

1996-97-98

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS**

No. 154

MONDAY, 6 APRIL 1998

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1 The House met, at 12.30 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (the Right Honourable Ian Sinclair) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

2 **FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

Mr Taylor presented the following papers:

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade—Joint Standing Committee—Australia and ASEAN: Managing change—

Report, March 1998.

Evidence received by the committee.

Minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Mr Taylor and Mr Jones made statements in connection with the report.

Mr Taylor moved—That the House take note of the report.

Mr Taylor was granted leave to continue his 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.

3 **AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS**

Mr Jenkins presented the following paper:

Australian Parliamentary Delegation to the 6th annual meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum, Seoul, Republic of Korea, 7 to 10 January 1998—Report.

Mr Jenkins and Mr Neville made a statements in connection with the report.

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

Mr Taylor (Chair) presented the following papers:

Treaties—Joint Standing Committee—

Thirteenth report, March 1998.

Evidence received by the committee.

Minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Mr Taylor and Mr Adams made statements in connection with the report.

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

Mr Taylor moved—That the House take note of the report.

Mr Taylor was granted leave to continue his 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.

**5 NATIONAL CRIME AUTHORITY—PARLIAMENTARY JOINT COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENT BY MEMBER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

Mr Bradford (Chair) presented the following papers:

National Crime Authority—Parliamentary Joint Committee—Third evaluation of the National Crime Authority—

Report, incorporating a dissenting report, April 1998.

Evidence received by the committee.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Mr Bradford made a statement in connection with the report.

The time for consideration of committee and delegation reports having expired—

*Paper*

Mr Bradford, by leave, presented the following paper:

National Crime Authority—Parliamentary Joint Committee—Third evaluation of the National Crime Authority—Report—Chair's tabling statement.

Mr Bradford moved—That the House take note of the report.

Mr Bradford was granted leave to continue his 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.

**6 SYDNEY AIRPORTS BILL 1998**

Mr Zammit, pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act concerning airports in the Sydney area.

Mr Zammit 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.

## 7 BANK FACILITIES

Mrs Bailey, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House:

- (1) expresses its concern at the number of bank branches which have been closed in both rural and outer suburban areas;
- (2) calls on the major banks to honour their responsibility to provide services to their customers and the community as well as delivering dividends to their shareholders;
- (3) further calls on the major banks to adopt a moratorium on any further planned branch closures until such time that alternative services are made available to their customers and that their customers are educated in electronic banking practices;
- (4) endorses the Standing Committee on Financial Institutions and Public Administration's investigation into the feasibility of the major banks providing a combined banking kiosk or agency capable of delivering full banking facilities in areas where no bank exists because of branch closure;
- (5) urges the Government to ensure that departments and agencies are able to utilise alternative banking arrangements such as regional banks, building societies or credit unions where applicable; and
- (6) notes and supports the Government's financial support of the Credit Care program in rural areas which has provided the means to re-establish financial services through regional banks, credit co-ops and building societies in areas where the major banks have withdrawn services.

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, and the resumption of the debate was made an order of the day for the next sitting.

## 8 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Members' statements were made.

## 9 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice being asked—

*Paper*

Mr Tuckey, in accordance with standing order 321, having called for documents quoted from by Mr Costello (Treasurer)—

Mr Costello presented the following paper:

Australian Bureau of Statistics—Job vacancies and overtime, February 1998.

Questions without notice continuing—

*Papers*

Mr Lee, in accordance with standing order 321, having called for documents quoted from by Mr Howard (Prime Minister)—

Mr Howard presented the following papers:

Commonwealth health funding—

Changes in Commonwealth hospital funding to States over 1992-93 to 2002-03—Graph.

Growth in own source recurrent hospital expenditure—Commonwealth and all States, 1992-93 to 1997-98—Graph.

Health care agreements: The facts—Question time brief.

Questions without notice continued.

**10 PETITIONS**

The Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:

Mr Andren, Mr Hardgrave and Mr Lee, from 4565, 24 and 93 petitioners, respectively, praying that legislation to implement a proposed therapeutic goods advertising code be rejected.

Mr Brown and Mr K. J. Thomson, from 180 and 127 petitioners, respectively, praying that the unfairness of prohibiting the use of the term “drug free” in describing and advertising vitamin and herbal remedies be recognised.

Mr Abbott, from 88 petitioners, praying that all Commonwealth funding be removed from all Family Planning Australia associations and affiliates.

Mr Bevis, from 176 residents of Queensland, praying that the House ensure that the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme does not discriminate against those with the greatest incapacity to pay for prescription medicines.

Mr Bevis, from 133 residents of Queensland, praying that nursing home care be equally available to all Australians on the basis of medical need alone.

Mr Brown, from 52 petitioners, praying that nursing home care be available to all and that the family home be exempted from assets tests relating to payment for such care.

Mr Brown, from 52 petitioners, praying that legislation that would impact upon existing quality, affordable childcare not be passed.

