

1998-1999-2000-2001

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 187

TUESDAY, 5 JUNE 2001



1 The House met, at 2 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (the Honourable Neil Andrew) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

2 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice being asked—

Paper

Mr Crean (Deputy Leader of the Opposition), by leave, presented the following paper:

One.Tel Group—Preliminary report to Creditors, Peter Walker & Steve Sherman, 4 June 2001.

Questions without notice continuing—

Paper

Mr Beazley (Leader of the Opposition), by leave, presented the following paper:
Employee entitlements—List of companies reported to have closed 11 December 1997 to 4 June 2001; and cases reported by the Department of Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business since 1 January 2000.

Questions without notice continuing—

Papers

Mr Costello (Treasurer) presented the following papers:

Foreign investment proposal—CRA Ltd and RTZ Corporation Limited—Press releases from the Office of the Treasurer—

13 December 1995.

20 December 1995.

Questions without notice continuing—

Paper

Mrs Irwin, by leave, presented the following paper:

Yagoona Nursing Home—Copy of letter to Mrs B. K. Bishop from Mrs Irwin, 25 May 2001.

Questions without notice continued.

3 AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORTS

The Speaker presented the following papers:

Auditor-General—Audit reports of 2000-2001—Performance audits—

No. 39—Information and technology in Centrelink: Centrelink.

No. 40—Management of the Adult Migrant English Program contracts: Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs.

No. 41—Causes and consequences of personnel postings in the Australian Defence Force: Department of Defence.

No. 42—Bank prudential supervision: Australian Prudential Regulation Authority.

No. 43—Performance information for Commonwealth financial assistance under the Natural Heritage Trust: Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry; Department of the Environment and Heritage.

No. 44—Information technology in the Department of Veterans' Affairs: Department of Veterans' Affairs.

No. 45—Management of fraud control: Department of Family and Community Services.

Severally ordered to be printed.

4 PAPER

The Speaker presented the following paper:

Congratulatory message relating to the Centenary of Federation—National Council of the Slovak Republic.

5 PAPER

The following paper was presented:

Australian Wool Research and Promotion Organisation—Final report July-December 2000.

6 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—EMPLOYEE ENTITLEMENTS

The House was informed that Mr Beazley (Leader of the Opposition) had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The failure of the Government to put in place a comprehensive policy which guarantees employees 100 per cent payment of entitlements in the event of company failure".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Beazley addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

7 SELECTION COMMITTEE—REPORT

Mr Nehl (Chair) presented the following paper:

Selection Committee—Report relating to the consideration of committee and delegation reports and private Members' business on Monday, 18 June 2001.

8 MAIN COMMITTEE—DAY OF NEXT MEETING

The Deputy Speaker reported that Wednesday, 6 June 2001, at 9.40 a.m., had been fixed for the next meeting of the Main Committee.

9 BILLS REFERRED TO MAIN COMMITTEE

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

Corporations 2001;

Australian Securities and Investments Commission 2001;

Corporations (Fees) 2001;

Corporations (Futures Organisations Levies) 2001;

Corporations (National Guarantee Fund Levies) 2001;

Corporations (Securities Exchanges Levies) 2001;

Corporations (Repeals, Consequentials and Transitionals) 2001;

Migration Legislation Amendment (Electronic Transactions and Methods of Notification) 2001;

Migration Legislation Amendment (Application of Criminal Code) 2001;

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Amendment 2001;

Prime Minister and Cabinet Legislation Amendment (Application of Criminal Code) 2001; and

Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Legislation Amendment 2001.

Question—put and passed.

10 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 2001-2002—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 this Government for its:

- (1) reduction in the projected Budget cash surplus from \$14.6 billion when the 2001-02 Budget year first appeared in the 1998-99 Budget Papers to a surplus of \$1.5 billion and an accrual deficit of \$0.8 billion in this Budget;
- (2) failure to address the significant investment needs in the areas of education and health provision;
- (3) string of policy backflips and wasteful, panic driven spending across almost all program areas;
- (4) commitment to sell the rest of Telstra if re-elected;
- (5) failure to provide relief for Australian families under financial pressure;

- (6) failure to address the hardship, and red tape nightmare faced by small business arising from the introduction of the GST;
- (7) deception of self-funded retirees and pensioners through misleading taxation claims;
- (8) failure to provide a comprehensive retirement incomes policy which addresses the needs of the new century;
- (9) lax approach to corporate governance issues which has contributed to the recent spate of corporate failures;
- (10) lack of an ongoing commitment to the protection of employee entitlements;
- (11) misuse of taxpayers' money on its politically partisan GST advertising campaign;
- (12) provision of complex, confusing and uninformative budget documents;
- (13) failure to identify in the Budget papers the true cost of GST collection and implementation; and
- (14) failure to deliver its guarantee that no Australian will be worse off as a result of the GST package"—

Debate resumed.

Mr Lindsay addressing the House—

11 ADJOURNMENT

It being 10.30 p.m.—The question was proposed—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 5 June 2001:

Higher Education Funding Act—Determinations—2001 Nos T15, T16.

Telecommunications (Consumer Protection and Service Standards) Act—
Determination—2001 Telecommunications (Consumer Protection and Service
Standards) (ATS Marketing Plans) (No. 1).

ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mrs Draper, Ms Gerick*, Mrs Sullivan and Mr M. A. J. Vaile.

* On leave



I. C. HARRIS

Clerk of the House of Representatives