

1996-97-98

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 162

WEDNESDAY, 27 MAY 1998

1 The House met, at 9.30 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (the Right Honourable Ian Sinclair) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

2 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER 48A

Mr Reith (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That standing order 48A (adjournment and next meeting) be suspended for this sitting.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

3 NATIONAL FIREARMS PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION BILL 1998

Mr Williams (Attorney-General), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to provide for financial assistance in connection with the implementation of the national firearms program, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Williams moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Paper

Mr Williams presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

4 CUSTOMS TARIFF AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1998

Mr Truss (Minister for Customs and Consumer Affairs) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Customs Tariff Act 1995*.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Truss moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Paper

Mr Truss presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

5 PARLIAMENTARY ZONE—ERECTION OF SIGNAGE ON AND AROUND HEADQUARTERS OF NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA AT EAST BLOCK—APPROVAL OF PROPOSAL

Mr Somlyay (Minister for Regional Development, Territories and Local Government), pursuant to notice, moved—That, in accordance with section 5 of the *Parliament Act 1974*, the House approves the following proposal for work in the Parliamentary Zone which was presented to the House on 25 May 1998, namely: Erection of signage on and around the headquarters of the National Archives of Australia at East Block.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

6 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1998-99—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 G. J. Evans (Deputy Leader of the Opposition), 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 notes that the Budget:

- (1) does nothing to redress the pain caused to ordinary Australian families, and those doing it hardest in our community, by the impact of successive Budget cuts on health, education, job programs, aged care, child care and many other government programs and services;
- (2) by seeking to achieve surplus on the basis of savage Budget cuts, rather than on growth and job creation, does nothing to give hope to the unemployed and underemployed;
- (3) confirms that the Opposition’s alternative Budget strategy, as originally announced in 1996, would have returned the Budget to surplus in 1998-99—on the basis of putting growth and jobs first, with much more moderate outlays reductions;
- (4) lacks credibility in its growth, employment and current account deficit forecasts;
- (5) confirms that Australia has a private rather than public saving problem—and the stupidity of the Coalition’s promise-breaking decision in 1997 to abandon Labor’s superannuation co-contribution; and
- (6) is incomplete and misleading in its projections of future revenue and outlays, in that it makes no provision for election-driven new expenditures and the Government’s GST and other tax proposals”—

Debate resumed.

It being 2 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with standing order 101A, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

7 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice being asked—

Member ordered to withdraw

At 3.11 p.m. the Member for Melbourne (Mr Tanner) was ordered, under standing order 304A, to withdraw from the House for one hour for continuing to interject after a general warning had been given by the Chair, and he accordingly withdrew from the Chamber.

Questions without notice continuing—

Member ordered to withdraw

At 3.14 p.m. the Member for Prospect (Mrs Crosio) was ordered, under standing order 304A, to withdraw from the House for one hour for continuing to interject after a general warning had been given by the Chair, and she accordingly withdrew from the Chamber.

Questions without notice continued.

8 PAPERS

The following papers were presented:

Antarctic Science Advisory Committee—Australia's Antarctic program beyond 2000: A framework for the future—

Report, October 1997.

Government response, May 1998.

Australian National University Act—Council of the Australian National University—Report for 1997.

Maritime College Act—Council of the Australian Maritime College—Report for 1997.

Treaties—Joint Standing Committee—9th report—Amendments to the Bonn Convention, August 1997—Government response, May 1998.

9 NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

Mr Howard (Prime Minister), by leave, made a ministerial statement concerning National Reconciliation Week, and presented the following paper:

National Reconciliation Week—Ministerial statement, 27 May 1998.

Mr Reith (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the paper.

Suspension of standing and sessional orders—Extended time for speech

Mr Reith, by leave, moved—That so much of the standing and sessional orders be suspended as would prevent Mr Beazley (Leader of the Opposition) speaking for a period not exceeding 16 minutes.

