

1998-1999-2000-2001

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS**

No. 173

MONDAY, 26 MARCH 2001



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 AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS**

Dr Southcott presented the following paper:

Australian Parliamentary Delegation to Bangladesh and India—An emerging South Asia—Report, March 2001.

Dr Southcott, Mr Ripoll and Ms Hoare made statements in connection with the report.

Time allotted for statements on the report having expired—

Ms Hoare and Dr Southcott, by leave, again addressed the House.

**3 ECONOMICS, FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

Mr Hawker (Chair) presented the following papers:

Economics, Finance and Public Administration—Standing Committee—International financial markets—Friends or foes?—

Report, March 2001.

Minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Mr Hawker, Mr Latham, Dr Southcott and Ms Burke made statements in connection with the report.

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

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

Mr Hawker 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.

**4 EXCISE TARIFF AMENDMENT (RURAL AND REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE) BILL 2001**

Mr Katter, pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Excise Tariff Act 1921*, and for related purposes.

Mr Katter 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 sessional order 104A.

**5 POSTPONEMENT OF PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS NOTICE**

The Clerk informed the House that pursuant to standing order 138 he had received a letter from Dr Theophanous fixing the next sitting as the day for presenting the Australian Bill of Rights Bill 2001.

**6 PROPOSED APPROPRIATIONS AND STAFFING STANDING COMMITTEE**

Mr Price, pursuant to notice, moved—

- (1) That a Standing Committee on Appropriations and Staffing be appointed to inquire into:
  - (a) proposals for the annual estimates and the additional estimates for the House of Representatives;
  - (b) proposals to vary the staff structure of the House of Representatives, and staffing and recruitment policies; and
  - (c) such other matters as are referred to it by the House;
- (2) That the committee shall:
  - (a) in relation to estimates—
    - (i) determine the amounts for inclusion in the parliamentary appropriation bills for the annual and the additional appropriations; and
    - (ii) report to the House upon its determinations prior to the consideration by the House of the relevant parliamentary appropriation bill; and
  - (b) in relation to staffing—
    - (i) make recommendations to the Speaker; and
    - (ii) report to the House on its determinations prior to the consideration by the House of the relevant parliamentary appropriation bill;
- (3) That the committee consist of the Speaker and 11 other members, 6 members to be nominated by the Chief Government Whip or Whips and 5 members to be nominated by the Chief Opposition Whip or Whips or any independent Member;
- (4) That the committee elect a Government member as its chair;
- (5) That the committee elect a deputy chairman 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 chairman at that meeting;

- (6) 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;
- (7) 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;
- (8) That the quorum of a subcommittee be a majority of the members of that subcommittee;
- (9) 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;
- (10) That the committee or any subcommittee have power to send for persons, papers and records;
- (11) That the committee or any subcommittee have power to move from place to place;
- (12) That a subcommittee have power to adjourn from time to time and to sit during any sittings or adjournment of the House;
- (13) That the committee have leave to report from time to time; and
- (14) 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.

Debate ensued.

At 1.45 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with standing order 106A, Mr Charles was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed, and the resumption of the debate was made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

#### **7 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

Members' statements were made.

#### **8 PAPER—STATEMENT BY SPEAKER**

The Speaker presented the following paper:

Centenary of Federation gift from New Zealand Parliament—Copy of letter from Rt Hon Jonathan Hunt, MP, Speaker of the New Zealand Parliament, to the Speaker and President of the Australian Parliament, 7 March 2001—

and made a statement in connection with the paper.

**9 MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS**

Mr Howard (Prime Minister) informed the House that, during the absence abroad of Mr Downer (Minister for Foreign Affairs), Mr M. A. J. Vaile (Minister for Trade) would answer questions on his behalf.

**10 QUESTIONS**

Questions without notice were asked.

**11 LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBER**

Mr Reith (Leader of the House) moved—That the leave of absence given to Mr Fahey (Minister for Finance and Administration) on the ground of ill health be extended to 5 April 2001.

Question—put and passed.

**12 LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBER**

Mr Beazley (Leader of the Opposition) moved—That leave of absence until 22 May 2001 be given to Ms Gerick on the ground of ill health.

Question—put and passed.

**13 PETITIONS**

Petitions lodged for presentation were announced.

**14 PROPOSED APPROPRIATIONS AND STAFFING STANDING COMMITTEE**

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Price (*see item No. 6, page 2176*)—

Debate resumed.

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.

**15 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.

**16 SELECTION COMMITTEE**

The House was informed that the Chief Government Whip had nominated Mr Lloyd to be a member of the Selection Committee in place of Mrs Elson.

Mr Scott (Minister for Veterans' Affairs), by leave, moved—That Mrs Elson be discharged from the Selection Committee and that, in her place, Mr Lloyd be appointed a member of the committee.

Question—put and passed.

**17 MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL—ASSENT TO BILLS**

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

20 March 2001—Message—

No. 285—

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Amendment 2001.

