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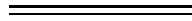
THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 3

THURSDAY, 18 NOVEMBER 2004



1 The House met, at 9 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (the Honourable David Hawker) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

2 PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE INCENTIVES AMENDMENT BILL 2004

Mr Abbott (Minister for Health and Ageing), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to private health insurance incentives, and for other purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Abbott moved—That the bill be now read a second time.

Document

Mr Abbott presented an explanatory memorandum to the bill.

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

3 NATIONAL WATER COMMISSION BILL 2004

Mr Anderson (Minister for Transport and Regional Services), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to establish the National Water Commission, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Anderson moved—That the bill be now read a second time.

Document

Mr Anderson presented an explanatory memorandum to the bill.

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

4 NEW INTERNATIONAL TAX ARRANGEMENTS (MANAGED FUNDS AND OTHER MEASURES) BILL 2004

Mr Brough (Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to taxation, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Brough moved—That the bill be now read a second time.

Document

Mr Brough presented an explanatory memorandum to the bill.

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

5 TAX LAWS AMENDMENT (2004 MEASURES NO. 6) BILL 2004

Mr Brough (Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to taxation, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Brough moved—That the bill be now read a second time.

Document

Mr Brough presented an explanatory memorandum to the bill.

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

6 TAX LAWS AMENDMENT (RETIREMENT VILLAGES) BILL 2004

Mr Brough (Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999*, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Brough moved—That the bill be now read a second time.

Document

Mr Brough presented an explanatory memorandum to the bill.

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

7 TAX LAWS AMENDMENT (SMALL BUSINESS MEASURES) BILL 2004

Mr Brough (Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to indirect taxation, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Brough moved—That the bill be now read a second time.

Document

Mr Brough presented an explanatory memorandum to the bill.

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

8 TAX LAWS AMENDMENT (SUPERANNUATION REPORTING) BILL 2004

Mr Brough (Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to taxation, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Brough moved—That the bill be now read a second time.

Document

Mr Brough presented an explanatory memorandum to the bill.

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

9 FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (2004 ELECTION COMMITMENTS) BILL 2004

Mrs Ley (Parliamentary Secretary—Children and Youth Affairs), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to social security, veterans' entitlements and family assistance, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mrs Ley moved—That the bill be now read a second time.

Document

Mrs Ley presented an explanatory memorandum to the bill.

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

10 FAMILY ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (ADJUSTMENT OF CERTAIN FTB CHILD RATES) BILL 2004

Mrs Ley (Parliamentary Secretary—Children and Youth Affairs), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *A New Tax System (Family Assistance) Act 1999*, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mrs Ley moved—That the bill be now read a second time.

Document

Mrs Ley presented an explanatory memorandum to the bill.

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

11 ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the following Address in Reply to the speech of His Excellency the Governor-General be agreed to:

May it please Your Excellency:

We, the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia, in Parliament assembled, desire to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the speech which you have been pleased to address to Parliament—

Debate resumed.

Debate adjourned (Mr Abbott—Leader of the House), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

12 SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

Mr Abbott (Leader of the House) moved—That the House, at its rising, adjourn until Monday, 29 November 2004, at 12.30 p.m., unless the Speaker fixes an alternative day or hour of meeting.

Question—put and passed.

13 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS—ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR 29 NOVEMBER 2004

Mr Abbott (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the order of business for Monday, 29 November 2004, being as follows, unless otherwise ordered:

- (1) Notices and orders of the day, government business (excluding Grievance debate), (to be interrupted at 1.45 p.m. in order that Members' statements can be called on):

Provided that:

- (a) if a division is in progress at the time fixed for interruption, the division shall be completed and the result announced; and
 (b) the Speaker shall fix the time for the resumption of debate on any business under discussion and not disposed of at the time of interruption.

- (2) Members' statements (at 1.45 p.m.).

- (3) Questions without notice (at 2 p.m.).

- (4) Presentation of petitions.

- (5) Notices and orders of the day, government business (excluding Grievance debate), for one hour:
 Provided that:

- (a) if a division is in progress at the time fixed for interruption, the division shall be completed and the result announced; and
 (b) the Speaker shall fix the time for the resumption of debate on any business under discussion and not disposed of at the time of interruption.

- (6) Grievance debate (to continue for 1 hour and 20 minutes).

- (7) Notices and orders of the day, government business.

Question—put and passed.

