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 being asked—

Paper
Mr Reith (Minister for Defence) presented the following paper:
ALP request for costing of election commitments—Copies of 10 media releases by Department of Finance and Administration, September and October 1998.

Questions without notice continuing—

Paper
Mr Crean (Deputy Leader of the Opposition), by leave, presented the following paper:
Government’s business tax reform package—Copy of letter from Mr Costello (Treasurer) to Mr Crean, 24 November 1999.

Questions without notice continuing—

Paper
Mr Macfarlane (Minister for Small Business) presented the following paper:
Yellow Pages Small Business Index—Graph—Net attitudes to Federal Government Policies.

Questions without notice continuing—

Member ordered to withdraw
At 3.12 p.m. the Member for Denison (Mr Kerr) was ordered, under standing order 304A, to withdraw from the House for one hour for continuing to interject after a warning had been given from the Chair, and he accordingly withdrew from the Chamber.

Questions without notice continued.
3 PAPERS

The following papers were presented:

Australian Electoral Commission—2000 Redistribution of the Northern Territory into Electoral Divisions.

Australian Technology Group Limited—
Statement of Corporate Intent.


Privacy Amendment (Private Sector) Bill 2000—Further supplementary explanatory memorandum.


Telecommunications carrier industry development plans—Progress report for 1999-2000

Treaties—
Bilateral—
Text, together with national interest analysis—


Air Services Agreements between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Kingdom of Denmark; the Government of the Kingdom of Norway; and the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden.

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

Multilateral—Text, together with national interest analysis—
Agreement establishing the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, done at Tarawa on 30 October 2000.


4 PAPER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER
Mr Reith (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the following paper:
Australian Electoral Commission—2000 Redistribution of the Northern Territory into Electoral Divisions.
Debate adjourned (Mr McMullan), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

5 RYAN ELECTORAL DIVISION—ISSUE OF WRIT
The Speaker informed the House that on Friday, 9 February 2001, he had issued a writ for the election of a Member to serve for the Electoral Division of Ryan, in the State of Queensland and the dates fixed in connection with the election were those announced to the House on 8 February 2001.

6 IMMIGRATION DETENTION PROCEDURES—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS
Mr Ruddock (Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs), by leave, made a ministerial statement on immigration detention procedures and presented the following papers:
Annexe to ministerial statement.
Mr Ruddock moved—That the House take note of the papers.
Suspension of standing and sessional orders—Extended time for speech
Mr Williams (Attorney-General), by leave, moved—that so much of the standing and sessional orders be suspended as would prevent Mr Sciacca speaking for a period not exceeding 23 minutes.
Question—put and passed.
Mr Sciacca addressed the House.
Debate adjourned (Mr Williams), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

7 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—GOVERNMENT’S PUBLIC POLICY
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 collapse in public confidence in the Government
and the electorate’s growing dissatisfaction with its out-of-touch and internally disunited approach to public policy”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—
Mr Beazley addressed the House.
Discussion ensued.
Discussion concluded.

8 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, 5 March 2001.

9 MAIN COMMITTEE—DAY OF NEXT MEETING
The Deputy Speaker reported that Wednesday, 28 February 2001, at 9.40 a.m., had been fixed for the next meeting of the Main Committee.

10 BILLS REFERRED TO MAIN COMMITTEE
Mr Ronaldson (Chief Government Whip), by leave, moved—That the following Bills be referred to the Main Committee for further consideration:
Treasury Legislation Amendment (Application of Criminal Code) 2000;
Superannuation Legislation Amendment (Post-retirement Commutations) 2000;
National Museum of Australia Amendment 2001;
Customs Tariff Amendment (No. 4) 2000;
Veterans’ Affairs Legislation Amendment (Application of Criminal Code) 2000;
Environment and Heritage Legislation Amendment (Application of Criminal Code) 2000;
Remuneration Tribunal Amendment 2000;
Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Legislation Amendment (No. 3) 2000; and
Petroleum (Submerged Lands) (Registration Fees) Amendment 2000.
Question—put and passed.

11 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—PRIVATISATION OF TELSTRA
Message No. 550, 26 February 2001, from the Senate was reported acquainting the House that the Senate had agreed to a resolution concerning the need to oppose any further privatisation of Telstra.
Mr McGauran (Minister for the Arts and the Centenary of Federation) moved—
That consideration of the message be made an order of the day for the next sitting.
Mr Smith addressing the House—
Closure
Mr McGauran moved—That the question be now put.
Question—That the question be now put—put.
The House divided (the Deputy Speaker, Mrs Gash, in the Chair)—

AYES, 73

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

NOES, 60

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

*Tellers

Pairs

Mr Howard  Mr Beazley
Mr Fahey  Ms O’Byrne
Mrs Moylan  Mr Rudd
And so it was resolved in the affirmative.
And the question—That consideration of the message be made an order of the day for the next sitting—was put accordingly, and passed.

