

1996-97-98

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 166

WEDNESDAY, 3 JUNE 1998

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- 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), pursuant to notice, moved—That standing order 48A (adjournment and next meeting) be suspended for this sitting.
Question—put and passed.
 - 3 **VETERANS' ENTITLEMENTS AMENDMENT (GOLD CARD) BILL 1998**
Mr Scott (Minister for Veterans' Affairs), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*, and for related purposes.
Bill read a first time.
Mr Scott moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Paper
Mr Scott 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 **TARIFF PROPOSALS**
Mr Truss (Minister for Customs and Consumer Affairs) moved—
Excise Tariff Proposal No. 3 (1998); and
Customs Tariff Proposal No. 4 (1998).
Debate adjourned (Mr McMullan), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
 - 5 **PARLIAMENTARY ZONE—INTERIM LANDSCAPE WORKS, CONSTITUTION PLACE, PARKES—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 2 June 1998, namely: Interim landscape works, Constitution Place, Parkes.

Question—put and passed.

6 TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 4) 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 third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Miles (Parliamentary Secretary (Cabinet) to the Prime Minister), the Bill was read a third time.

7 TELEVISION BROADCASTING SERVICES (DIGITAL CONVERSION) 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 by Mr Lee who moved, as an amendment—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 is of the opinion that further consideration of the Bill should be deferred, for the following reasons:

- (1) the Government has provided insufficient time and opportunity for a wide public consultation process to examine the impact of the introduction of digital broadcasting into Australia;
- (2) the Government has introduced this Bill with undue haste which is reflected by the fact that it was necessary to circulate substantial amendments even before the resumption of the second reading debate;
- (3) the Australian Broadcasting Authority provided advice that indicated that legislation could be tabled in Parliament in October 1998 providing for a digital broadcasting commencement date of 1 January 2000, and the Government has given no reasons for ignoring this advice;
- (4) given that the Government received the digital broadcasting report of the Australian Broadcasting Authority in July 1997 and then took over eight months to make a public announcement on its proposed framework for digital broadcasting, its claim that the legislation needs to be dealt with as a matter of urgency is disingenuous;
- (5) the Senate is conducting an inquiry into the legislation, and although the inquiry has been given insufficient time to report by the Government, it is likely that evidence and recommendations will emerge from that inquiry which would assist the House in giving proper consideration to the Bill;
- (6) the Government’s legislation does not address the enormous potential that is presented for industry development in Australia through the migration into a digital broadcasting environment—opportunities will exist for

Australian manufacturing and software development industries and the contribution this can make to Australian employment and export earnings should be recognised and supported in the legislation;

- (7) the Government's legislation does not provide sufficient recognition for the particular infrastructure issues faced throughout regional areas, and just as digital broadcasting provides special opportunities for access to new services in rural and regional Australia, disproportionate expenditure will be required to ensure that the capacity exists for the development of appropriate infrastructure; and
- (8) the Parliament's consideration of this Bill must place paramount importance on the interests of the broader Australian community and consumers, and given the impact that digital broadcasting will have on the delivery and reception of television and other broadband and online services, any attempt to hasten the legislative process without proper parliamentary scrutiny, public debate and discussion, could jeopardise those interests".

Debate continued.

Amendment negatived.

Question—That the Bill be now read a second time—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

Consideration in detail

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole.

Mr W. L. Smith (Acting Minister for Communications, the Information Economy and the Arts), by leave, moved Government amendments (1) to (74) as circulated, together.

Paper

Mr W. L. Smith presented a supplementary explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Debate continued.

Amendments agreed to.

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

Consideration in detail concluded.

On the motion of Mr W. L. Smith, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

8 DATACASTING CHARGE (IMPOSITION) 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 third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr W. L. Smith (Acting Minister for Communications, the Information Economy and the Arts), the Bill was read a third time.

9 PASSENGER MOVEMENT CHARGE 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 having been resumed by Mr Martin—

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.

10 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice being asked—

Member ordered to withdraw

At 3.15 p.m. the Member for Batman (Mr M. J. Ferguson) was ordered, under standing order 304A, to withdraw from the House for one hour for continuing to interject after a warning had been given from the Chair, and he accordingly withdrew from the Chamber.

Questions without notice continuing—

Member ordered to withdraw

At 3.20 p.m. the Member for Prospect (Mrs Crosio) was ordered, under standing order 304A, to withdraw from the House for one hour for disorderly behaviour after being warned on a number of occasions not to interject, and she accordingly withdrew from the Chamber.

Questions without notice continued.

11 PAPERS

The following papers were presented:

Petition not in accord with standing and sessional orders of the House—Opposition to the placement of a parallel runway at Brisbane airport and request that details of flight paths for the planned runway be released (Mr Bevis, 1116 petitioners).

Treaty—*Bilateral with national interest analysis*—Agreement on Mutual Recognition in relation to Conformity Assessment, Certificates and Markings, between Australia and the European Community—Revised version.