Mrs Crosio, from 39 petitioners, praying that the Badgerys Creek airport project not proceed and such an airport be built outside the Sydney Basin.

Mr Mossfield, from 210 residents of New South Wales, in similar terms.

Mr Downer, from 75 residents of South Australia, praying that if enacted the Health Legislation (Private Health Insurance Reform) Amendment Bill 1994 be repealed.

Mr Latham, from 22 petitioners, praying that post-secondary education be returned to a system which is fair and accessible for all Australians.

Mr P. F. Morris, from 312 electors of the Division of Shortland, praying that the Belmont, NSW, Medicare office remain open.

Mr P. F. Morris, from 94 electors of the Division of Shortland, praying that the decision to close the Medicare office in Belmont, NSW, be reversed and dismantling of the Medicare services cease.

Mr Reith, from 407 petitioners, praying that financial assistance be provided to assist in the establishment of cord blood banks.

Mr Somlyay, from 114 petitioners, praying that freedom of choice be allowed under the advertising provisions of the Therapeutic Goods Regulations.

Mr K. J. Thomson, from 668 petitioners, praying that immediate compensation be organised for ex-traders forced out of business.

Mr Zammit, from 262 residents of New South Wales, praying that a commission of inquiry or judicial inquiry be established to investigate all aspects of the long term operating plan for Sydney (Kingsford-Smith) Airport including the part played by senior members of the Government.

Mr Zammit, from 25 residents of New South Wales, in similar terms.

Mr Zammit, from 73 residents of New South Wales, praying that operational subsidies for community-based non-profit child care centres be reinstated.

Mr Zammit, from 44 residents of New South Wales, praying that operational subsidies for Outside School Hours Child Care Centres be retained.

Petitions received.

#### 11 **EMPLOYEE PROTECTION (WAGE GUARANTEE) BILL 1998**

The order of the day having been read for the second reading—Mrs Crosio moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

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 McMullan was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

#### 12 **TAX REFORM**

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

- (1) agrees that former Labor Prime Minister Paul Keating's unsuccessful attempt to implement substantial tax reform in 1985 was an acknowledgment of the contemporary failings of the taxation system;
- (2) recognises that the former Labor Government failed over 13 years to implement substantial tax reform;
- (3) agrees that the Government's achievement in fixing Labor's \$10 billion budget black hole proves that this Government has the resolve and the courage to implement significant and sensible taxation reform; and
- (4) notes that the Opposition has no plans for substantial taxation reform and favours a return to the tax and spend policies of the past that led to high

interest rates, high unemployment and low growth that had it been allowed to go unchecked could have dangerously exposed Australia in the environment of an Asian financial crisis.

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 Mr Hatton was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

**13 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.

**14 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—TRADE PRACTICES AMENDMENT (FAIR TRADING) BILL 1997**

A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill with amendments:

2 April 1998—Message No. 474—Trade Practices Amendment (Fair Trading) 1997.

Ordered—That the amendments be considered forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Reith (Minister for Workplace Relations and Small Business), the amendments were agreed to, after debate.

**15 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—PUBLIC SERVICE BILL 1997 [NO. 2]**

A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill with amendments:

1 April 1998—Message No. 456—Public Service 1997 [No. 2].

Ordered—That the amendments be considered forthwith.

Dr Kemp (Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Public Service) moved—That the amendments be disagreed to.

Debate ensued.

Question—put.

The House divided (the Deputy Speaker, Mrs D. M. Kelly, in the Chair)—

## AYES, 80

|                  |                   |              |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Mr Abbott        | Mr Costello       | Dr Kemp      | Mr Ronaldson      |
| Mr Anderson      | Mr Dondas         | Mr Lieberman | Mr Ruddock        |
| Mr J. N. Andrew  | Mrs Elson         | Mr Lindsay   | Mr Scott          |
| Mr K. J. Andrews | Mr Entsch         | Mr Lloyd     | Mr Slipper*       |
| Mr Anthony       | Mr R. D. C. Evans | Mr McArthur* | Mr A. C. Smith    |
| Mrs Bailey       | Mr Filing         | Mr McDougall | Mr W. L. Smith    |
| Mr R. C. Baldwin | Mr Forrest        | Mr McGauran  | Mr Somlyay        |
| Mr Barresi       | Mrs Gallus        | Mr McLachlan | Dr Southcott      |
| Mr Bartlett      | Ms Gambaro        | Mr Marek     | Mrs Stone         |
| Mr Billson       | Mrs Gash          | Mr Miles     | Mrs Sullivan      |
| Mrs Bishop       | Mrs E. J. Grace   | Mr Mutch     | Mr Taylor         |
| Mr Bradford      | Mr Hardgrave      | Mr Nairn     | Mr A. P. Thomson  |
| Mr Broadbent     | Mr Hawker         | Mr Nehl      | Mr Truss          |
| Mr Brough        | Mr Hicks*         | Dr Nelson    | Mr Tuckey         |
| Mr Cadman        | Mr Hockey         | Mr Neville   | Mr M. A. J. Vaile |
| Mr E. H. Cameron | Ms Jeanes         | Mr Nugent    | Mrs D. S. Vale    |
| Mr R. A. Cameron | Mrs Johnston      | Mr Prosser   | Mrs West          |
| Mr Causley       | Mr Jull           | Mr Pyne      | Mr Williams       |
| Mr Charles       | Mr Katter         | Mr Randall   | Dr Wooldridge     |
| Mr Cobb          | Miss J. M. Kelly  | Mr Reith     | Ms Worth          |