14 PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE STANDING ORDERS

Mr Abbott (Leader of the House), pursuant to notice, moved—That, unless otherwise ordered, the following amendment to the standing orders be made:

Omit standing order 215 and substitute the following standing order

215 General purpose standing committees

- (a) The following general purpose standing committees shall be appointed:
- (i) Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs;
 - (ii) Standing Committee on Health and Ageing;
 - (iii) Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry;
 - (iv) Standing Committee on Communications, Information Technology and the Arts;
 - (v) Standing Committee on Economics, Finance and Public Administration;
 - (vi) Standing Committee on Education and Vocational Training;
 - (vii) Standing Committee on Employment, Workplace Relations and Workforce Participation;
 - (viii) Standing Committee on Environment and Heritage;
 - (ix) Standing Committee on Family and Human Services;
 - (x) Standing Committee on Industry and Resources;
 - (xi) Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs;
 - (xii) Standing Committee on Science and Innovation; and
 - (xiii) Standing Committee on Transport and Regional Services.
- (b) A committee appointed under paragraph (a) may inquire into and report on any matter referred to it by either the House or a Minister, including any pre-legislation proposal, bill, motion, petition, vote or expenditure, other financial matter, report or paper.
- (c) A committee may make any inquiry it wishes to make into annual reports of government departments and authorities and reports of the Auditor-General tabled in the House. The following qualifications shall apply to these inquiries:
- (i) Reports shall stand referred to committees under a schedule tabled by the Speaker to record the areas of responsibility of each committee.
 - (ii) The Speaker shall determine any question about responsibility for a report or part of a report.
 - (iii) The period during which an inquiry into an annual report may be started by a committee shall end on the day the next annual report of the department or authority is presented to the House.
 - (iv) If a committee intends to inquire into all or part of a report of the Auditor-General, the committee must notify the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit of its intention, in writing.
- (d) Each committee appointed under paragraph (a) shall consist of 10 members: six government and four non-government Members. Each committee may supplement its membership by up to two members for a particular inquiry, with a maximum of one extra government and one extra non-government Member.

Question—put and passed.

15 AUSTRALIAN CRIME COMMISSION—PROPOSED POWERS AND PROCEEDINGS OF PARLIAMENTARY JOINT COMMITTEE

Mr Abbott (Leader of the House), pursuant to notice, moved—

- (1) That, in accordance with section 54 of the *Australian Crime Commission Act 2002*, matters relating to the powers and proceedings of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on the Australian Crime Commission shall be as follows:
- (a) That the committee consist of 10 members, 3 Members of the House of Representatives to be nominated by the Government Whip or Whips, 2 Members of the House of Representatives to be nominated by the Opposition Whip or Whips or by any independent Member, 2 Senators to be nominated by the Leader of the Government in the Senate, 2 Senators to be nominated by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate and 1 Senator to be nominated by any minority group or groups or independent Senator or independent Senators.
 - (b) That every nomination of a member of the committee be forthwith notified in writing to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
 - (c) That the committee elect a Government member as its chair.
 - (d) That the committee elect a deputy chair who shall act as chair of the committee at any time when the chair is not present at a meeting of the committee, and at any time when the chair

and deputy chair are not present at a meeting of the committee the members present shall elect another member to act as chair at that meeting.

- (e) That, in the event of an equality of voting, the chair, or the deputy chair when acting as chair, have a casting vote.
 - (f) That 3 members of the committee constitute a quorum of the committee, provided that in a deliberative meeting the quorum shall include 1 Government member of either House and 1 non-Government member of either House.
 - (g) That the committee have power to appoint subcommittees consisting of 3 or more of its members and to refer to any subcommittee any matter which the committee is empowered to examine.
 - (h) That the committee appoint the chair of each subcommittee who shall have a casting vote only and at any time when the chair of a subcommittee is not present at a meeting of the subcommittee the members of the subcommittee present shall elect another member of that subcommittee to act as chair at that meeting.
 - (i) That the quorum of a subcommittee be 2 members of that subcommittee, provided that in a deliberative meeting the quorum shall comprise 1 Government member of either House and 1 non-Government member of either House.
 - (j) That members of the committee who are not members of a subcommittee may participate in the proceedings of that subcommittee but shall not vote, move any motion or be counted for the purpose of a quorum.
 - (k) That the committee or any subcommittee have power to call for witnesses to attend and for documents to be produced.
 - (l) That the committee or any subcommittee may conduct proceedings in any place it sees fit
 - (m) That a subcommittee have power to adjourn from time to time and to sit during any adjournment of the Senate and the House of Representatives.
 - (n) That the committee may report from time to time.
 - (o) That the committee or any subcommittee have power to consider and make use of the evidence and records of the Joint Committees on the National Crime Authority and the Australian Crime Commission appointed during previous Parliaments.
 - (p) That, in carrying out its duties, the committee or any subcommittee, ensure that the operational methods and results of investigations of law enforcement agencies, as far as possible, be protected from disclosure where that would be against the public interest.
 - (q) That the foregoing provisions of this resolution, so far as they are inconsistent with the standing orders, have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the standing orders.
- (2) That a message be sent to the Senate acquainting it of this resolution and requesting that it concur and take action accordingly.