12 CENTENARY OF FIRST MEETINGS IN MELBOURNE
Mr McGauran (Minister for the Arts and the Centenary of Federation) on behalf of Mr Reith (Leader of the House), pursuant to notice, moved—That, pursuant to the acceptance by the House on 26 June 2000 of the invitation of 10 May 2000 of the Houses of the Parliament of Victoria to meet in Melbourne on 9 and 10 May 2001 to mark the centenary of the first meetings of the Houses of the Commonwealth Parliament in 1901:
(1) the House of Representatives meet with the Senate at 2 p.m. on 9 May 2001 in the Royal Exhibition Buildings, Melbourne;
(2) the only business transacted at that meeting be:
   (a) introductory address by the President of the Senate;
   (b) address by the Governor-General;
   (c) addresses by the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition; and
   (d) concluding address by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
(3) at the conclusion of that business, the House stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on 10 May 2001;
(4) the House meet at 10 a.m. on 10 May 2001 in the Legislative Assembly Chamber, Parliament House, Melbourne;
(5) the only business transacted at that meeting be:
   (a) motion moved by the Prime Minister, seconded by the Leader of the Opposition and followed by the Leader of the National Party of Australia; and
   (b) concluding address by the Speaker; and
(6) at the conclusion of that business, the House stand adjourned until 2 p.m. on 22 May 2001.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and passed.

13 SYDNEY HARBOUR FEDERATION TRUST BILL 2000—SENATE'S AMENDMENTS
The order of the day having been read for the consideration of the amendments made by the Senate—
On the motion of Mr Abbott (Minister for Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business), amendments Nos 1 to 21, 25, 28 to 30 and 32 made by the Senate to House amendments were agreed to, after debate.
On the motion of Mr Abbott, amendments Nos 22 to 24 and 26 made by the Senate to House amendments were disagreed to.
Mr Abbott presented reasons, which were circulated, and are as follows:
Reasons of the House of Representatives for disagreeing to the amendments of the Senate

Senate Amendment 22

Senate amendment 22 would mean that the Trust could not give security over land listed in Schedule 1, but could give security over any other assets. The effect of this amendment is unclear, as “any other assets” could be open to legal interpretation. According to the Senate debate, the intended effect is that the Trust should not be allowed to give security over any land. Where the land has no significant environmental and heritage values and has been identified under an approved plan for potential sale, this is an unreasonable restriction on the ability of the Trust to borrow funds.

Accordingly, the House of Representatives does not accept this amendment.

Senate Amendment 23

Senate amendment 23 would require the Trust to seek the Minister’s agreement for each and every lease and licence within the life of the Trust, including short-term leases and licences. This is administratively unrealistic and unnecessary.

Accordingly, the House of Representatives does not accept this amendment.

Senate Amendments 24 and 26

Senate amendments 24 and 26 would make the determination of leases or licenses that end after the life of the Trust disallowable instruments for the purposes of section 46 of the Acts Interpretation Act 1901. This would apply even to leases and licences that end shortly after the Trust ceases to exist. The delays and uncertainties associated with the disallowable instrument process will make it difficult to attract shorter-term leases. The Bill, as previously passed by the House, had required the determination of leases and licences over 25 years to be disallowable instruments. This longer period is more realistic if the Trust is to attract commercial ventures for leases and licences less than 25 years.

Accordingly, the House of Representatives does not accept these amendments.

On the motion of Mr Abbott, the reasons were adopted.

On the motion of Mr Abbott, amendments Nos 27 and 31 made by the Senate to House amendments were disagreed to and Government amendments Nos 1 and 2 were made in place thereof respectively.

Paper

Mr Abbott presented a further supplementary explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

14 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 3) 2000-2001

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 Tanner 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 this Government for its:

(1) failure to address the significant investment needs in the areas of education and health and the provision of social and employment services since coming to Government;

(2) blowout in the cost of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme and the threat this presents to the sustainability of Australia’s subsidised medicines scheme;

(3) belated and inadequate attempts to remedy the chronic underfunding of research and innovation;

(4) mismanagement of the Defence Budget;

(5) refusal to remove the effects of the sale of the rest of Telstra from the Budget aggregates consistent with the resolution of the Senate of 16 March 2000, the findings of the Besley report and the wishes of the Leader of the National Party;

(6) mishandling of the move to accrual accounting by providing complex, confusing and uninformative budget documents;

(7) wasteful and profligate spending on poor quality programs to buy Democrat support for its unfair GST;

(8) failure to identify in the Budget papers the full cost of GST collection and implementation;

(9) failure to put in place arrangements that deliver its guarantee that no Australian will be worse off as a result of the GST package; and

(10) bungling of the Business Activity Statement which has sent many small businesses to the wall”.

Debate continued.

Mr Cox addressing the House—

15 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 9.30 a.m.

PAPERS

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 27 February 2001:

Civil Aviation Act—Civil Aviation Regulations—Airworthiness Directives—
Fisheries Management Act—Directions—Nos NPFD 47, NPFD 48, NPFD 49, NPFD 50, NPFD 51.
Parliamentary Service Act—Determinations—2000 Nos 6, 7, 8.
Veterans’ Entitlements Act—Repatriation Medical Authority—Instruments—2001 Nos 13, 14, 15, 16.

ATTENDANCE
All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Fahey*, Mrs Moylan, Ms O’Byrne*, Ms Plibersek* and Mr Rudd.
* On leave

I. C. HARRIS
Clerk of the House of Representatives