:

7 March 2000—Message No. 166—

Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Legislation Amendment (No. 1) 2000.

Health Legislation Amendment (No. 2) 2000.

Customs Amendment (No. 1) 2000.

Civil Aviation Amendment 2000.

Australian Federal Police Legislation Amendment 2000.

19 PAPERS

Mrs B. K. Bishop (Minister for Aged Care) presented the following papers:

Redistribution of electoral divisions, 1999-2000—

New South Wales.

Tasmania.

20 A NEW TAX SYSTEM (TAX ADMINISTRATION) 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 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 expresses its concern with the fundamental unfairness of the Government’s approach to taxation reform generally, including:

- (1) the fundamental unfairness of a goods and services tax;
- (2) the enormous compliance burden faced by small business from the GST; and
- (3) the further increase in compliance burden arising from the new Pay As You Go measures and other tax related changes such as those under the business tax reform process which will inevitably fall disproportionately heavily on small business”.

Debate continued.

Amendment negatived.

Question—That the Bill be now read a second time—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

Consideration in detail

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole.

On the motion of Mr Hockey (Minister for Financial Services and Regulation), by leave, Government amendments (1) to (4) were made, together, after debate.

Paper

Mr Hockey presented a supplementary explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

Consideration in detail concluded.

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

21 TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 5) 2000

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:

- (1) expresses its concern with the fundamental unfairness of the Government’s approach to taxation generally and the fundamental unfairness of a goods and services tax, including the heavy compliance burden on small business, and in particular the Government’s decision to tax health items including, for the first time in fifty years, taxing tampons and sanitary pads; and
- (2) calls on the Treasurer to amend the GST legislation or the Minister for Health to honour the Government’s pre-election promise that health products would be GST-free by including tampons and sanitary pads in the Minister’s determination”.

Debate continued.

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

22 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—FINANCIAL SECTOR REFORM (AMENDMENTS AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS) BILL (NO. 2) 1999

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

13 March 2000—Message No. 317—Financial Sector Reform (Amendments and Transitional Provisions) (No. 2) 1999.

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

23 ADJOURNMENT

Mr Brough (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business) moved—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 13 March 2000:

Australian Capital Territory (Planning and Land Management) Act—National Capital Plan—Amendment No. 31.

Parliament Act—Parliamentary Zone—Old Parliament House Gardens Reconstruction.



ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Hatton, Jackie Kelly* and Mr Somlyay.

* On leave



I. C. HARRIS

Clerk of the House of Representatives

1998-1999-2000

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SUPPLEMENT TO VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 96

MAIN COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

MONDAY, 13 MARCH 2000

1 The Main Committee met at 3.30 p.m.

2 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 3) 1999-2000

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 Tanner, viz.*—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “whilst not denying the Bill a second reading, the House condemns:

- (1) the Government for its abdication of Commonwealth responsibility for appropriate national funding of health, education and other essential community services;
- (2) the recent statements by the Prime Minister indicating that Specific Purpose Payments to the States will be reduced as part of the introduction of the new tax system, breaking both his promise to the Australian people and to State and Territory leaders; and
- (3) the Government’s failure to abide by the independent arbitration process regarding the indexation of the Australian Health Care Agreement’s payments to the States for public hospitals”—

Debate resumed.

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.

Debate continued.

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

3 ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Mr Ronaldson, the Main Committee adjourned at 10.23 p.m.

The Deputy Speaker fixed tomorrow at 4 p.m., or such later time as the Deputy Speaker takes the Main Committee Chair, for the next meeting of the Main Committee.



B. C. WRIGHT

Clerk of the Main Committee