Question—put and passed.

Mr Beazley addressed the House.

Debate adjourned (Mr Anderson—Minister for Primary Industries and Energy), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

10 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—HEALTH CARE

The House was informed that Mr Lee had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, “The damage being done by the Howard Government’s health policies and the dangers posed to the health system by a goods and services tax”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Lee addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

11 VETERANS’ ENTITLEMENTS AMENDMENT (MALE TOTAL AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS BENCHMARK) BILL 1998—REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE

The Deputy Speaker reported that the Bill had been fully considered by the Main Committee, a Governor-General’s message recommending an appropriation had been reported, and the Bill had been agreed to without amendment, and presented a certified copy of the Bill.

Bill agreed to.

On the motion of Mr Abbott (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs), by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

12 EXCISE TARIFF AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 1) 1998—REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE

The Deputy Speaker reported that the Bill had been fully considered by the Main Committee and agreed to without amendment, and presented a certified copy of the Bill.

Bill agreed to.

On the motion of Mr Abbott (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs), by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

13 NATIONAL MEASUREMENT AMENDMENT BILL 1998—REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE

The Deputy Speaker reported that the Bill had been fully considered by the Main Committee and agreed to without amendment, and presented a certified copy of the Bill.

Bill agreed to.

On the motion of Mr Abbott (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs), by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

14 TELECOMMUNICATIONS (CARRIER LICENCE CHARGES) AMENDMENT BILL 1998—REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE

The Deputy Speaker reported that the Bill had been fully considered by the Main Committee and agreed to without amendment, and presented a certified copy of the Bill.

Bill agreed to.

On the motion of Mr Abbott (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs), by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

15 TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT (COMPANY LAW REVIEW) BILL 1998—REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE

The Deputy Speaker reported that the Bill had been fully considered by the Main Committee and agreed to with amendments (*see item No. 6, Minutes of Proceedings of the Main Committee*), and presented a certified copy of the Bill together with a schedule of amendments.

Amendments made by the Main Committee agreed to.

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

On the motion of Mr Abbott (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs), by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

16 INCOME TAX (UNTAINTING TAX) BILL 1998—REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE

The Deputy Speaker reported that the Bill had been fully considered by the Main Committee and agreed to without amendment, and presented a certified copy of the Bill.

Bill agreed to.

On the motion of Mr Abbott (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs), by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

17 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 3) 1998

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

27 May 1998—Message No. 488—Taxation Laws Amendment (No. 3) 1998.

Ordered—That the amendments be considered at the next sitting.

18 TREATIES—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE

The House was informed that the Government Whip had nominated Mr Halverson to be a member of the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties in place of Mr A. C. Smith.

19 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

Message No. 487, 27 May 1998, from the Senate was reported transmitting a resolution agreed to by the Senate approving, in accordance with section 5 of the *Parliament Act 1974*, the proposal for signage on the National Archives headquarters at East Block in the Parliamentary Zone.

20 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1998-99—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 G. J. Evans (Deputy Leader of the Opposition), 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 notes that the Budget:

- (1) does nothing to redress the pain caused to ordinary Australian families, and those doing it hardest in our community, by the impact of successive Budget cuts on health, education, job programs, aged care, child care and many other government programs and services;
- (2) by seeking to achieve surplus on the basis of savage Budget cuts, rather than on growth and job creation, does nothing to give hope to the unemployed and underemployed;
- (3) confirms that the Opposition’s alternative Budget strategy, as originally announced in 1996, would have returned the Budget to surplus in 1998-99—on the basis of putting growth and jobs first, with much more moderate outlays reductions;
- (4) lacks credibility in its growth, employment and current account deficit forecasts;
- (5) confirms that Australia has a private rather than public saving problem—and the stupidity of the Coalition’s promise-breaking decision in 1997 to abandon Labor’s superannuation co-contribution; and
- (6) is incomplete and misleading in its projections of future revenue and outlays, in that it makes no provision for election-driven new expenditures and the Government’s GST and other tax proposals”—

Debate resumed.