Question—put and passed.

16 CORPORATIONS AND FINANCIAL SERVICES—PROPOSED POWERS AND PROCEEDINGS OF PARLIAMENTARY JOINT COMMITTEE

Mr Abbott (Leader of the House), pursuant to notice, moved—

- (1) That, in accordance with section 242 of the *Australian Securities and Investments Commission Act 2001*, matters relating to the powers and proceedings of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Corporations and Financial Services shall be as follows:
 - (a) That the committee consist of 10 members, 3 Members of the House of Representatives to be nominated by the Government Whip or Whips, 2 Members of the House of Representatives to be nominated by the Opposition Whip or Whips or by any independent Member, 2 Senators to be nominated by the Leader of the Government in the Senate, 2 Senators to be nominated by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate and 1 Senator to be nominated by any minority groups or independent Senators.
 - (b) That every nomination of a member of the committee be forthwith notified in writing to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

- (c) That the committee elect a member nominated by the Government Whips or the Leader of the Government in the Senate as its chair.
 - (d) That the committee elect a deputy chair who shall act as chair of the committee at any time when the chair is not present at a meeting of the committee, and at any time when the chair and deputy chair are not present at a meeting of the committee the members present shall elect another member to act as chair at that meeting.
 - (e) That, in the event of the votes on a question before the committee being equally divided, the chair, or the deputy chair when acting as chair, have a casting vote.
 - (f) That 3 members of the committee constitute a quorum of the committee, provided that in a deliberative meeting the quorum shall include 1 Government member of either House and 1 non-Government member of either House.
 - (g) That the committee have power to appoint subcommittees consisting of 3 or more of its members and to refer to any subcommittee any matter which the committee is empowered to examine.
 - (h) That the committee appoint the chair of each subcommittee who shall have a casting vote only, and at any time when the chair of a subcommittee is not present at a meeting of a subcommittee the members of the subcommittee present shall elect another member of that subcommittee to act as chair at that meeting.
 - (i) That the quorum of a subcommittee be 2 members of that subcommittee, provided that in a deliberative meeting the quorum shall comprise 1 Government member of either House and 1 non-Government member of either House.
 - (j) That members of the committee who are not members of a subcommittee may participate in the proceedings of that subcommittee but shall not vote, move any motion or be counted for the purpose of a quorum.
 - (k) That the committee or any subcommittee have power to call for witnesses to attend and for documents to be produced.
 - (l) That the committee or any subcommittee may conduct proceedings at any place it sees fit.
 - (m) That a subcommittee have power to adjourn from time to time and to sit during any adjournment of the Senate and the House of Representatives.
 - (n) That the committee may report from time to time.
 - (o) That the committee have power to consider and make use of the evidence and records of the Joint Committees on Corporations and Financial Services and Corporations and Securities appointed during previous Parliaments.
 - (p) That the foregoing provisions of this resolution, so far as they are inconsistent with the standing orders, have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the standing orders.
- (2) That a message be sent to the Senate acquainting it of this resolution and requesting that it concur and take action accordingly.

Question—put and passed.

17 ELECTORAL MATTERS—PROPOSED JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr Abbott (Leader of the House), pursuant to notice, moved—

- (1) That a Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters be appointed to inquire into and report on such matters relating to electoral laws and practices and their administration as may be referred to it by either House of the Parliament or a Minister.
- (2) Annual reports of government departments and authorities tabled in the House shall stand referred to the committee for any inquiry the committee may wish to make. Reports shall stand referred to the committee in accordance with a schedule tabled by the Speaker to record the areas of responsibility of each committee, provided that:
 - (a) any question concerning responsibility for a report or a part of a report shall be determined by the Speaker; and
 - (b) the period during which an inquiry concerning an annual report may be commenced by a committee shall end on the day on which the next annual report of that Department or authority is presented to the House.