12 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—JOB SECURITY FOR WORKERS AT BURNIE

The House was informed that Mr Crean had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, “The failure of the Government to act to ensure the job security of the workers at Burnie”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Crean addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

13 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:

National Firearms Program Implementation 1998; and

Taxation Laws Amendment (Farm Management Deposits) 1998.

Question—put and passed.

14 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—FINANCIAL SECTOR REFORM (CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS) BILL 1998

Message No. 508, 29 May 1998, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for an Act to make consequential amendments related to the enactment of the *Financial Sector Reform (Amendments and Transitional Provisions) Act 1998*, and for other purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

15 PASSENGER MOVEMENT CHARGE 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 third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Truss (Minister for Customs and Consumer Affairs), the Bill was read a third time.

16 FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE

The House was informed that the Government Whip had nominated Mr Jull to be a member of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade, in place of Mr Bradford.

17 HEALTH CARE (APPROPRIATION) 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 Rocher addressing the House—

Closure

Mr Truss (Minister for Customs and Consumer Affairs) moved—That the question be now put.

Question—That the question be now put—put and passed.

And the question—That the Bill be now read a second time—was put accordingly, and passed—Bill read a second time.

Message from the Governor-General

Message No. 279, 3 June 1998, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation for the purposes of the Bill.

Consideration in detail

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole.

Mr Lee, by leave, moved Opposition amendments (1) and (2) as circulated, together.

Debate continued.

Question—That the amendments be agreed to—put.

The House divided (the Deputy Speaker, Mr Dondas, in the Chair)—

AYES, 48

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

NOES, 80

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

* Tellers

And so it was negatived.

Bill agreed to.

Consideration in detail concluded.

On the motion of Ms Worth (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Family Services), by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

18 TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT (POLITICAL DONATIONS) 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 Miles (Parliamentary Secretary (Cabinet) to the Prime Minister) 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.

19 TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT (LANDCARE AND WATER FACILITY TAX OFFSET) 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.

Debate adjourned (Mr Cadman—Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Workplace Relations and Small Business), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

20 ADJOURNMENT

Mr Cadman (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Workplace Relations and Small Business) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

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 3 June 1998:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act—Rules 1998 Torres Strait Regional Authority Election (Casual Vacancies).

Civil Aviation Act—Civil Aviation Regulations—Civil Aviation Orders—Instrument 1998 No. CASA 175.

Migration Act—Statement under section 91D.

ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Beazley, Mr Hawker, Mr Katter and Mr Moore.

I. C. HARRIS
Clerk of the House of Representatives

1996-97-98

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SUPPLEMENT TO VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 166

MAIN COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY, 3 JUNE 1998

1 The Main Committee met at 9.45 a.m.

2 **APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1998-99**

The order of the day having been read for the further consideration in detail of the Bill—

Schedule—

Proposed expenditures —

Department of Primary Industries and Energy, \$500 972 000—

Department of the Environment, \$372 506 000—

together further debated and agreed to.

Proposed expenditures—

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, \$1 104 926 000—

Department of the Treasury, \$1 953 646 000—

Department of Finance and Administration, \$783 127 000—

Advance to the Minister for Finance and Administration, \$175 000 000—

Provision for Running Costs Borrowings, \$20 000 000—

together agreed to.

Proposed expenditures —

Department of Defence, \$11 505 776 000—

Department of Veterans' Affairs, \$289 153 000—

together debated and agreed to.

Proposed expenditure—Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs, \$2 394 960 000—debated.

Suspension of sitting

At 1.29 p.m., the Deputy Speaker left the Chair.

Resumption of sitting

At 4.32 p.m., the Deputy Speaker resumed the Chair.

Debate continued.

Proposed expenditure agreed to.

Ordered—That the order for consideration of the proposed expenditures agreed to by the Main Committee on 2 June 1998 be varied by next considering the proposed expenditures for the Department of Social Security and the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs.

Proposed expenditures —

Department of Social Security, \$1 500 324 000—

Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, \$548 420 000—

together debated.

Suspension of sitting

At 6.30 p.m., the Deputy Speaker left the Chair.

Resumption of sitting

At 8 p.m., the Deputy Speaker resumed the Chair.

Debate continued.

Proposed expenditures agreed to.

Proposed expenditure—Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade,
\$2 172 328 000—debated and agreed to.

Proposed expenditure—Department of Transport and Regional Development,
\$231 784 000—debated and agreed to.

Proposed expenditure—Department of Workplace Relations and Small
Business, \$197 511 000—debated and agreed to.

Remainder of Bill, by leave, taken as a whole, and agreed to.

Consideration in detail concluded.

Ordered—That the Bill be reported to the House without amendment.

3 ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Mr Cadman (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Workplace Relations and Small Business), the Main Committee adjourned at 10.16 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