

1998-1999-2000-2001

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 191

TUESDAY, 19 JUNE 2001

1 The House met, at 2 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (the Honourable Neil Andrew) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

2 MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Mr Howard (Prime Minister) informed the House that, during the absence abroad of Mr Fahey (Minister for Finance and Administration), Mr Costello (Treasurer) would answer questions on his behalf.

3 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice being asked—

Member ordered to withdraw

At 2.23 p.m. the Member for Hotham (Mr Crean) 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 continuing—

Paper

Mr Beazley (Leader of the Opposition), by leave, presented the following paper:
Budget modelling 2001/02—Professor Ian Harper, Melbourne Business School—Presentation notes, 24 May 2001.

Questions without notice continuing—

Paper

Mr Swan, by leave, presented the following paper:

Payment to senior Australians—Letter from Senator Vanstone to Mr John Gill, 1 June 2001.

Questions without notice continuing—

Papers

Mr Edwards, by leave, presented the following papers:

Payment to senior Australians—Letters from—

Mr Bruce Scott, Minister for Veterans' Affairs to Mrs June Usher.

Mr Neil Johnston, Secretary, Department of Veterans' Affairs to Mrs June Usher, 13 June 2001.

Questions without notice continuing—

Papers

Mr Hockey (Minister for Financial Services and Regulation) presented the following papers:

Superannuation—

Less tax and lower spending: Crean—Copy of article by Paul Kelly, the *Australian*, 7 April 2001.

PM's desperation tactics on superannuation—Media release by the Hon. Simon Crean MP, Deputy Leader of the Opposition and Shadow Treasurer, 8 April 2001.

Questions without notice continued.

4 PRIVILEGE—STATEMENT BY SPEAKER

The Speaker made a statement concerning the alleged unauthorised disclosure of details of a report of the Joint Committee on Electoral Matters.

The Speaker stated that, in accordance with the practice of the House concerning issues of unauthorised disclosure from committees, the matter should be considered in the first instance by the Joint Committee itself. The committee should consider whether there was any unauthorised disclosure, and, if there was, first the source, and secondly whether substantial interference with the committee's work, with the committee system or with the House resulted or was likely to result.

The Speaker concluded by stating that the committee should inform the House of the results of its deliberations and that if it concluded that substantial interference has occurred, it must explain why it reached this conclusion.

5 AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORTS

The Speaker presented the following papers:

Auditor-General—Audit reports of 2000-2001—

No. 49—Performance audit—Information technology in the Health Insurance Commission: Health Insurance Commission.

No. 50—Performance audit—The national cervical screening program: Department of Health and Aged Care.

No. 51—Performance audit—Australian Defence Force health services follow-up audit: Department of Defence.

No. 52—Assurance and control assessment audit—Payments of accounts.

Severally ordered to be printed.

6 PAPERS

The following papers were presented:

Airservices Australia—Corporate plan—July 2000-June 2005.

Australia-Korea Foundation—Report for 1998-1999.

Australia-Korea Foundation—Report for 1999-2000.

Vocational Education and Training Funding Amendment Bill 2001—Correction to the explanatory memorandum.

7 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—ELECTORAL ROLL

The House was informed that both Mr Smith and Mr Pyne had proposed that definite matters of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion today. In accordance with the provisions of standing order 107, the Speaker had given priority to the matter proposed by Mr Pyne, namely, “The need to restore the Australian people’s faith in the integrity of the electoral roll including the introduction of identification on enrolling to vote”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Pyne addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

8 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:

Passenger Movement Charge Amendment 2001;

Social Security Legislation Amendment (Concession Cards) 2000;

Finance and Administration Legislation Amendment (Application of Criminal Code) (No. 1) 2001;

Trade Marks and Other Legislation Amendment 2001;

Therapeutic Goods Amendment (Medical Devices) 2001;

Therapeutic Goods (Charges) Amendment 2001;

International Maritime Conventions Legislation Amendment 2001;

Financial Sector (Collection of Data) 2001; and

Financial Sector (Collection of Data—Consequential and Transitional Provisions) 2001.

Question—put and passed.

9 PUBLIC WORKS—PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENT BY MEMBER

Mrs Moylan (Chair) presented the following paper:

Public Works—Parliamentary Standing Committee—Report relating to the proposed Commonwealth Law Courts, Adelaide (6th report of 2001).

Ordered to be printed.

Mrs Moylan, by leave, made a statement in connection with the report.