Communications and the Arts Legislation Amendment (Application of Criminal Code) 2001.

No. 286—

Sydney Harbour Federation Trust 2001.

National Museum of Australia Amendment 2001.

21 March 2001—Message No. 288—

Health Legislation Amendment (No. 1) 2001.

22 March 2001—Message—

No. 287—

Therapeutic Goods Amendment 2001.

Environment and Heritage Legislation Amendment (Application of Criminal Code) 2001.

No. 289—

Workplace Relations Amendment (Tallies) 2001.

Australian Research Council 2001.

Australian Research Council (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) 2001.

Defence Legislation Amendment (Enhancement of the Reserves and Modernisation) 2001.

Defence Reserve Service (Protection) 2001.

Medicare Levy Amendment (CPI Indexation) (No. 1) 2001.

Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Amendment (No. 1) 2001.

**18 MIGRATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (INTEGRITY OF REGIONAL MIGRATION SCHEMES) BILL 2000**

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 Ruddock (Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs), the Bill was read a third time.

**19 TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT (EXCISE ARRANGEMENTS) BILL 2000**

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 Crean (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 condemns the Government for:

- (1) failing to listen to the community concerning the GST impact on excise levels;
- (2) opposing Labor’s private member’s bill giving a fuel excise cut to motorists yet allowing a Government backbencher to introduce his own private member’s bill that would tear up the Intergovernmental Agreement signed with the States;
- (3) belatedly reducing only a portion of its GST fuel excise windfall merely because it is in a state of panic because of the upcoming Ryan by-election; and
- (4) its poor administration of the excise regime”—

Debate resumed.

Amendment negatived.

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

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Slipper (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration), the Bill was read a third time.

**20 CRIMES AMENDMENT (FORENSIC PROCEDURES) BILL 2001**

The order of the day having been read for the second reading—Mr Williams (Attorney-General) moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

*Paper*

Mr Williams presented a revised explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Debate ensued.

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

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

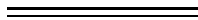
On the motion of Mr Williams, the Bill was read a third time.

**21 ADJOURNMENT**

Mr Williams (Attorney-General) moved—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.



**PAPERS**

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 26 March 2001:

A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2001 No. 48.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act—Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission—Review of Electoral Systems 2000.

Aged Care Act—Principles under section 96-1—2000 Residential Care Subsidy Amendment (No. 3).

Air Force Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2001 No. 41.

Australian Communications Authority Act—Determination—2001 Radiocommunications (Charges) Amendment (No. 1).

Australian Communications Authority Act and Radiocommunications Act—Determination—2001 Radiocommunications (Interpretation) Amendment (No. 2).

Australian Meat and Live-stock Industry Act—Order—2001 Export of Sheep from Northern Ports.

Civil Aviation Act—Civil Aviation Regulations—

Airworthiness Directives—Part 39-105—2001 1 (2) March.

Civil Aviation Amendment Order 2001 No. 1.

Exemption—2001 No. CASA EX06.

Instruments—2001 Nos CASA 109, CASA 110.

Currency Act—Determinations—2001 Currency (Royal Australian Mint) Nos 1, 2.

Defence Act—

Determination under section 58B—2001 No. 7.

Regulations—Statutory Rules 2001 Nos 42, 43.

Financial Management and Accountability Act—

Determination—2001 Financial Management and Accountability (Amendment of Special Account) (No. 3).

Order—2001—Financial Management and Accountability Amendment (No. 1).

Fisheries Management Act—Northern Prawn Fishery Management Plan 1995—Directions Nos NPDF 52, NPDF 53.

Health Insurance Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2001 No. 45.

Immigration (Education) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2001 No. 46.

Migration Act—

Regulations—Statutory Rules 2001 No. 47.

Statement under section 417—29 September 2000.

Statement under subsection 91L(3)—15 March 2001.

Ozone Protection Act—Notice under Section 16—Grant of licence.

Quarantine Act—Quarantine Amendment Proclamation 2000 (No. 3).

Radiocommunications (Transmitter Licence Tax) Act—Determination—2001 Radiocommunications (Transmitter Licence Tax) Amendment (No. 2).

Taxation Administration Act—Rulings—  
1999 No. PR 102 (Addendum).

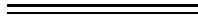
2001 Nos PR 17, PR 18, PR 21, PR 22, PR 23, PR 24, PR 25.

*Telecommunications Act 1997*—Instrument—2001 Telecommunications Numbering  
Plan Amendment (No. 1).

Therapeutic Goods Act—Therapeutic Goods Orders Nos 67, 68.

Trade Practices Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2001 No. 40.

Weapons of Mass Destruction (Prevention of Proliferation) Act—Regulations—  
Statutory Rules 2001 No. 44.



#### **ATTENDANCE**

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Albanese, Mr  
Downer, Mr Fahey\*, Ms Gerick\*, Mr Horne and Ms Plibersek\*.

\* On leave



**I. C. HARRIS**

Clerk of the House of Representatives