

2002

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS**

No. 30

MONDAY, 24 JUNE 2002

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 PRIVILEGE—COMPLAINT OF BREACH**

Mr Tanner raised, as a matter of privilege, a threat of legal action against him that he said Telstra executives had made in connection with a press release he had issued following evidence given by a Telstra executive at a Senate estimates hearing.

The Speaker stated that he would consider the matter and report to the House at a later time.

**3 TREATIES—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

Ms J. I. Bishop (Chair) presented the following papers:

Treaties—Joint Standing Committee—Report 46—Treaties tabled on 12 March 2002—  
Report, June 2002.

Minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Ms J. I. Bishop and Mr Wilkie made statements in connection with the report.

The time allotted for making statements on the report having expired—

Ms J. I. Bishop moved—That the House take note of the report.

Ms J. I. Bishop 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.

**4 AUSTRALIAN CITIZENSHIP FOR ELIGIBLE DE FACTO SPOUSES BILL 2002**

Ms Plibersek, pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Australian Citizenship Act 1948*.

Ms Plibersek 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.

**5 NATIONAL MONUMENT TO IMMIGRATION FUND**

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

- (1) recognises the invaluable contribution that immigrants have made to Australia's development;
- (2) believes it is appropriate to recognise this through the construction of a monument in the National Capital;
- (3) supports the efforts of those who have established the National Monument to Immigration Fund which seeks to achieve this goal; and
- (4) remains informed of the progress of this project.

Debate ensued.

The time allotted for the debate having expired, the debate was interrupted, the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting, and Mr Hatton was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

## 6 COCHLEAR IMPLANTS

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

- (1) notes the Government's plan based on the recommendations of the Private Health Industry Medical Devices Expert Committee to remove speech processors from Appendix A, Schedule 5 of the *National Health Act 1953*, meaning the withdrawal of private health funding for upgrades and replacements for cochlear implants (bionic ears); and
- (2) calls on the Government to find a way that the profoundly deaf, especially children, can continue to secure upgrades and replacements for their cochlear implants by requiring private health funds to continue to cover the cost of the prosthesis.

Debate ensued.

At 1.45 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with standing order 106A, Ms J. S. McFarlane 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 a later hour this day.

## 7 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Members' statements were made.

## 8 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice being asked—

*Paper*

Mr Emerson, by leave, presented the following paper:

Cameron's car plan: find 'em and then grind 'em—Media release by the Hon. Ian Macfarlane, MP, Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources, 17 June 2002.

Questions without notice continued.

## 9 PETITIONS

Petitions lodged for presentation were announced.

## 10 COCHLEAR IMPLANTS

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Rudd (*see item No. 6, page 286*)—

Debate resumed.

The time allotted for the debate having expired, the debate was interrupted, the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting, and Dr Washer was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

## 11 SHARE OWNERSHIP

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

- (1) endorses actions taken by the Australian Government to improve the spread of share ownership in Australia and to make shares available to Australians who had not previously owned shares; and
- (2) deplores actions that have been taken which limit the spread of shares more generally to all Australians.

Debate ensued.

The time allotted for private Members' business having expired, the debate was interrupted, the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting, and Ms Roxon was granted leave to continue her speech when the debate is resumed.

**12 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.

The time allotted for the debate having expired—

Question—That grievances be noted—put and passed.

**13 ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER COMMISSION AMENDMENT BILL 2002—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 Cameron (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Family and Community Services), the amendments were agreed to.

**14 WORKPLACE RELATIONS AMENDMENT (GENUINE BARGAINING) BILL 2002**

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 McClelland who moved, as an amendment—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 the Government for:

- (1) unreasonably emasculating the powers of the AIRC to resolve industrial disputes in the interests of the parties;
- (2) interfering with the AIRC’s discretion to deal with industrial disputes in the most appropriate way; and
- (3) failing to put forward constructive proposals to enable the Commission to direct parties to bargain in good faith”.

Debate continued.

Mr B. P. J. O’Connor addressing the House—

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**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 2 p.m.

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**PAPERS**

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 24 June 2002:

Aged Care Act—Determination under section 52—2002 No. ACA 2.

Australian Bureau of Statistics Act—Australian Bureau of Statistics—Proposal—2002 No. 9.

Financial Sector (Collection of Data) Act—Reporting standards under subsection 13(1)—

GRS 110.0, GRS 120.0, GRS 130.0, GRS 130.1, GRS 130.2, GRS 130.3, GRS 140.0, GRS 140.1, GRS 140.2, GRS 140.3, GRS 140.4, GRS 150.0, GRS 160.0, GRS 170.0, GRS 210.0, GRS 210.1, GRS 300.0, GRS 310.0, GRS 310.1, GRS 310.2, GRS 310.3, GRS 320.0, GRS 400.0, GRS 410.0, GRS 420.0, GRS 430.0, GRS 440.0, GRS 450.0, GRS 900, RRS 100.1, RRS 200.1, RRS 300.1, RRS 400.1, RRS 600.2, RRS 800.0.

Hearing Services Administration Act—Rules—2002 Hearing Services Rules of Conduct Amendment (No. 1).

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**ATTENDANCE**

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Ms Burke\*, Ms Corcoran, Jackie Kelly\* and Mr Sawford.

\* On leave

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**I. C. HARRIS**

Clerk of the House of Representatives