- (3) That the committee consist of 10 members, 3 Members of the House of Representatives to be nominated by the Government Whip or Whips, 2 Members of the House of Representatives to be nominated by the Opposition Whip or Whips or by any independent Member, 2 Senators to be nominated by the Leader of the Government in the Senate, 2 Senators to be nominated by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate and 1 Senator to be nominated by any minority group or groups or independent Senator or independent Senators.
- (4) That every nomination of a member of the committee be forthwith notified in writing to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- (5) That the members of the committee hold office as a joint standing committee until the House of Representatives is dissolved or expires by effluxion of time.
- (6) That the committee elect a Government member as its chair.
- (7) That the committee elect a deputy chair who shall act as chair of the committee at any time when the chair is not present at a meeting of the committee, and at any time when the chair and deputy chair are not present at a meeting of the committee the members present shall elect another member to act as chair at that meeting.
- (8) That, in the event of an equality of voting, the chair, or the deputy chair when acting as chair, have a casting vote.
- (9) That 3 members of the committee constitute a quorum of the committee, provided that in a deliberative meeting the quorum shall include 1 Government member of either House and 1 non-Government member of either House.
- (10) That the committee have power to appoint subcommittees consisting of 3 or more of its members and to refer to any subcommittee any matter which the committee is empowered to examine.
- (11) That the committee appoint the chair of each subcommittee who shall have a casting vote only and at any time when the chair of a subcommittee is not present at a meeting of the subcommittee the members of the subcommittee present shall elect another member of that subcommittee to act as chair at that meeting.
- (12) That the quorum of a subcommittee be 2 members of that subcommittee, provided that in a deliberative meeting the quorum shall comprise 1 Government member of either House and 1 non-Government member of either House.
- (13) That members of the committee who are not members of a subcommittee may participate in the proceedings of that subcommittee but shall not vote, move any motion or be counted for the purpose of a quorum.
- (14) That the committee or any subcommittee have power to call for witnesses to attend and for documents to be produced.
- (15) That the committee or any subcommittee may conduct proceedings in any place it sees fit.
- (16) That a subcommittee have power to adjourn from time to time and to sit during any adjournment of the Senate and the House of Representatives.
- (17) That the committee may report from time to time.
- (18) That the committee or any subcommittee have power to consider and make use of:
 - (a) submissions lodged with the Clerk of the Senate in response to public advertisements placed in accordance with the resolution of the Senate of 26 November 1981 relating to a proposed Joint Select Committee on the Electoral System, and
 - (b) the evidence and records of the Joint Committees on Electoral Reform and Electoral Matters appointed during previous Parliaments.
- (19) That the foregoing provisions of this resolution, so far as they are inconsistent with the standing orders, have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the standing orders.
- (20) That a message be sent to the Senate acquainting it of this resolution and requesting that it concur and take action accordingly.

Question—put and passed.

18 FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE—PROPOSED JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr Abbott (Leader of the House), pursuant to notice, moved—

- (1) (a) That a Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade be appointed to consider and report on such matters relating to foreign affairs, defence and trade as may be referred to it by:
 - (i) either House of the Parliament;
 - (ii) the Minister for Foreign Affairs;
 - (iii) the Minister for Defence; or
 - (iv) the Minister for Trade.
- (b) Annual reports of government departments and authorities tabled in the House shall stand referred to the committee for any inquiry the committee may wish to make. Reports shall stand referred to the committee in accordance with a schedule tabled by the Speaker to record the areas of responsibility of each committee, provided that:
 - (i) any question concerning responsibility for a report or a part of a report shall be determined by the Speaker; and
 - (ii) the period during which an inquiry concerning an annual report may be commenced by a committee shall end on the day on which the next annual report of that Department or authority is presented to the House.
- (2) That the committee consist of 32 members, 12 Members of the House of Representatives to be nominated by the Government Whip or Whips, 8 Members of the House of Representatives to be nominated by the Opposition Whip or Whips or by any independent Member, 5 Senators to be nominated by the Leader of the Government in the Senate, 5 Senators to be nominated by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate and 2 Senators to be nominated by any minority group or groups or independent Senator or independent Senators.
- (3) That every nomination of a member of the committee be forthwith notified in writing to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- (4) That the members of the committee hold office as a joint committee until the House of Representatives is dissolved or expires by effluxion of time.
- (5) That the committee elect a Government member as its chair.
- (6) That the committee elect a deputy chair who shall act as chair of the committee at any time when the chair is not present at a meeting of the committee and at any time when the chair and deputy chair are not present at a meeting of the committee the members present shall elect another member to act as chair at that meeting.
- (7) That in the event of an equality of voting, the chair, or the deputy chair when acting as chair, have a casting vote.
- (8) That 6 members of the committee constitute a quorum of the committee, provided that in a deliberative meeting the quorum shall include 1 Government member of either House and 1 non-Government member of either House.
- (9) That the committee have power to appoint subcommittees consisting of 3 or more of its members and to refer to any subcommittee any matter which the committee is empowered to examine.
- (10) That, in addition to the members appointed pursuant to paragraph (9), the chair and deputy chair of the committee be ex officio members of each subcommittee appointed.
- (11) That the committee appoint the chair of each subcommittee who shall have a casting vote only, and at any time when the chair of a subcommittee is not present at a meeting of the subcommittee the members of the subcommittee present shall elect another member of that subcommittee to act as chair at that meeting.
- (12) That the quorum of a subcommittee be 2 members of that subcommittee, provided that in a deliberative meeting the quorum shall comprise 1 Government member of either House and 1 non-Government member of either House.
- (13) That members of the committee who are not members of a subcommittee may participate in the proceedings of that subcommittee but shall not vote, move any motion or be counted for the purpose of a quorum.
- (14) That the committee or any subcommittee have power to call for witnesses to attend and for documents to be produced.

