

1998-1999-2000

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 119

MONDAY, 19 JUNE 2000



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

2 DEATH OF MEMBER (MR G. S. WILTON)

The Speaker informed the House of the death, on 14 June 2000, of Mr Gregory Stuart Wilton, Member of this House for the Division of Isaacs.

Mr Howard (Prime Minister) moved—That this House records its deep regret at the tragic death on 14 June 2000, of Gregory Stuart Wilton, Member for Isaacs, Victoria since 1996; places on record its appreciation of his parliamentary service, and tenders its profound sympathy to his family in their bereavement.

And Mr Beazley (Leader of the Opposition) having seconded the motion, and Mr Anderson (Leader of the National Party of Australia) and other Members having addressed the House in support thereof, and all Members present having risen, in silence—

Question—passed.

3 SUSPENSION OF SITTING AS MARK OF RESPECT

As a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased Member, the sitting was thereupon suspended until 8 p.m.

4 RESUMPTION OF SITTING

The Speaker resumed the Chair at 8 p.m.

5 MAIN COMMITTEE—DAY OF NEXT MEETING

The Speaker reported that the Deputy Speaker had fixed Monday, 19 June 2000, at 8.15 p.m., for the next meeting of the Main Committee.

6 SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS—ROUTINE OF BUSINESS FOR THIS SITTING AND TIME OF NEXT SITTING

Mr Slipper (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration), by leave, moved—That so much of the standing and sessional orders be suspended as would prevent:

- (a) the routine of business for the remainder of this sitting being as follows, unless otherwise ordered:
1. Presentation of, and statements on, the report from Standing Committee on Primary Industries and Regional Services—for a period not exceeding 20 minutes, each Member speaking—5 minutes;
 2. Private Members' business accorded priority for this sitting as follows:
 - Notice No. 1—for a period not exceeding 25 minutes;
 - Notice No. 2—for a period not exceeding 30 minutes; and
 - Notice No. 3—for a period not exceeding 60 minutes;
 with speech time limits on each item of business being as determined by the Selection Committee and shown on the report deemed to have been adopted by the House on 6 June 2000;
 3. Presentation of petitions;
 4. Notices and orders of the day, government business; and
- (b) The House, at its rising, adjourning until tomorrow at 4.30 p.m.
Question—put and passed.

7 PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONAL SERVICES—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

Fran Bailey (Chair) presented the following papers:

Primary Industries and Regional Services—Standing Committee—Work in progress: Proceed with caution—Primary producer access to gene technology—Report, incorporating a dissenting report, 7 June 2000.

Evidence received by the committee.

Minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Fran Bailey, Mr Adams, Dr Washer and Mr Griffin made statements in connection with the report.

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

Fran Bailey moved—That the House take note of the report.

Fran Bailey was granted leave to continue her speech when the debate is resumed.

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

8 ETHIOPIA AND ERITREA

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

- (1) expresses its concern for the return of hostilities between Ethiopia and the State of Eritrea;

- (2) acknowledges attempts by the Organisation of African Unity, the United States, various African heads of state and the United Nations to restore peace between Ethiopia and Eritrea;
- (3) expresses great concern for the reported deaths of thousands of people in the past eighteen months and for the suffering of tens of thousands more;
- (4) acknowledges the need expressed by the Eritrean Government for the return of foreign humanitarian NGO groups to provide relief; and
- (5) highlights the past efforts of Australians, such as Fred Hollows, to help the people of Eritrea.

Debate ensued.

The time allotted for the debate having expired, the debate was interrupted, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

9 TELSTRA

Mr A. P. Thomson, pursuant to notice, moved—That the House:

- (1) urges Telstra to pursue its obligations to Australia's rural and regional dwellers with full vigour; and
- (2) acknowledges that full privatisation of Telstra would:
 - (a) allow Telstra to pursue more valuable commercial opportunities to the benefit of its shareholders;
 - (b) deliver to the Government sufficient funds to pay off entirely Australia's federal sovereign debt; and
 - (c) ease upward pressure on interest rates in a climate of rising oil prices.

Debate ensued.

The time allotted for the debate having expired, the debate was interrupted, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

10 FIJI

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

- (1) acknowledges the fact that a legitimate government, democratically elected, has been detained at gun point and thereafter removed from office by illegal means, in Fiji by a small band of armed terrorists;
- (2) notes that the ethnic Indian communities in Fiji are being deprived from exercising their fundamental political and human rights;
- (3) calls on the Australian Government to:
 - (a) recall Australia's High Commissioner from Suva;
 - (b) suspend all Ministerial and high level official contacts;
 - (c) seek Fiji's immediate suspension from the Commonwealth;
 - (d) suspend all non-humanitarian elements of Australia's \$22.3 million aid program;
 - (e) cancel all defence cooperation with Fiji's armed forces;

- (f) suspend the extension of the Import Credit Scheme in its application to Fiji;
 - (g) urge Australian tourists to favour other destinations instead of Fiji; and
 - (h) encourage other countries to adopt similar sanctions; and
- (4) urges the Government to review the measures taken only upon full democratic rights being restored to each and every citizen of Fiji and a constitutional government being restored.