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

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

21 BILLS REFERRED TO MAIN COMMITTEE

Mr J. N. Andrew (Chief Government Whip), by leave, moved—That the following Bills be referred to the Main Committee for further consideration:

Payment Systems and Netting 1998;

Cheques and Payment Orders Amendment (Turnback of Cheques) 1998;

Cheques and Payment Orders Amendment 1998;
Data-matching Program (Assistance and Tax) Amendment 1998;
Film Licensed Investment Company 1998; and
Taxation Laws Amendment (Film Licensed Investment Company) 1998.
Question—put and passed.

22 ADJOURNMENT

Mrs Moylan (Minister for the Status of Women) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 11 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 9.30 a.m.

PAPERS

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 27 May 1998:

Civil Aviation Act—Civil Aviation Regulations—Civil Aviation Orders—Amendments—

Part 105 1998 22(2), 24(3), 27(2), 29, 30 April, 1(2), 4, 7(2), 11 May.

Part 106 1998 20, 30(2) April, 12 May.

Part 107 1998 23 April, 8 May.

Export Control Act—Export Control (Orders) Regulations—Livestock Export (Merino) Orders (Amendment) 1998 No. 1.

Income Tax Assessment Act 1936—RHQ Company Determination 1998 No. 5.

National Health Act—Determination No. ACC.DNCB.98-01.

Public Service Act—Determinations 1998 Nos. FAT4, FAT5.

Sydney Airport Curfew Act—Dispensation 1998 No. 3.

ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mrs Bailey, Mr Costello, Mr L. D. T. Ferguson, Mr Katter, Mr Moore, Dr Nelson, Mr A. C. Smith, Mrs Sullivan and Dr Wooldridge.

I. C. HARRIS

Clerk of the House of Representatives

1996-97-98

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SUPPLEMENT TO VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 162

MAIN COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY, 27 MAY 1998

1 The Main Committee met at 10 a.m.

2 **VETERANS' ENTITLEMENTS AMENDMENT (MALE TOTAL AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS BENCHMARK) 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.

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

Message from the Governor-General

Message No. 275, 31 March 1998, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation for the purposes of the Bill.

Leave granted for the question on the report to be put forthwith.

Question—That the Bill be reported to the House without amendment—put and passed.

3 **EXCISE TARIFF AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 1) 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.

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

Leave granted for the question on the report to be put forthwith.

Question—That the Bill be reported to the House without amendment—put and passed.

4 **NATIONAL MEASUREMENT AMENDMENT 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.

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

Leave granted for the question on the report to be put forthwith.

Question—That the Bill be reported to the House without amendment—put and passed.

5 TELECOMMUNICATIONS (CARRIER LICENCE CHARGES) AMENDMENT 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.

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

Leave granted for the question on the report to be put forthwith.

Question—That the Bill be reported to the House without amendment—put and passed.

6 TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT (COMPANY LAW REVIEW) 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.

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

Consideration in detail

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole.

Mr Miles (Parliamentary Secretary (Cabinet) to the Prime Minister), by leave, moved Government amendments (1) to (19) as circulated, together.

Paper

Mr Miles presented a supplementary explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Amendments agreed to.

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

Consideration in detail concluded.

Ordered—That the Bill be reported to the House with amendments.

7 INCOME TAX (UNTAINTING TAX) 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—

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

Leave granted for the question on the report to be put forthwith.

Question—That the Bill be reported to the House without amendment—put and passed.

8 LOCAL GOVERNMENT (FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE) ACT—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Reith (Leader of the House)—That the House take note of the paper (*presented on 27 November 1997*), viz.:

Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act—National Office of Local Government—Report for 1996-97—

Debate resumed.

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

9 ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Mr Anthony, the Main Committee adjourned at 1.02 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