

2002-03-04

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 155

MONDAY, 8 MARCH 2004

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 Neville presented the following paper:

Australian Parliamentary Delegation to Japan and the Republic of Korea—Report, 2003.

Mr Neville, Mr B. P. J. O'Connor and Mrs May made statements in connection with the report.

3 INVASION OF IRAQ ROYAL COMMISSION (RESTORING PUBLIC TRUST IN GOVERNMENT) BILL 2004

Mr Organ, pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to provide for the appointment of a Royal Commission to investigate the accuracy, independence and use of intelligence information that contributed to the decision to invade Iraq in 2003, and for related purposes.

Mr Organ 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 standing order 104A.

4 EDUCATION FUNDING

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

- (1) acknowledges the outstanding efforts being made by teachers, staff and parents in both Government and non-Government schools in delivering quality education to Australia's 3.3 million school students;
- (2) notes that:
 - (a) Australia's 3.3 million school students, and their parents, are entitled to a choice of quality education;
 - (b) 2.25 million students attend state schools and receive \$19.9 billion in public funding;
 - (c) 1.04 million students attend Catholic and independent schools across Australia and receive a total of \$6.2 billion in public funding; and
 - (d) under the Australian Constitution, state schools are the responsibility of the State and Territory Governments and they have the major financial responsibility for them;
- (3) condemns the State Governments for their failure to match the Australian Government's increase in spending on State Government Schools; and
- (4) criticises the Australian Education Union for its misleading and deceptive one million dollar media campaign over education funding.

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, Ms Jackson was granted leave to continue her speech when the debate is resumed, and the resumption of the debate was made an order of the day for the next sitting.

5 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Members' statements were made and a petition was presented.

6 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

7 LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBER

Mr Latham (Leader of the Opposition) moved—That leave of absence for the remainder of the current period of sittings be given to Ms Ellis on the ground of ill health.

Question—put and passed.

8 PETITIONS

Petitions lodged for presentation were announced.

9 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Ms Roxon, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House:

- (1) acknowledges today as International Women's Day, when women across the globe mark the importance of continuing the struggle for equality and fairness, and fight against discrimination in all its forms;
- (2) acknowledges the massive contribution of Australian women to our community, through both their paid and unpaid work;
- (3) urges the development and introduction of better policies to support women in both their work and family lives; and
- (4) calls for the introduction of measures to combat the barriers (such as violence, poverty and discrimination) to women's healthy, safe and independent participation in our society, and for such measures to be adequately resourced.

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.

10 FREE TRADE AGREEMENT WITH THE USA

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

- (1) acknowledges the importance and value of international trade and commerce in strengthening bilateral relations between countries;
- (2) recognises the enormous economic benefits to Australia of the recently negotiated Free Trade Agreement between Australia and the United States of America; and
- (3) calls on the Opposition to support the recently signed Free Trade Agreement between Australia and the United States of America in Australia's long-term national interest.

Debate ensued.

The time allotted for private Members' business having expired, the debate was interrupted, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

11 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.

12 MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

Messages from the Senate, 4 March 2004, were reported:

- (a) returning the following Bills without amendment:

No. 421—Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Administration) Amendment 2004;

No. 422—Industrial Chemicals (Notification and Assessment) Amendment (Rotterdam Convention) 2004;

No. 423—Extension of Sunset of Parliamentary Joint Committee on Native Title 2004; and

No. 425—Industry Research and Development Amendment 2003; and

(b) acquainting the House of the following resolution agreed to by the Senate this day:

That the following matters be referred to the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters for inquiry and report by the last sitting day in June 2004:

(a) the matter relating to electoral funding and disclosure, which was adopted by the committee on 15 August 2000, and any amendments to the Commonwealth Electoral Act necessary to improve disclosure of donations to political parties and candidates and the true source of those donations; and

(b) any submissions and evidence received by the committee in relation to that inquiry of 15 August 2000—Message No. 426.

13 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—AUSTRALIAN CRIME COMMISSION AMENDMENT BILL 2003

Message No. 424, 4 March 2004, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for an Act to amend the *Australian Crime Commission Act 2002*, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Ordered—That the second reading be made an order of the day for the next sitting.

14 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—ELECTORAL MATTERS—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE

Message No. 420, 4 March 2004, from the Senate was reported acquainting the House of the following resolution agreed to by the Senate this day:

That the resolution of appointment of the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters be varied by omitting in paragraph (2) “1 Senator to be nominated by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate and 2 Senators to be nominated by any minority group” and substituting “2 Senators to be nominated by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate and 1 Senator to be nominated by any minority group”.

The Senate requests the concurrence of the House in the variation to the resolution of appointment of the committee.

Ordered—That the message be considered forthwith.

Mr Slipper (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration) moved—That the variation to the resolution of appointment of the committee be agreed to.

Question—put and passed.

15 TEXTILE, CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR STRATEGIC INVESTMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENT BILL 2004

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.

Mr G. M. O’Connor addressing the House—

16 ADJOURNMENT

It being 9 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until 9.30 p.m.—The Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 2 p.m.

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PAPERS

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 8 March 2004:

Australian National Training Authority Amendment Act—Australian National Training Authority—Agreement for 2001-2004.

Diplomatic Privileges and Immunities Act—Diplomatic Privileges and Immunities Regulations—Certificates—1 March 2004 (2).

Superannuation Act 1976—Determinations under sections 134 and 241—2004—

Superannuation (CSS) Final Deferred Transfer Value and Surplus Payments (Australia Post Superannuation Scheme).

Superannuation (CSS) Final Deferred Transfer Value and Surplus Payments (Telstra Superannuation Scheme).

Taxation Administration Act—

Determination—2004 No. GSTD 1.

Rulings—

2003 No. CR 84 (Addendum).

2004 Nos CR 19, PR 21.

ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Beazley, Ms Ellis*, Mrs Elson, Ms Gambaro and Mrs Hull.

* On leave

I. C. HARRIS

Clerk of the House of Representatives