## NOES, 39

|                  |                      |                 |                  |
|------------------|----------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Mr Adams         | Mr M. J. Evans       | Mr Latham       | Mr Mossfield     |
| Mr Albanese      | Mr L. D. T. Ferguson | Dr Lawrence     | Mr O'Connor      |
| Mr P. J. Baldwin | Mr M. J. Ferguson    | Mr Lee          | Mr O'Keefe       |
| Mr Beddall       | Mr Fitzgibbon        | Mr McClelland   | Mr Price         |
| Mr Bevis         | Mr E. L. Grace*      | Ms Macklin      | Mr Sercombe*     |
| Mr Brown         | Mr Griffin*          | Mr McMullan     | Mr S. F. Smith   |
| Mrs Crosio       | Mr Hatton            | Mr Martin       | Mr Tanner        |
| Mr Dargavel      | Mr Jenkins           | Mr Melham       | Mr K. J. Thomson |
| Ms Ellis         | Mr Jones             | Mr A. A. Morris | Mr Wilton        |
| Mr G. J. Evans   | Mr Kerr              | Mr P. F. Morris |                  |

\* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

On the motion of Dr Kemp, the Bill was laid aside.

**16 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT (CONSEQUENTIAL AND TRANSITIONAL) AMENDMENT BILL 1997 [NO. 2]**

A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill with amendments:

1 April 1998—Message No. 457—Public Employment (Consequential and Transitional) Amendment 1997 [No. 2].

Ordered—That the amendments be considered forthwith.

On the motion of Dr Kemp (Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Public Service), the amendments were disagreed to, after debate.

On the motion of Dr Kemp, the Bill was laid aside.

**17 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE BILL 1997 [NO. 2]**

A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill with amendments:

1 April 1998—Message No. 458—Parliamentary Service 1997 [No. 2].

Ordered—That the amendments be considered forthwith.

On the motion of Dr Kemp (Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Public Service), the amendments were disagreed to.

On the motion of Dr Kemp, the Bill was laid aside.

**18 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—HEALTH LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1997**

A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill with an amendment:

3 April 1998—Message No. 475—Health Legislation Amendment (No. 2) 1997.

Ordered—That the amendment be considered forthwith.

On the motion of Ms Worth (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Family Services), the amendment was agreed to, after debate.

**19 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—INSURANCE LAWS AMENDMENT BILL 1997**

A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill with an amendment:

2 April 1998—Message No. 461—Insurance Laws Amendment 1997.

Ordered—That the amendment be considered forthwith.

Ms Worth (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Family Services) moved—That the amendment be agreed to.

*Paper*

Ms Worth presented a supplementary explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Question—put and passed.

**20 MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE**

Messages from the Senate, 2 April 1998, were reported returning the following Bills without amendment:

No. 462—Medicare Levy Amendment (No. 2) 1997.

No. 463—Commonwealth Places (Mirror Taxes) 1998.

No. 464—Commonwealth Places Windfall Tax (Collection) 1998.

No. 465—Commonwealth Places Windfall Tax (Imposition) 1998 (*without requests*).

No. 466—Commonwealth Places (Consequential Amendments) 1998.

No. 467—National Residue Survey Administration Amendment 1998.



- No. 468—National Residue Survey (Customs) Levy 1998 (*without requests*).  
No. 469—National Residue Survey (Excise) Levy 1998 (*without requests*).  
No. 470—Indigenous Education (Supplementary Assistance) Amendment 1997.  
No. 471—Health Legislation Amendment 1998.  
No. 472—Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Amendment 1997.  
No. 473—Therapeutic Goods Legislation Amendment 1997.

**21 TELSTRA (TRANSITION TO FULL PRIVATE OWNERSHIP) BILL 1998**

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 Price addressing the House—

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**22 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 6 April 1998:

Defence Act—Determinations under section 58B 1998 Nos. 14, 15.

*Income Tax Assessment Act 1936*—RHQ Company Determinations 1998 Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4.

Public Service Act—Determinations 1998 Nos. LES 12, LES 13.

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**ATTENDANCE**

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Brereton, Mrs Gallus, Mr Georgiou, Mr Halverson, Ms Hanson, Mr Holding, Mr Hollis, Mr McLeay, Mr Reid, Mr Sawford and Mr Wakelin.

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**I. C. HARRIS**

Clerk of the House of Representatives