- (15) That the committee or any subcommittee may conduct proceedings at any place it sees fit.
- (16) That a subcommittee have power to adjourn from time to time and to sit during any adjournment of the Senate and the House of Representatives.
- (17) That the committee may report from time to time.
- (18) That the committee or any subcommittee have power to consider and make use of the evidence and records of the Joint Committees on Foreign Affairs and Defence and Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade appointed during previous Parliaments.
- (19) That the foregoing provisions of this resolution, so far as they are inconsistent with the standing orders, have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the standing orders.
- (20) That a message be sent to the Senate acquainting it of this resolution and requesting that it concur and take action accordingly.

Question—put and passed.

19 MIGRATION—PROPOSED JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr Abbott (Leader of the House), pursuant to notice, moved—

- (1) (a) That a Joint Standing Committee on Migration be appointed to inquire into and report upon:
 - (i) regulations made or proposed to be made under the *Migration Act 1958*;
 - (ii) proposed changes to the *Migration Act 1958* and any related acts; and
 - (iii) such other matters relating to migration as may be referred to it by the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs.
- (b) Annual reports of government departments and authorities tabled in the House shall stand referred to the committee for any inquiry the committee may wish to make. Reports shall stand referred to the committee in accordance with a schedule tabled by the Speaker to record the areas of responsibility of each committee, provided that:
 - (i) any question concerning responsibility for a report or a part of a report shall be determined by the Speaker; and
 - (ii) the period during which an inquiry concerning an annual report may be commenced by a committee shall end on the day on which the next annual report of that Department or authority is presented to the House.
- (2) That the committee consist of 10 members, 3 Members of the House of Representatives to be nominated by the Government Whip or Whips, 3 Members of the House of Representatives to be nominated by the Opposition Whip or Whips or by any independent Member, 2 Senators to be nominated by the Leader of the Government in the Senate, 1 Senator to be nominated by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate and 1 Senator to be nominated by any minority group or groups or independent Senator or independent Senators.
- (3) That every nomination of a member of the committee be forthwith notified in writing to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- (4) That the members of the committee hold office as a joint standing committee until the House of Representatives is dissolved or expires by effluxion of time.
- (5) That the committee elect a Government member as its chair.
- (6) That the committee elect a deputy chair who shall act as chair of the committee at any time when the chair is not present at a meeting of the committee, and at any time when the chair and deputy chair are not present at a meeting of the committee the members present shall elect another member to act as chair at that meeting.
- (7) That, in the event of an equality of voting, the chair, or the deputy chair when acting as chair, have a casting vote.
- (8) That 3 members of the committee constitute a quorum of the committee, provided that in a deliberative meeting the quorum shall include 1 Government member of either House and 1 non-Government member of either House.
- (9) That the committee have power to appoint subcommittees consisting of 3 or more of its members and to refer to any subcommittee any matter which the committee is empowered to examine.

- (10) That the committee appoint the chair of each subcommittee who shall have a casting vote only and at any time when the chair of a subcommittee is not present at a meeting of the subcommittee the members of the subcommittee present shall elect another member of that subcommittee to act as chair at that meeting.
- (11) That the quorum of a subcommittee be 2 members of that subcommittee, provided that in a deliberative meeting the quorum shall comprise 1 Government member of either House and 1 non-Government member of either House.
- (12) That members of the committee who are not members of a subcommittee may participate in the public proceedings of that subcommittee but shall not vote, move any motion or be counted for the purpose of a quorum.
- (13) That the committee or any subcommittee have power to call for witnesses to attend and for documents to be produced.
- (14) That the committee or any subcommittee may conduct proceedings at any place it sees fit.
- (15) That the committee may report from time to time.
- (16) That the committee or any subcommittee have power to consider and make use of the evidence and records of the Joint Committees on Migration Regulations and the Joint Standing Committees on Migration appointed in previous Parliaments.
- (17) That the foregoing provisions of this resolution, so far as they are inconsistent with the standing orders, have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the standing orders.
- (18) That a message be sent to the Senate acquainting it of this resolution and requesting that it concur and take action accordingly.