Debate ensued.

The time allotted for the debate having expired, the debate was interrupted, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

11 PETITIONS

Petitions lodged for presentation were announced.

12 MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL—ASSENT TO BILLS

A message from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced informing the House that His Excellency, in the name of Her Majesty, had assented to the following Bills:

19 June 2000—Message No. 204—

Fuel Sales Grants 2000.

Fuel Sales Grants (Consequential Amendments) 2000.

Product Grants and Benefits Administration 2000.

13 PAPER

Mr Brough (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business) presented a supplementary explanatory memorandum to the New Tax System (Integrity Measures) Bill 2000.

14 ADJOURNMENT

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

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 10.59 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 4.30 p.m., in accordance with the resolution agreed to this sitting.



PAPERS

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 19 June 2000:

A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2000 No. 110.

A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax Transition) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2000 No. 111.

A New Tax System (Luxury Car Tax) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2000 No. 112.

A New Tax System (Wine Equalisation Tax) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2000 No. 113.

Air Navigation Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2000 Nos 95, 96.

Australian Bureau of Statistics Act—Australian Bureau of Statistics—Proposal 2000 No. 9.

Australian Capital Territory (Planning and Land Management) Act—National Capital Plan—Amendment No. 37.

Banking Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2000 Nos 114, 115.

Civil Aviation Act—

Civil Aviation Regulations—Civil Aviation Orders—

Amendments 2000—

Part 39-105—15(4), 19(8), 23(3), 25(2), 26, 30(5), 31(33) May, 1(2), 2(23), 6, 7, 9(2) June.

Part 39-106—31 May, 2(3), 9 June.

Instruments—2000 Nos CASA 226, CASA 231, CASA 232.

Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act—Notice under section 45—Commonwealth Membership of Ceramic Fuel Cells Limited.

Corporations Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2000 No. 97.

Crimes Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2000 Nos 99, 100.

Dairy Produce Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2000 No. 98.

Defence Act—Determinations under section 58B—2000 Nos 15, 16, 17, 18.

Electronic Transactions Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2000 No. 101.

Excise Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2000 No. 116.

Federal Magistrates Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2000 No. 102.

Higher Education Funding Act—Determination—1999 No. T23.

Income Tax Assessment Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2000 No. 117.

Insurance Act—

Determinations—2000—Lloyd's Security Trust Fund—
No. 1.

Revocation—Determination and Rules of 1998.

Rules—2000—Lloyd's Security Trust Fund No. 1.

Insurance Contracts Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2000 No. 118.

International Organisations (Privileges and Immunities) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2000 No. 94.

Migration Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2000 No. 108.

National Health Act—

Determinations—2000—Nos PIB 6, PIB 7.

Private Health Insurance Administration Council—Determinations—2000 Health Benefits Reinsurance (Records of Organisations) Amendment (No. 1).

Regulations—Statutory Rules 2000 No. 106.

Private Health Insurance Incentives Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2000 No. 107.

Social Security (International Agreements) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2000 Nos 104, 105.

Superannuation Act 1976—

Determinations under section 241—

Superannuation (CSS) Deferred Transfer Value Payment (Australia Post Superannuation Scheme) No. 1.

Superannuation (CSS) Deferred Transfer Value Payment (AvSuper) No. 1.

Superannuation (CSS) Return of Surplus (Australia Post Superannuation Scheme) No. 1.

Regulations—Statutory Rules 2000 No. 120.

Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2000 No. 119.

Taxation Administration Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2000 No. 109.

Telstra Corporation Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2000 No. 103.

Veterans' Entitlements Act—Instruments under section 196B—2000 Nos 13, 14.

ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mrs Elson, Mr M. J. Evans, Mr Forrest, Mr O'Keefe and Mr Wilkie.

I. C. HARRIS

Clerk of the House of Representatives

1998-1999-2000

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SUPPLEMENT TO VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 119

MAIN COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

MONDAY, 19 JUNE 2000

1 The Main Committee met at 8.15 p.m.

2 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 2000-2001—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 Tanner, 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 condemns the Government for its:

- (1) failure to address the significant investment needs in the areas of education, health and the provision of social services in the 2000-2001 Budget;
- (2) wasteful and profligate spending on poor quality programs to buy Democrat support for its unfair GST;
- (3) misuse of over \$360 million of taxpayers’ money on its politically partisan GST advertising campaign;
- (4) reduction of a potential Budget cash surplus in 2000-2001 of \$11 billion, to a real Budget deficit of \$2.1 billion;
- (5) use of creative accounting techniques in an attempt to deceive the Australian public on the true state of the Budget;
- (6) mishandling of the move to accrual accounting by providing complex, confusing and uninformative budget documents;
- (7) failure to identify in the Budget papers the cost of GST collection and implementation; and
- (8) failure to put in place arrangements that deliver its guarantee that no Australian will be worse off as a result of the GST package”—

Debate resumed.

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

3 ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Mr Adams, the Main Committee adjourned at 10.06 p.m.

The Deputy Speaker fixed tomorrow at 5.15 p.m., or such later time as the Deputy Speaker takes the Main Committee Chair, for the next meeting of the Main Committee.



B. C. WRIGHT

Clerk of the Main Committee