

1998-1999-2000-2001

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 177

MONDAY, 2 APRIL 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 PARLIAMENTARY VISIT—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Mr Hawker presented the following paper:

Parliamentary visit to East Timor, 12 to 13 February 2001—Report, 6 March 2001.

Mr Hawker, Mr Hollis and Mr Nugent made statements in connection with the report.

Mr Hollis, by leave, again addressed the House.

Mr Fischer made a statement in connection with the report.

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

Mr Jull presented the following paper:

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade—Joint Standing Committee—Second Australian Government Loan to Papua New Guinea—Report, March 2001.

Ordered to be printed.

Mr Jull and Mr Hollis made statements in connection with the report.

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

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

Mr Jull 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 CRIMINAL ASSETS RECOVERY BILL 2001

Mr Kerr, pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to provide for a civil forfeiture scheme for the proceeds of criminal activity and for other related purposes.

Mr Kerr 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 AUSTRALIAN BILL OF RIGHTS BILL 2001

Dr Theophanous, pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act relating to the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all Australians and all people in Australia, and for related purposes.

Dr Theophanous made a statement in relation to the Bill.

Paper

Dr Theophanous presented an explanatory memorandum 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.

6 EXCISE TARIFF AMENDMENT (PETROL TAX CUT) BILL (NO. 2) 2001

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

Paper

Mr Charles presented an explanatory memorandum to the following Bills:

Excise Tariff Amendment (Petrol Tax Cut) (No. 2) 2001.

Customs Tariff Amendment (Petrol Tax Cut) (No. 2) 2001.

States' Contribution to Lower Petrol Prices 2001.

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.

7 CUSTOMS TARIFF AMENDMENT (PETROL TAX CUT) BILL (NO. 2) 2001

Mr Charles, pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Customs Tariff Act 1995*, and for related purposes.

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.

8 STATES' CONTRIBUTION TO LOWER PETROL PRICES BILL 2001

Mr Charles, pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act about Commonwealth revenue on certain petroleum products, and for related purposes.

Mr Charles 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.

9 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Members' statements were made and a petition was presented.

10 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice being asked—

Paper

Mr Hockey (Minister for Financial Services and Regulation) presented the following paper:

HIH Insurance—Copy of letter from Mr G J Thompson, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Prudential Regulation Authority to Mr Hockey, Minister for Financial Services and Regulation, 2 April 2001.

Questions without notice continued.

11 PETITIONS

Petitions lodged for presentation were announced.

12 RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES

Mrs D. M. Kelly, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House:

- (1) notes the Coalition Government's commitment to renewable energy;
- (2) notes the quality production of ethanol in Australia;
- (3) notes the use of ethanol as a blend with motor spirit and the advantages this offers in terms of:
 - (a) competitive cost of production;
 - (b) opportunities for development;
 - (c) environmental benefits;
 - (d) motoring efficiency; and
 - (e) import replacement;
- (4) notes the use of ethanol blends in other countries; and
- (5) urges the Government to continue its support for development of renewable energy resources and trusts that the use and production of ethanol will continue to be progressed.

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.

13 PRIVATISATION OF TELSTRA

Mr Sercombe, pursuant to notice, moved—That, in the light of the strong views of many Australians, and particularly those in provincial and rural areas, the House calls on the Government to:

- (1) clearly indicate that it will not proceed with the further privatisation of Telstra; and
- (2) remove the proceeds of further privatisation from its Forward Estimates.

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.

14 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.

15 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:

30 March 2001—Message No. 291—

Veterans' Affairs Legislation Amendment (Application of Criminal Code) 2001.

Aircraft Noise Levy Collection Amendment 2001.

Family and Community Services Legislation Amendment (New Zealand Citizens) 2001.

16 CRIMES AMENDMENT (AGE DETERMINATION) BILL 2001

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.

Paper

Mr Williams (Attorney-General) presented a supplementary explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

On the motion of Mr Williams, by leave, Government amendments (1) to (7) were made together.

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

Consideration in detail concluded.

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

17 SEX DISCRIMINATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 1) 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 McClelland, viz.—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “the House:

- (1) condemns the Government for introducing a bill which is:
 - (a) discriminatory and socially divisive;
 - (b) a completely inadequate response to the complex ethical, social and economic issues involved in the development and use of assisted reproductive technologies; and
 - (c) totally ignores other areas involving the care and upbringing of children where similar issues and principles are raised; and
- (2) calls on the Government to implement the strong and unanimous recommendations of the Australian Health Ethics Committee of the National Health and Medical Research Council to establish a national framework to regulate the provision and development of assisted reproductive technology (ART) services which should include:
 - (a) mechanisms to evaluate, assess and prioritise the provision of ART services, including providing necessary criteria to protect, as a primary consideration, the interests of children who may be born from the use of ART as well as the interests of donors and those persons seeking to use ART;
 - (b) measures to ensure that any child born as a result of the use of ART is able to identify and locate his or her biological parents;
 - (c) adequate facilities and resources for medical practitioners to obtain expert advice and guidance on the complex ethical, social and economic issues involved in the use of ART; and
 - (d) procedures to monitor and review the use of ART to ensure that the benefits of ART to participants are balanced with the interests of society as a whole”—

Debate resumed.

Mrs Irwin addressing the House—

18 ADJOURNMENT

It being 10.30 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Paper

Ms J. S. McFarlane, by leave, presented the following paper:

The International Consortium of Investigative Journalists—Tobacco companies linked to criminal organizations in lucrative cigarette smuggling—Report, 2 April 2001.

Debate continued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 10.59 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 2 p.m.

PAPERS

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 2 April 2001:

Aged Care Act—Principles under section 96-1—2001—

Allocation Amendment (No. 1).

Records Amendment (No. 1).

Australian Land Transport Development Act—Determinations under Section 10—

1994-95.

1995-96.

1996-97.

1997-98.

1998-99.

1999-2000.

Defence Act—Determination under section 58B—2001 No. 8.

Education Services for Overseas Students Act—National code of practice for registration authorities and providers of education and training to overseas students.

Higher Education Funding Act—Determination—2000 No. T18.

Taxation Administration Act—

Determination—2001 No. TD 3.

Rulings—

1999—No. PR 103 (Addendum).

2000—Nos PR 17 (Addendum), PR 22 (Addendum).

2001—Nos GSTB 1, PR 26, PR 27, PR 28, PR 29, PR 30, PR 31.

ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Albanese, Mr Brereton, Mr Cox, Mrs Crosio, Mr Fahey*, Mr Georgiou, Ms Gerick*, Mrs Moylan, Ms Plibersek* and Mr Somlyay.

* On leave

B C WRIGHT

Acting Clerk of the House of Representatives