Question—put and passed.

20 NATIONAL CAPITAL AND EXTERNAL TERRITORIES—PROPOSED JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr Abbott (Leader of the House), pursuant to notice, moved—

- (1) That a Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories be appointed to inquire into and report on:
 - (a) matters coming within the terms of section 5 of the *Parliament Act 1974* as may be referred to it by:
 - (i) either House of the Parliament; or
 - (ii) the Minister responsible for administering the *Parliament Act 1974*; or
 - (iii) the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
 - (b) such other matters relating to the parliamentary zone as may be referred to it by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
 - (c) such amendments to the National Capital Plan as are referred to it by a Minister responsible for administering the *Australian Capital Territory (Planning and Land Management) Act 1988*;
 - (d) such other matters relating to the National Capital as may be referred to it by:
 - (i) either House of the Parliament; or
 - (ii) the Minister responsible for administering the *Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Act 1988*; and
 - (e) such matters relating to Australia's territories as may be referred to it by:
 - (i) either House of the Parliament; or
 - (ii) the Minister responsible for the administration of the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands; the Territory of Christmas Island; the Coral Sea Islands Territory; the Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands; the Australian Antarctic Territory, and the Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands, and of Commonwealth responsibilities on Norfolk Island.
- (2) Annual reports of government departments and authorities tabled in the House shall stand referred to the committee for any inquiry the committee may wish to make. Reports shall stand referred to the committee in accordance with a schedule tabled by the Speaker to record the areas of responsibility of each committee, provided that:

- (a) any question concerning responsibility for a report or a part of a report shall be determined by the Speaker; and
 - (b) the period during which an inquiry concerning an annual report may be commenced by a committee shall end on the day on which the next annual report of that Department or authority is presented to the House.
- (3) That the committee consist of 12 members, the Deputy Speaker, 3 Members of the House of Representatives to be nominated by the Government Whip or Whips, 2 Members of the House of Representatives to be nominated by the Opposition Whip or Whips or by any independent Member, the Deputy President and Chairman of Committees, 2 Senators to be nominated by the Leader of the Government in the Senate, 2 Senators to be nominated by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate and 1 Senator to be nominated by any minority group or groups or independent Senator or independent Senators.
 - (4) That every nomination of a member of the committee be forthwith notified in writing to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate.
 - (5) That the members of the committee hold office as a joint standing committee until the House of Representatives is dissolved or expires by effluxion of time.
 - (6) That the committee elect a Government member as its chair.
 - (7) That the committee elect a deputy chair who shall act as chair of the committee at any time when the chair is not present at a meeting of the committee, and at any time when the chair and deputy chair are not present at a meeting of the committee the members present shall elect another member to act as chair at that meeting.
 - (8) That, in the event of an equality of voting, the chair or the deputy chair when acting as chair, have a casting vote.
 - (9) That 3 members of the committee (of whom one is the Deputy President or the Deputy Speaker when matters affecting the parliamentary zone are under consideration) constitute a quorum of the committee, provided that in a deliberative meeting the quorum shall include 1 Government member of either House and 1 non-Government member of either House.
 - (10) That the committee have power to appoint subcommittees consisting of 3 or more of its members and to refer to any subcommittee any matter which the committee is empowered to examine.
 - (11) That the committee appoint the chair of each subcommittee who shall have a casting vote only and at any time when the chair of a subcommittee is not present at a meeting of the subcommittee the members of the subcommittee present shall elect another member of that subcommittee to act as chair at that meeting.
 - (12) That the quorum of a subcommittee be 2 members of that subcommittee, provided that in a deliberative meeting the quorum shall comprise 1 Government member of either House and 1 non-Government member of either House.
 - (13) That members of the committee who are not members of a subcommittee may participate in the public proceedings of that subcommittee but shall not vote, move any motion or be counted for the purpose of a quorum.
 - (14) That the committee or any subcommittee have power to call for witnesses to attend and for documents to be produced.
 - (15) That the committee or any subcommittee may conduct proceedings at any place it sees fit.
 - (16) That a subcommittee have power to adjourn from time to time and to sit during any adjournment of the Senate and the House of Representatives.
 - (17) That the committee may report from time to time.
 - (18) That the committee or any subcommittee have power to consider and make use of the evidence and records of the Joint Standing Committees on the National Capital and External Territories, the Joint Committees on the Australian Capital Territory, the Joint Standing Committees on the New Parliament House, the Joint Standing Committee on the Parliamentary Zone and the Joint Committee on the National Capital appointed during previous Parliaments and of the House of Representatives and Senate Standing Committees on Transport, Communications and Infrastructure when sitting as a joint committee on matters relating to the Australian Capital Territory.