10 MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

Messages from the Senate, 18 June 2001, were reported:

- (a) acquainting the House that, with effect from 28 June 2001, Senator Crowley had been discharged from attendance on the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit, and Senator Sherry had been appointed a member of the committee—Message No. 615; and
- (b) returning the following Bills without amendment:
 - No. 616—Corporations 2001.
 - No. 617—Australian Securities and Investments Commission 2001.
 - No. 618—Corporations (Fees) 2001 (*without requests*).
 - No. 619—Corporations (Futures Organisations Levies) 2001 (*without requests*).
 - No. 620—Corporations (National Guarantee Fund Levies) 2001 (*without requests*).
 - No. 621—Corporations (Repeals, Consequentials and Transitionals) 2001.
 - No. 622—Corporations (Securities Exchanges Levies) 2001 (*without requests*).
 - No. 624—Family Law Legislation Amendment (Superannuation) 2000.

11 GOVERNOR-GENERAL LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 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.

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

Message from the Governor-General

Message No. 314, 8 June 2001, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation for the purposes of the Bill.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mrs B. K. Bishop (Minister for Aged Care), the Bill was read a third time.

12 FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES LEGISLATION (SIMPLIFICATION AND OTHER MEASURES) BILL 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.

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

Message from the Governor-General

Message No. 315, 22 May 2001, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation for the purposes of the Bill.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Anthony (Minister for Community Services), the Bill was read a third time.

13 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, 25 June 2001.

14 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—TRADE PRACTICES AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 1) 2000

Message No. 623, 18 June 2001, from the Senate was reported returning the Trade Practices Amendment Bill (No. 1) 2000 and acquainting the House that the Senate insists upon its amendments disagreed to by the House of Representatives and desires the reconsideration of the Bill by the House in respect of the amendments.

Ordered—That the message be considered forthwith.

Mr Hockey (Minister for Financial Services and Regulation) moved—That the amendments insisted upon by the Senate be agreed to.

Debate ensued.

Closure

Mr Hockey moved—That the question be now put.

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

And the question—That the amendments insisted upon by the Senate be agreed to—was put accordingly, and passed.

15 INNOVATION AND EDUCATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 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 Lee who moved, as an amendment—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “the House notes that the Government has failed to adequately address the education, training and research needs of the nation, and that the Bill be withdrawn and redrafted to provide for:

- (1) an additional \$30 million in capital works grants to be provided to government schools, to match the extra funding being provided for establishment grants to non-government schools;
- (2) improved accountability arrangements to apply to the use of establishment grants; and
- (3) the Minister's power to determine a maximum permitted student debt to be limited to only those amounts borrowed under the Postgraduate Education Loan Scheme”.

Debate continued.

Amendment negatived.

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. 316, 3 April 2001, 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, and agreed to, after debate.

Consideration in detail concluded.

On the motion of Dr Kemp (Minister for Education, Training and Youth Affairs), by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

16 ADJOURNMENT

It being approximately 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 19 June 2001:

Pig Industry Act—Declaration of industry services body, 18 June 2001.

Taxation Administration Act—Rulings—2001 Nos PR 87, PR 88 .

ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Fahey and Ms Gerick*.

* On leave

I. C. HARRIS
Clerk of the House of Representatives

1998-1999-2000-2001

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SUPPLEMENT TO VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 191

MAIN COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

TUESDAY, 19 JUNE 2001

1 The Main Committee met at 4.00 p.m.

2 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 2001-2002—BUDGET DEBATE

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 declining to give the bill a second reading, the House condemns this Government for its:

- (1) reduction in the projected Budget cash surplus from \$14.6 billion when the 2001-02 Budget year first appeared in the 1998-99 Budget Papers to a surplus of \$1.5 billion and an accrual deficit of \$0.8 billion in this Budget;
- (2) failure to address the significant investment needs in the areas of education and health provision;
- (3) string of policy backflips and wasteful, panic driven spending across almost all program areas;
- (4) commitment to sell the rest of Telstra if re-elected;
- (5) failure to provide relief for Australian families under financial pressure;
- (6) failure to address the hardship, and red tape nightmare faced by small business arising from the introduction of the GST;
- (7) deception of self-funded retirees and pensioners through misleading taxation claims;
- (8) failure to provide a comprehensive retirement incomes policy which addresses the needs of the new century;
- (9) lax approach to corporate governance issues which has contributed to the recent spate of corporate failures;
- (10) lack of an ongoing commitment to the protection of employee entitlements;

- (11) misuse of taxpayers' money on its politically partisan GST advertising campaign;
- (12) provision of complex, confusing and uninformative budget documents;
- (13) failure to identify in the Budget papers the true cost of GST collection and implementation; and
- (14) failure to deliver its guarantee that no Australian will be worse off as a result of the GST package"—

Debate resumed.

Suspension of sitting

At 6.30 p.m., the Deputy Speaker left the Chair.

Resumption of sitting

At 8.01 p.m., the Deputy Speaker resumed the Chair.

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

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

3 ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Mr Slipper (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration), the Main Committee adjourned at 10.36 p.m.

The Deputy Speaker fixed tomorrow at 9.40 a.m. for the next meeting of the Main Committee.

B. C. WRIGHT

Clerk of the Main Committee