- (19) That the foregoing provisions of this resolution, so far as they are inconsistent with the standing orders, have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the standing orders.
- (20) That a message be sent to the Senate acquainting it of this resolution and requesting that it concur and take action accordingly.

Question—put and passed.

21 NATIVE TITLE AND THE ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER LAND FUND—PROPOSED POWERS AND PROCEEDINGS OF PARLIAMENTARY JOINT COMMITTEE

Mr Abbott (Leader of the House), pursuant to notice, moved—

- (1) That, in accordance with section 205 of the *Native Title Act 1993*, matters relating to the powers and proceedings of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Native Title and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Fund shall be as follows:
 - (a) That the committee consist of 10 members, 3 Members of the House of Representatives to be nominated by the Government Whip or Whips, 2 Members of the House of Representatives to be nominated by the Opposition Whip or Whips or by any independent Member, 2 Senators to be nominated by the Leader of the Government in the Senate, 2 Senators to be nominated by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate and 1 Senator to be nominated by any minority groups or independent Senators.
 - (b) That every nomination of a member of the committee be forthwith notified in writing to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
 - (c) That the committee elect a Government member as its chair.
 - (d) That the committee elect a deputy chair who shall act as chair of the committee at any time when the chair is not present at a meeting of the committee, and at any time when the chair and deputy chair are not present at a meeting of the committee the members present shall elect another member to act as chair at that meeting.
 - (e) That, in the event of the votes on a question before the committee being equally divided, the chair, or the deputy chair when acting as chair, have a casting vote.
 - (f) That 3 members of the committee constitute a quorum of the committee, provided that in a deliberative meeting the quorum shall include 1 Government member of either House and 1 non-Government member of either House.
 - (g) That the committee have power to appoint subcommittees consisting of 3 or more of its members and to refer to any subcommittee any matter which the committee is empowered to examine.
 - (h) That the committee appoint the chair of each subcommittee who shall have a casting vote only, and at any time when the chair of a subcommittee is not present at a meeting of a subcommittee the members of the subcommittee present shall elect another member of that subcommittee to act as chair at that meeting.
 - (i) That the quorum of a subcommittee be 2 members of that subcommittee, provided that in a deliberative meeting the quorum shall comprise 1 Government member of either House and 1 non-Government member of either House.
 - (j) That members of the committee who are not members of a subcommittee may participate in the proceedings of that subcommittee but shall not vote, move any motion or be counted for the purpose of a quorum.
 - (k) That the committee or any subcommittee have power to call for witnesses to attend and for documents to be produced.
 - (l) That the committee have power to examine and report on such annual and related reports as may be referred to it by the President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
 - (m) That the committee or any subcommittee may conduct proceedings at any place it sees fit.
 - (n) That a subcommittee have power to adjourn from time to time and to sit during any adjournment of the Senate and the House of Representatives.
 - (o) That the committee may report from time to time.

- (p) That the foregoing provisions of this resolution, so far as they are inconsistent with the standing orders, have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the standing orders.
- (2) That a message be sent to the Senate acquainting it of this resolution and requesting that it concur and take action accordingly.

Question—put and passed.

22 TREATIES—PROPOSED JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr Abbott (Leader of the House), pursuant to notice, moved—

- (1) That a Joint Standing Committee on Treaties be appointed to inquire into and report upon:
 - (a) matters arising from treaties and related National Interest Analyses and proposed treaty actions presented or deemed to be presented to the Parliament;
 - (b) any question relating to a treaty or other international instrument, whether or not negotiated to completion, referred to the committee by:
 - (i) either House of the Parliament, or
 - (ii) a Minister; and
 - (c) such other matters as may be referred to the committee by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and on such conditions as the Minister may prescribe.
- (2) That the committee consist of 16 members, 6 Members of the House of Representatives to be nominated by the Government Whip or Whips, 3 Members of the House of Representatives to be nominated by the Opposition Whip or Whips or by any independent Member, 3 Senators to be nominated by the Leader of the Government in the Senate, 3 Senators to be nominated by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate and 1 Senator to be nominated by any minority group or groups or independent Senator or independent Senators.
- (3) That every nomination of a member of the committee be forthwith notified in writing to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- (4) That the members of the committee hold office as a joint committee until the House of Representatives is dissolved or expires by effluxion of time.
- (5) That the committee elect a Government member as its chair.
- (6) That the committee elect a non-Government member as its deputy chair to act as chair of the committee at any time when the chair is not present at a meeting of the committee and at any time when the chair and deputy chair are not present at a meeting of the committee the members present shall elect another member to act as chair at that meeting.
- (7) That in the event of an equality of voting, the chair, or the deputy chair when acting as chair, have a casting vote.
- (8) That 3 members of the committee constitute a quorum of the committee, provided that in a deliberative meeting the quorum shall include 1 Government member of either House and 1 non-Government member of either House.
- (9) That the committee have power to appoint not more than 3 subcommittees each consisting of 3 or more of its members, and to refer to any subcommittee any matter which the committee is empowered to examine.
- (10) That, in addition to the members appointed pursuant to paragraph (9), the chair and deputy chair of the committee be ex officio members of each subcommittee appointed.
- (11) That the committee appoint the chair of each subcommittee who shall have a casting vote only, and at any time when the chair of a subcommittee is not present at a meeting of the subcommittee the members of the subcommittee present shall elect another member of that subcommittee to act as chair at that meeting.
- (12) That the quorum of a subcommittee be 2 members of that subcommittee, provided that in a deliberative meeting the quorum shall include 1 Government member of either House and 1 non-Government member of either House.
- (13) That members of the committee who are not members of a subcommittee may participate in the proceedings of that subcommittee but shall not vote, move any motion or be counted for the purpose of a quorum.

- (14) That the committee or any subcommittee have power to call for witnesses to attend and for documents to be produced.
- (15) That the committee or any subcommittee may conduct proceedings at any place it sees fit.
- (16) That a subcommittee have power to adjourn from time to time and to sit during any adjournment of the Senate and the House of Representatives.
- (17) That the committee may report from time to time.
- (18) That the committee have power to consider and make use of the evidence and records of the Joint Standing Committees on Treaties appointed during previous Parliaments.
- (19) That the foregoing provisions of this resolution, so far as they are inconsistent with the standing orders, have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the standing orders.
- (20) That a message be sent to the Senate acquainting it of this resolution and requesting that it concur and take action accordingly.

Question—put and passed.

23 ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the Address in Reply to the speech of His Excellency the Governor-General be agreed to (*see item number 11, page 31*)—

Debate resumed.

It being 2 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with standing order 97, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

24 MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS

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

25 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

26 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—INTEREST RATES

The House was informed that Mr Swan had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, “The failure of the Howard Government to maintain fiscal discipline and pursue other policies to keep downward pressure on interest rates”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Swan addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

27 MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

Messages from the Senate, 18 November 2004, were reported returning the following bills without amendment:

Message—

No. 1—Customs Amendment (Thailand–Australia Free Trade Agreement Implementation) 2004.

No. 2—Customs Tariff Amendment (Thailand–Australia Free Trade Agreement Implementation) 2004.

28 DOCUMENTS

The following documents were presented:

Australian Sports Drug Agency—Report for 2003-04.

Cotton Research and Development Corporation—Report for 2003-04.

Defence Housing Authority—Report for 2003-04.

Fisheries Research and Development Corporation—Report for 2003-04.

Grains Research and Development Corporation—Report for 2003-04.

Grape and Wine Research and Development Corporation—Report for 2003-04.
 Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission—Report for 2003-04.
 Land and Water Australia—Report for 2003-04.
 Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General—Report for 2003-04.
 Professional Services Review—Report for 2003-04.
 Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation—Report for 2003-04.
 Sugar Research and Development Corporation—Report for 2003-04.
 Takeovers Panel—Report for 2003-04.
 Telstra Corporation Limited—Equal employment opportunity—Report for 2003-04.
 Veterans' Review Board—Report for 2003-04.

29 ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the Address in Reply to the speech of His Excellency the Governor-General be agreed to (*see item number 11, page 31*)—

Debate resumed.

Mr Jull addressing the House—

30 ADJOURNMENT

It being 4.30 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until 5 p.m.—The Speaker adjourned the House until Monday, 29 November 2004, at 12.30 p.m., in accordance with the resolution agreed to this sitting.

DOCUMENTS

The following documents were deemed to have been presented on 18 November 2004:

Acts Interpretation Act—Statements relating to extension of time for presentation of report—

Department of Employment and Workplace Relations—Report for 2003-04.

National Occupational Health and Safety Commission—Report for 2003-04.

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act—Instrument under section 303DB, 11 October 2004.

Higher Education Support Act—Determination under subsection 36-15(2), 31 August 2004.

ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Costello, Mr Downer, Mr Katter, Ms Panopoulos, Mr Sawford and Mr M. A. J. Vaile.

I. C. HARRIS
 Clerk of the House of Representatives